



Town of Thetford • PO Box 126 • Thetford Center, VT 05075 • (802) 785-2922

Selectboard Regular Meeting *Draft* Minutes Thetford Town Offices

Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

Stuart Rogers called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Selectboard Members Present: John Bacon, James Dixon, Jessica Eaton, Bill Huff, Stuart Rogers

Others Present: Tracy Borst (Town Clerk), Jill Graff (Town Treasurer), Marty Moses
(Selectboard Assistant)

Community Members Present: Robin Brown, Mike Kiess, Roney Hoffman, Susan Rump, Phebe McCosker, Chris Hebb, Ellis Paige, Heinz Trebitz, Bob Walker, Ellen Blumberg, Pricilla Hall, Ridge Satterthwaite, John Hall, Susan Gault, Jody Biddle, Rick Biddle, Cathy Newbury, Scott Hesser

Stuart Rogers began the meeting by thanking all the volunteers in the town for their dedication and hard work.

Public Comment 6:07 p.m.

Robin Brown had some comments about the draft minutes of the 12/19/16 Selectboard meeting. Robin Brown noted page 2, line 24, which the Selectboard agreed could be removed; page 3, line 2, the word “unexpectedly”; and the wording of the motion on page 2, line 25, “more work that needs to be done”. Robin Brown asked for a copy of the audio recording of the 12/19 meeting. A copy of the audio can be obtained by submitting a public records request to the Town Clerk. Stuart Rogers said the Selectboard will review the audio and address clarification of the minutes at the 1/9/17 meeting.

Ellis Paige said he had a visit from Police Chief Evans, who said he was there to inform him that pushing the snow from the church property to this side of the town hall driveway was not proper. Bill Huff said he spoke with the DPW, who told him it has been that way all along and then the DPW removes it with the loader. Ellis Paige noted that the other side of the driveway ends up with snow piles which make it difficult to see around. Bill Huff will speak to the DPW about removing that snow as well.

Correspondence 6:23 p.m.

The Selectboard received an updated agreement for the state approved timber cut at the town forest. Ehrhard Frost will send the Selectboard a draft of the letter to post on the listserv.

The Selectboard received an appropriation request from VT Fire. Stuart Rogers will contact them, as they will need to send a petition.

The Selectboard received a Lake Fairlee Association annual appropriation request.

The Selectboard received word from Sally Bugg that the recycling center collected 160 lbs. of plastic bags last week.

Minutes and Warrants 6:30 p.m.

CC-2016-12 \$2128.91

#52.2 \$6275.60

#54.1 \$709.95

#1.4 \$21,111.43

Motion by John Bacon to accept the warrants as presented. Seconded by Stuart Rogers. **VOTE unanimous (5-0-0)**

Motion by Stuart Rogers to accept the minutes of the December 12th, 2016, regular Selectboard meeting, as edited. Seconded by James Dixon. **VOTE unanimous (5-0-0)**

Motion by Stuart Rogers to accept the minutes of the December 15th, 2016, special Selectboard meeting, as edited. Seconded by John Bacon. **VOTE unanimous (5-0-0)**

Motion by Stuart Rogers to accept the minutes of the December 31st, 2016, special Selectboard meeting, as edited. Seconded by John Bacon. **VOTE (4-0-1)**, Jessica Eaton abstain.

Town Committee Discussion 6:45 p.m.

Stuart Rogers welcomed the committee members. Stuart Rogers said that a letter had been sent to The Energy Committee, The Elder Network Committee, Senior and Affordable Housing Committee, and The Historic Preservation Committee. Stuart Rogers explained that the town is statutorily required to have certain committees, but these committees were not required under the statutes. Stuart Rogers said a town committee will be held to certain laws and statutes, such as warning agendas, and posting minutes according to the Open Meeting Law. The town also has a webpage, with committee pages, which will need to be updated. There are also financial limitations for a town committee versus a community organization. Stuart Rogers said the letter was sent to these committees in order to open a discussion about whether they would work better as a community organization, because of these laws and restrictions.

There was a lengthy discussion where the Selectboard listened to committee concerns.

The committees would like more details with non-compliance of the Open Meeting Laws.

The committees would like to know within the week what they need to do to come into compliance.

Stuart Rogers said there is a Town Committee Handbook on the Town webpage. Stuart Rogers said it does need to be reviewed and updated because the Open Meeting Laws have changed drastically in the last 2 years, and continue to change. Stuart Rogers said all Town committees need to post agendas at the 3 legal posting locations for the town; in front of the Town Hall, on the poster board at the Village Store, and at the Thetford Hill Post Office. Posting on the Thetford listserve is only a courtesy.

Stuart Rogers apologized on behalf of the Selectboard that they have not communicated with each committee, and offered a challenge to Selectboard members to attend their liaison committee meetings.

Stuart Rogers thanked the committee members for all the time they spend doing the work of their committees.

Town Health Insurance Discussion (cont'd) 7:58 p.m.

Stuart Rogers and Bill Huff said they had been working on the health insurance plan and suggested an additional \$50 monthly per employee plus one, to cover premium costs, which will help people without an HSA. For those employees with an HSA, an additional \$500 one time, upfront payment will be made to help fund the HSA.

There was discussion about how some employees will have to pay the \$500 deductible, but other employees won't.

There was discussion that funds applied to an HSA are pre-tax, and a one-time payout would be taxed.

There was discussion about the past practice of the deductible being paid through the town and not an HSA. There was discussion about a one year deductible plan through the town, and how it would be distributed.

Motion by Bill Huff to increase the amount per employee, per month to \$690; per couple per month to \$1380.00 with an additional \$500 one-time payment per employee towards an HSA for year 2017. Seconded by James Dixon.

After more discussion, the motion by Bill Huff and second by James Dixon was retracted.

The discussion will be tabled until Monday, January 9th.

Budget Discussion – Police w/Michael Evans 8:32 p.m.

The Selectboard and Police Chief Evans reviewed the police department budget.

Budget Discussion 9:28 p.m.

The Animal Control budget was discussed.

Town Mowing bids were reviewed. There was discussion of liability and workman's comp insurance.

The Clerk/Town Hall budget was discussed. There is work that needs to be done to the exterior of the town hall, as well as the septic system.

The Selectboard discussed working numbers for Treasure Island.

Old Business

- Upcoming Agendas

Due to budget timelines, the Selectboard discussed moving the discussion with the Friends of Treasure Island to another date.

Continuing discussion about health insurance

Budget

Other Business

Tracy Borst discussed the timeline for the Town Report. Committees need to submit reports by January 9th, and nominating petitions are due on January 30th. The warrants for the budget need to be signed between January 26th and Feb 5th.

- Tree Warden Report

The Selectboard received the Tree Warden report for Sanborn Road, and removal of trees is warranted. A registered letter will be sent to the landowners.

Motion by Bill Huff to accept the Tree Warden report, as presented. Seconded by Jessica Eaton. Motion by Bill Huff and second by Jessica Eaton retracted, as a motion is not needed.

- Personnel Discussion (Executive Session)

Motion by Stuart Rogers at 10:38 p.m. to discuss personnel in an Executive Session per *Discussion of Matters as per 1 V.S.A., subsection 313, paragraphs A 1 & 3.* Seconded by James Dixon. **VOTE unanimous (5-0-0)**

Motion by John Bacon to exit Executive Session at 11:16 p.m. Seconded by James Dixon. **VOTE unanimous (5-0-0)**

Motion by Bill Huff to change the status of a temporary employee to a full-time employee. Seconded by John Bacon. **VOTE unanimous (5-0-0)**

There was a brief discussion about upcoming agendas.

Motion by John Bacon at 11:20 p.m. to adjourn the regular Selectboard meeting. Seconded by James Dixon. **VOTE unanimous (5-0-0)**

The Selectboard meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m.