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Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes

Thetford Town Offices

Monday September 10th 2018 at 7:00 pm

Stuart Rogers called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Selectboard members present: Stuart Rogers Li Shen, Doug Stone

Community members present: Bill Huff, John Bacon, Richard Krzal, Mark McMahon, Chris Senger, DPW head Chad Martin

Announcements: There will be a big trash pick up on Saturday October 13th; electronics will not be accepted.

Public comment: Mark McMahon withdrew his candidacy for appointment to the selectboard. He extended thanks to Lyme Hardware for donating paint for the East Thetford Cemetery fence.

John Bacon complained that the town had not yet taken down the leaning tree in the town R.O.W on Gove Hill Road.

Doug Stone reported that the recent mowing on Five Corners Road was 'a good, clean job' that did not mow up to the posts on Joanne Kirsten's frontage and stopped mowing in front of the Fish and Game Club pond.

Correspondence: Doug Stone read three emails in which residents voiced opinions about whether the Tucker Hill covered bridge should be repaired. Doug Stone also reported that the stump dump issues were not as bad as previously stated and presented photos of the site on his cell phone.

VLCT sent a notice about a fall Planning and Zoning Forum.

An announcement was received for the Upper Valley Town Welfare Officer symposium.

1 The state announced the start of planning for a statewide emergency exercise in
2 October 2019. Two representatives from each town may participate in the exercise.

3 **Motion** by Stuart Rogers to accept the Listers' adjustment to the Grand List.

4 Seconded by Doug Stone. **Vote 3-0-0.**

5 VLCT sent a packet of sample suggestions for running a candidates' forum.

6 **Letters of Interest - Introductions with Questions and Answers:**

7 Cathee Clement joined the meeting by speakerphone at 7:20 pm.

8 The board heard introductory statements from board candidates Rich Krzal, Bill
9 Huff and John Bacon. Rich Krzal and Bill Huff answered questions from the board.

10 **Minutes and Warrants**

11 #31.2 - \$13,314.95

12 #59 - \$23,921.64

13 #29.3F - \$176,518.72

14 #35.1 - \$48,582.56

15 Cash Transfer Warrant #CT6 - \$1,040.89

16 Review of payroll ending 9-8-2018

17 Stuart Rogers **moved** to approve warrants; seconded by Doug Stone. **Vote 3-0-0.**

18 Abstained, Cathee Clement.

19 **Motion** by Stuart Rogers to accept the minutes of August 13th 2018. Seconded by
20 Doug Stone. **Vote 4-0-0.**

21 Minutes of August 27th held till next week.

22 **Road Issues and Concerns:**

23 The lack of adequate ditching and culverts in the vicinity of the Reb Mountain Rd /
24 Rt 132 intersection was discussed. Chad Martin commented that it was on the list of
25 projects but it would require taking road crew members off other jobs to act as
26 flaggers.

27 Culverts recently unclogged or undergoing current replacement include the culvert
28 near the Town line with Strafford near Trader Fred's and culverts on Poor Farm
29 Road.

1 Chris Senger from Hauger Road said that water running down the road exits the
2 road in one spot and cuts a rut across her field. Drainage issues in that location were
3 discussed. Chad commented that it would need one to one-and-a-half weeks of work
4 to properly regrade the shoulders and address other drainage needs just on that one
5 stretch of road.

6 Cathee Clement will draft a reply to Bernie Hazlett of Reb Mountain road to let him
7 know that the ditching will be addressed this fall. The unrelated issue of the
8 Hazlett's new roadside sign that is larger and closer to the road than the original
9 sign is being addressed by the Zoning Officer Mary Ellen Parkman.

10 Chad Martin reported that the excavations to put in the new town septic system
11 temporarily disrupted the Highway Department's use of the Town Garage.

12 Doug Stone said that improved ditches are wasted if they send water into failed
13 driveway culverts. The town should be responsible for maintaining private
14 driveway culverts that are in the town right-of-way and replacing them when failed,
15 as was once Town practice.

16 Cathee Clement asked if there is a town policy on driveway culverts and whether it
17 had been changed. The board should revisit driveway culvert policy in a future
18 agenda.

19 Stuart Rogers reported that the Federal Highway Fund is aiming to finish with all its
20 payments to towns resulting from the storm on July 1st 2017, in the near future.

21 Chad Martin reported that sitework to replace the Stevens Road culvert with a
22 bridge is scheduled to begin next week, following tree removal this week. Footings
23 will be set on October 1st and the pre-cast bridge sections will be delivered in mid-
24 October. Anticipated finish time would be in mid-November to December.

25 Chad Martin reported that the Lafayette Company will reset some of the guard rails
26 on Latham Road to allow the correct road width of 26 ft between them. (Some were
27 only 24 ft apart.)

28 Chad Martin reported that there is a problem with the Union Water Company water
29 line following the extensive excavations to repair Turnpike Road South.

30 Cathee Clement left the meeting at 8:30pm.

1 **Logging Access Issue:** The board addressed the request by Mr. Dempsey that the
2 town grant him a right-of-way over a neighbor's property to allow timber removal
3 from his land. Noting that this is a second request, Stuart Rogers questioned why he
4 has not obtained a legal R.O.W. since his Current Use forestry plan requires periodic
5 logging. The board will consult town counsel.

6 **Update of Projects:** The town septic tank is installed and acting as a holding tank
7 pending connection to the leachfield. The mound system is finished and seeded. It
8 needs to be fenced to protect from wear by people and snowmobiles. The septic
9 tank at the Town Garage is too low to drain to the leachfield. Various options are
10 being weighed.

11 Chad Martin commented that the play structure that was removed had rotted posts.

12 **Old Business: Upcoming Agendas:** Stuart Rogers has not heard back from Frank
13 Sodowski who will review Class & Comp of town employees.

14 **Tucker Hill Bridge Repairs:** Stuart Rogers will contact Daniels, the company that
15 has done covered bridge repairs in town.

16 **Other Business:** The board of the Timothy Frost Church has requested to meet with
17 the Selectboard.

18 The tree warden has examined the thirteen dead ash trees on Academy Road and
19 determined that they need to be taken down by bucket. He also looked at problem
20 trees on Gove Hill and Buzzell Bridge Roads.

21 Doug Stone inquired whether the Town has heard from the company that is
22 removing the problem silver maple on Schoolhouse Road.

23 Stuart Rogers reported that VLCT is finishing their review of our updates to the
24 Town Personnel Policy.

25 **Discussion of letters of Interest and Legal update:**

26 At 9:18 pm Stuart Rogers **moved** to enter executive session as per 1 V.S.A,
27 §313(a)(1&3.); seconded by Doug Stone. **Vote 3-0-0.**

28 Cathee Clement joined executive session at 9:35pm by speaker phone.

29 Doug Stone **moved** to exit executive session at 10:01pm; seconded by Li Shen. **Vote:**
30 **4-0-0.**

- 1 Motion by Li Shen to appoint Rich Krzal to the vacant seat on the selectboard,
- 2 seconded by Cathee.
- 3 **Roll call vote: 3-0-1.** Aye: Li Shen, Cathee Clement, Stuart Rogers; abstained: Doug
- 4 Stone.
- 5 Cathee Clement left the meeting at 10:08pm.
- 6 At 10:11pm Doug Stone **moved** to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Stuart Rogers.
- 7 **Vote: 3-0-0.**