

Unapproved Minutes Selectboard Meeting May 21, 2018

Present: Select board members Sherry Paquette, Norris Tillotson, Wayne Hurtubise, Arthur Pond and Linda Collins. Town Clerk Alan Fletcher, cameraperson Sarah West, John Libbey, Albert Perry and Josh Aldrich.

Fletcher said the budget was off to a rough start with unexpected expenses and an anticipated loss from the ambulance. He also stated that we need to amend the water and sewer rules. Currently they say that if someone wants to get off the water system it can be shut off at the curb stop which doesn't always work. He said if someone wants to get off the system they should dig it up and cap it that way they will still pay the base. Alan will write a proposal.

He also said the water and sewer budget is doing well and revenues have increased because of the installation of radio reads. He said in the past one out of every six meters wasn't read correctly and now it is one out of 20.. Fletcher suggested starting a capital fund with the extra money coming in to pay for future expenditures, emergencies and capital improvements. He proposed transferring \$30,000 from water and \$25,000 from sewer to start the fund and if we have more revenue than expenses in the future the excess will automatically go into the fund. The revenue has increased substantially because the larger users such as the schools and businesses are now paying their fair share. He suggested lowering the rates by taking a bigger chunk out of the base and putting it toward usage. Sherry Paquette made a motion to begin the capital fund, Pond seconded and the motion passed.

Paquette also made the motion to increase the trash bills to \$84 per quarter to accommodate the \$2 increase in fees requested by trash hauler Bruce Wetherby. Norris Tillotson seconded the motion and it passed.

Fletcher said a major overhaul needs to be done on our trash collection policy. He said people who pay their bills are paying for those who don't. He said the system should be required to be paid by everyone or get rid of it. The board will set up a meeting with Wetherby. At the time of the merger, Fletcher said, it was decided that the select board has the authority to do what they want with the trash.

Albert Perry appeared on behalf of Richford Renaissance to ask the town to sell them land near Academy Lane that is 16x140 ft. for use as an access to a future parking shed which will be used by tenants of the elderly housing. He offered \$200 and access to a parcel owned by Richford Renaissance for the town to use for dumping snow.

Paquette made the motion to accept the proposal for the purchase of lot #67 for \$200 and all fees associated with the purchase. A second was made by Hurtubise and the motion accepted. A second motion was made by Paquette to allow the town to dump snow on parcel #1A0130Z (three fourths of an acre) was made and a second by Hurtubise.

Zonig Adinistrator John Libbey commended new select board member Pond for his interest in the Main St. Park. He asked the board's permission to send two properties to the lawyer for violations in zoning laws. One is the Brunelle property at 69 East Richford Slide and the other is Pothier property 44 East Richford. Both have received previous letter. Pond made a motion to accept seconded by Paquette and the motion passed.

Hurtubise reported that the Highway crew is working on the spare truck repairs and will start grading at the playground this week.

Pond reported on parks and cemeteries and said he removed six old tires from the playground, put out garbage cans and spoke to the school about leaving a mess after games. He will also install a new T paper dispenser. He also reminds people that there are cameras at the playground which record all activity.

Paquette gave the building report and said she contacted two businesses for quotes for the brickwork around the bottom of the town hall.

Tillotson reported for water and sewer and said a storage container was purchased to house the chemicals for the sewer department. The Department received an award for Water Excellence from the Green Mountain Water Environment Association. Tillotson also reported that that the brook on Brook St. in Stephens Mills is washing out by the back deck of a home located on the brook. It was determined that this is not a town problem but they will help find phone numbers for residents to apply for assistance.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by Linda Collins

Attest: