



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

Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes

Thetford Town Offices

Monday, September 11, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

James Dixon called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m

Selectboard Members present: James Dixon, Jessica Eaton, Stuart Rogers, Li Shen, Douglas Stone

Others present: Jill Graff (Town Treasurer), Tracy Borst (Town Clerk), Chad Martin (Road Foreman)

Community Members present: Dale Gephart, Jim Allen, Scott McCrea

Public Comment 7:08 p.m.

Jill Graff told the Selectboard that Heidi Joyce from VLCT will conduct a safety program for the Department of Public Works. The workshop is a 45 minute video and presentation. The Town will have better Workman's Comp rates if they participate.

Correspondence & Liaison Updates 7:10 p.m.

Jessica Eaton conducted an exit interview/review with the Treasure Island 2017 Manager.

Jessica Eaton suggested that the Road Foreman compile a list of roads that have been contracted out for work and give to the DPW employees.

James Dixon reported that the Rec. Department has received a \$5,000 donation from the Byrne Foundation towards the cost of uniforms. James Dixon requested time on an upcoming agenda to discuss fixing the back stop for the Thetford Elementary School baseball field.

James Dixon said that Dubois and King has inspected the Lake Fairlee Dam, and would be periodically checking it. Dubois and King recommends scheduling a monthly visit to observe the condition of the leak and to measure the flow rate. The cost of a quarterly inspection is already in the budget.

Douglas Stone reported that the Senior Affordable Housing Committee would like to have a public forum. The Committee would also like to know how the Selectboard views the Committee and their role in the Town.

Minutes and Warrants 7:23 p.m.

#25.3 \$3,408.40

#35.2 \$2,087.21

#25.3F \$5,455.95

#30.1 \$6,568.95

#34.2 \$1,606.35

#18.4 \$20,780.37

#31.1 \$35,079.33

#26.3F \$9,538.41

Review of timesheets Pay Period ending 9/9/17

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

Motion by James Dixon to accept the regular Selectboard Meeting Minutes of Monday, August 28th, 2017, as edited. Seconded by Stuart Rogers. **VOTE unanimous (5-0-0)**

Discussion of Robinson Hill Road Concerns 7:40 p.m.

Dale Gephart expressed concerns to the Selectboard about a large tree leaning over Robinson Hill Road. Stuart Rogers said the Town Tree Warden had looked at the tree, and to address it in a

3 to 5 year plan. Stuart Rogers will send the report from the Tree Warden to Dale Gephart. Dale Gephart would be responsible for the cost of taking the tree down.

Dale Gephart, Jim Allen and Scott McCrea also wanted to discuss the dirt road that runs along Lake Fairlee, as mud runs off this road and into the Lake. Dale Gephart had pictures of the area. Dale Gephart said there should be a plan for preventing the run-off. Stuart Rogers said a Better Roads grant for this work has been awarded to the Town. The grant is in effect for 18 months. Stuart Rogers said the work will be planned for next year. Stuart Rogers will send the grant information to Dale Gephart.

Dale Gephart said a culvert needs to be replaced, and that the roads are being graded way out. There was discussion about the mowing of a section of land owned by the Waterfront Association. Dale Gephart said the landowners will meet in terms of driveways and vegetative buffer.

Storm Updates - Roads & Meetings 8:01 p.m.

Stuart Rogers reported on a meeting with Stantec Engineering for bids that went out for the 2nd phase of Route 132 will be opened this week.

Chad Martin updated the Selectboard on work that has been done during the week.

Chad Martin said he had a quote for paving Latham Road from Pike Industries. There was discussion about the work listed on the quote. Chad Martin will speak with Pike Industries about the concerns.

There was discussion about the upcoming closing of a section of Route 132.

There was discussion about Emergency Management. Chad Martin said he is concerned about unreliable radio reception. Chad Martin said he would like to have more people take ICS Training (Incident Command Station), including the Town Clerk, the Selectboard and the Town Treasurer.

Addendum B - Town Personnel Policy (Elected Officials) 8:40 p.m.

The Selectboard reviewed changes to the Town Personnel Policy (Elected Officials) with Tracy Borst (Town Clerk) and Jill Graff (Town Treasurer). More edits were suggested. Stuart Rogers will make changes and send to the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer.

Discussion of Town Acceptance of Credit Cards 8:58 p.m.

There was discussion about the reports received from Towns in Vermont who currently have or have had the ability to accept credit card payments. Jill Graff asked for a comparison of work load for the Treasurer's Office between various towns and Thetford. Jill Graff expressed concerns about having additional work added to the Treasurer's Office, which has 2 employees.

There was discussion about what credit card payments would be accepted for, and what percentage of people in town would use the service. There was discussion about bringing the discussion before the residents at Town Meeting, or conducting a survey.

There was discussion about the ability to sign up for recreation activities on the website, but not the ability to pay on the website.

There was discussion about the limiting of payments for Recreation only, as the system will not expand to other departments.

Questions were raised about how the process would actually work. Once a payment has been made, how is the Town notified, what are the responsibilities for the Treasurer and how does the Town receive the funds?

James Dixon will follow up to find out what the process is for credit card payments with MyRec, and what the responsibilities would be for the Treasurer.

Old Business

- Upcoming Agendas

Energy Committee and Conservation Committee in next week.

Discussion of 5 Corners Road.

Other Business

- Plan for Upcoming Town Plan Discussions

The Selectboard will have a Special Selectboard Meeting Wednesday, September 20th, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., to start deliberations of the DRAFT Town Plan.

- Plan for Upcoming Budget Season

There was discussion about the budget process.

- Thetford Hill Pedestrian Project Update

The Selectboard discussed the proximity of the Pedestrian Trail to the Elementary School. The TES schoolboard has recommended leaving the plan as is, and they will work accordingly with their curriculum.

The Selectboard discussed the VTrans requests concerning the sidewalk on Thetford Hill, and a resident's opposition.

- Union Negotiation Update (Executive Session)

- Personnel Discussion (Executive Session)

- Legal Update (Executive Session)

Motion made by James Dixon at 10:46 p.m., to discuss personnel in an Executive Session per *Discussion of Matters as per 1V. S. A., subsection 313, paragraphs A 1&3*. Seconded by Douglas Stone. **VOTE unanimous (5-0-0)**

Motion made by Stuart Rogers at 11:30 p.m., to exit Executive Session. Seconded by Douglas Stone. **VOTE unanimous (5-0-0)**

No action taken at this time.

Motion made by James Dixon at 11:40 p.m. to adjourn the Regular Selectboard meeting. Seconded by Stuart Rogers. **VOTE unanimous (5-0-0)**