**Selectboard Meeting**

**Richford, Vermont**

**Approved Meeting Minutes**

**November 20, 2023**

Chair Pond called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm with members Wally Steinhour, Sherry Paquette, Alan Fletcher present. Guests at the meeting were Town Clerk Kiley Deuso, Silas Simmons, Rowena Brown, Justin Randall, Joey Randall, Robert Wetherby (Zoom).

The board recited the pledge of allegiance.

Chair Pond recognized guests. He began with Robert Wetherby. Robert wanted to know who Alan had replied to regarding the email letter earlier this summer, to which Alan responded that he did not recall but possibly clerk Deuso. Robert asked Sherry who she replied to and she wasn’t sure, she agreed to what was written in the letter. Chair Pond said he did not reply to the letter and it was discussed at a meeting after the fact.

Robert wanted to know how bills were gathered and approved for payment. Clerk Deuso explained that bills were paid once a week with a printed warrant for a minimum of three selectboard signatures. She also explained that if a bill was nonrecurring that she sought preapproval from department heads before issuing any checks.

He asked about a bill that was submitted from a volunteer fireman. Deuso explained that she was instructed not to pay this bill as that person had been compensated for his time through his fireman payroll. He described his discontent and stated that it was unfair.

Rowena spoke about the town Christmas wreaths and how they were unable to access the post office to check the condition of the wreaths prior to hanging them. She said that there was an issue with the door handle, and wanted to make sure Sherry knew it needed to be fixed. Sherry said that she would plan for it.

Rowena also wanted to know who was responsible for the trash and the dog bags in the parks. The Trash was overflowing in a few receptacles and the dog bag dispensers were empty. She wanted to make sure the town was aware of it. Pond responded with asking John about the trash and Clerk Deuso said we would figure out a better system to monitor the bags and trash.

Silas Simmons is requesting to have his outside consumption permit amended to include the area by the banquet hall with the white fence. He stated that area has never been in the description on the permit and would like to make it official. Chair Pond, Selectmen Steinhour and Paquette all thought this was always on the permit and agreed to make it official if it were not the case.

Wally had corrections to the 11/06/2023 minutes and to approve once the corrections were made. Pond made a motion to approve the corrections and Steinhour seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Highway Report: New safety equipment (cage) for the loader is working nicely. The highway guys put up all the holiday decorations with it.

Steinhour is purposing an incentive program to the highway crew to cross train on different equipment. He is purposing .75 an hour per machine(grader and excavator), for a total of 1.50 an hour once certified. Vermont Local Roads has a training program we can send employees to or have them come to Richford to train. The program is free. Steinhour will look into this. There is also a tech center in Bradford that offers a 40-hour course that covers both excavator and grader and it costs 2900.00. Would like the selectboard to consider implementing this with the next budget.

Steinhour said he had received a quote for a new sidewalk tractor, and it was around 38000.00 with the necessary attachments for the sidewalks.

Water Sewer: Chair Pond stated that there would be a meeting the next day with Alan, Kiley and Jeremy to talk about the pump station for the Golf Course Road project. Chair Pond talked about not being able to pursue anything on Noyes Street until the Golf Course road project was further along, and that we would discuss it at our next meeting 11/21/23 at 3 pm.

Buildings: Selectwomen Paquette said John Mercy had been at the town hall for the heat and had to replace a few things. She has Over Head door coming for the EMS building this month. She will be receiving a quote for painting the library in the next week or so. She is still trying to find a roofer for the EMS buildings.

Ambulance: Chair Pond reported that he received a message from John Johnson stating that the frame was tweaked on the Ambulance. He had the adjuster there, they approved putting a new frame underneath it. Still waiting for the final figures.

Last Tuesday evening a deer ran into our other ambulance. There are a few small dents on the driver’s side door and part of the cab. This will have to wait until our other ambulance is fixed.

New personnel on the ambulance, Justin Randall went through the course to drive the ambulance.

Trash: Clerk Deuso mentioned that we needed to discuss the current agreement with John.

Other business: Steinhour has a follow up on the individuals who would like to change the town turnaround at the end of the Golf course road. Steinhour spoke with lister Eric Collins who indicated the town had two choices: they could throw it up and have it go before the state to make this a private road, Or turn this into a penned road, which would give us the option to keep the road. Steinhour spoke with the Border Patrol to find out if there would be any issues with this. They were going to speak with their superiors and get back to the Town. Selectmen Steinhour is recommending that if this sort of exchange were to occur then the town should purpose that the individuals would have to maintain that section of roadway.

Selectmen Steinhour asked Clerk Deuso about a resignation. Clerk Deuso confirmed that John Libbey gave his resignation for his role on the planning commission.

Chair Pond made a motion to adjourn Selectwomen Paquette seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Submitted by

Kiley Deuso – Town Clerk

Attest