



Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes

Thetford Town Offices

Monday, March 12, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Stuart Rogers called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

Others present: Tracy Borst (Town Clerk), Martie Betts (SBA)

Community Members present: Bill Huff, Laurie Ingalls, Deborah Marcy, Bob Pulaske, Sue Tallman, John Bacon, Libby Chapin, John Chapin, Michael Pomeroy, Sue Fritz, Wayne Parks, James Labelle, Ann Lavanway, Jim McCracken

Swearing in of Newly Elected Board Members 7:01 p.m.

Town Clerk Tracy Borst conducts the swearing in of newly elected Selectboard member, Li Shen.

Stuart Rogers read a letter of resignation from Jessica Eaton, effective 3/12/18.

Motion by Stuart Rogers to accept the letter of resignation from re-elected Selectboard member Jessica Eaton. Seconded by Li Shen. **VOTE unanimous (4-0-0)**

Annual Reorganization of the Board 7:05 p.m.

Motion by Douglas Stone to appoint Stuart Rogers as the Selectboard Chair. Seconded by Li Shen. Stuart Rogers noted that he would not be able to be as involved as he was this past year, in order to attend to his business. **VOTE (3-0-1)** Stuart Rogers abstained.

Motion by Douglas Stone to appoint James Dixon as the Selectboard Vice-Chair. Seconded by Stuart Rogers. **VOTE (3-0-1)** James Dixon abstained.

Motion by James Dixon to accept the Town of Thetford Selectboard Rules of Procedures, adopted on March 12th, 2018. Seconded by Douglas Stone. **VOTE unanimous (4-0-0)**

Motion by Stuart Rogers that at all regular Selectboard meetings continue to be held on Monday nights beginning at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Seconded by Douglas Stone. **VOTE unanimous (4-0-0)**

Motion by Stuart Rogers to continue with the Bradford Journal Opinion as the Thetford Selectboard Paper of Record. Seconded by James Dixon. **VOTE unanimous (3-0-0)**

Motion by Stuart Rogers that in times of absence of the Selectboard, warrants can be signed by the Selectboard Chair or Vice-Chair, with all warrants reviewed at the next scheduled meeting. Seconded by James Dixon. **VOTE unanimous (4-0-0)**

Motion by Stuart Rogers to re-appoint Bill Murphy as the Town Tree Warden. Seconded by Douglas Stone. **VOTE unanimous (4-0-0)**

Motion by Stuart Rogers to appoint Laurie Ingalls as Town Service Officer. Seconded by Douglas Stone. **VOTE unanimous (4-0-0)**

Stuart Rogers will bring a draft of a Notice of Selectboard Vacancy and Intent to Accept Letters of Interest to the next scheduled Selectboard meeting for review and approval.

Public Comment 7:14 p.m.

Laurie Ingalls questioned why the Town still has a subscription to the Valley News if it is not the paper of record. Stuart Rogers will check into it.

Minutes & Warrants and Correspondence 7:16 p.m.

#10.1 \$49,533.32

#11.3 \$5,145.84

#9.2 \$7,341.04

#6.3F \$60,076.30

Review of payroll ending 3/10/18.

Motion by Stuart Rogers to accept the warrants as presented. Seconded by Douglas Stone.

VOTE unanimous (4-0-0)

Motion by Stuart Rogers to accept the regular Selectboard meeting minutes of February 19th, 2018, as edited. Seconded by Li Shen. **VOTE (3-0-1)** James Dixon abstained.

Motion by Stuart Rogers to accept the regular Selectboard meeting minutes of February 26th, 2018, as edited. Seconded by James Dixon. **VOTE unanimous (4-0-0)**

Motion by Stuart Rogers to accept the special Selectboard meeting minutes of March 3rd, 2018, as presented. Seconded by James Dixon. **VOTE unanimous (4-0-0)**

The Selectboard received an adjustment to the quote from Lucky's for the 550 truck.

Notice from Nobis (working with the EPA on the Elizabeth Mine) about road closures for tree removal.

The Selectboard received a request from the Dufresne Group for continued work for the pedestrian project on Thetford Hill.

Motion by James Dixon for the Selectboard Chair to sign the request from the Dufresne Group. Seconded by Li Shen. **VOTE unanimous (4-0-0)**

Motion by Douglas Stone to approve the adjustment of \$3148 to the quote from Lucky's for the 550 truck. Seconded by Stuart Rogers. **VOTE unanimous (4-0-0)**

Motion by Douglas Stone for the Selectboard Chair to sign the adjustment of \$3148 to the quote from Lucky's for the 550 truck. Seconded by James Dixon. **VOTE unanimous (4-0-0)**

Election Results and Discussion of Process 7:54 p.m.

Stuart Rogers began the discussion by saying the discussion is whether or not there was inappropriate behavior by a Town Commission during elections on Tuesday. Stuart Rogers said that the VLCT attorney relayed the posting on the Thetford Listserve did not violate 17 V.S.A. subsection 2666, but it did push the edges of it. An individual is entitled to express their own

opinion; however the problem is the post was noted as being from the Conservation Commission. Conservation Commission member Libby Chapin said she had written the email and inadvertently put the Conservation Commission in the email. Libby Chapin said she is used to writing on behalf of the Commission and it just came out naturally. Other Commission members said they were not aware of the email until they received the email from Stuart Rogers.

There was discussion about the Open Meeting Law and conversations via email.

There was discussion about which Committees and Officials fall under the Open Meeting Law.

Libby Chapin has expressed remorse and has sent letters of apology.

Stuart Rogers thanked Libby Chapin for her letters, and thanked everyone for their comments.

Town Meeting Review - Comments & Budget Update 8:44

Stuart Rogers noted that with the amended budget the tax rate is up by 6.74%.

Li Shen noted that it is incorrect thinking that cutting appropriations will harm the town, as there are funds available to help residents in need.

Stuart Rogers wanted to apologize to all of the Town departments as they were beat up a bit during budget discussions.

Stuart Rogers said the Town has a FEMA Disaster Manager who will take the town through the process of the new online system.

Tracy Borst asked for any comments on logistics at Town Meeting. Bill Huff noted that 259 residents attended Town Meeting.

There was agreement that the set up and the acoustics were good

Tracy Borst noted that this year was a big challenge for getting everything ready for Town Meeting.

There was discussion about the number of voters who attend Town Meeting, and when Thetford moved to a Saturday Town Meeting.

Motion by Stuart Rogers that the letter sent to Social Services for appropriations this year will require a signed petition from each, and will be sent with the check in the fall. Seconded by Li Shen. **VOTE unanimous (4-0-0)**

Other Business 9:19 p.m.

- 2018 Liaisons List (Review)

There was discussion about posting the Town Treasurer position.

- Committee Appointments (Review & New)

The Selectboard reviewed the list of committees and commission members in the Town Report.

- Personnel Discussion (Anticipated Executive Session)

Stuart Rogers **moved** to find that premature, general public knowledge of personnel would clearly place the person and municipality involved to suffer a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Li Shen. **Vote unanimous (4-0-0)**

Motion made by Stuart Rogers to discuss personnel in an Executive Session per *Discussion of Matters as per IV.S.A., subsection 313, paragraphs A1 & 3*. Seconded by James Dixon. **VOTE unanimous (4-0-0)**

Motion by James Dixon to exit Executive Session at 10:02 p.m. Seconded by Douglas Stone. **VOTE unanimous (4-0-0)**

No action was taken at this time.

Motion by Stuart Rogers to adjourn the regular Selectboard meeting at 10:03 p.m. Seconded by Li Shen. **VOTE unanimous (4-0-0)**

