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Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes
Thetford Town Offices
Monday September 24th 2018 at 7:00 pm

Stuart Rogers called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.
Selectboard members present: Stuart Rogers, Cathee Clement, Richard Krzal, Li Shen, Douglas Stone. Community members present: Jessica Eaton, Nathan Maxwell (Recreation Director) Sarah Martel (Town Moderator) Tim Briglin (State Representative), Martie Betts, Clara Moses.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Correspondence: The Selectboard received a mailing from VLCT announcing a workshop on Planning and Zoning this fall.

The Selectboard received a request from Camp Ohana for a temporary liquor license on October 13th.

The Selectboard received three emails from residents of Poor Farm Road, complaining about the timing and duration of road closures to replace culverts that prevented some residents from reaching or leaving their homes for several hours during the day. Long road closures also pose a risk in the case of an emergency. The emails will be referred to DPW Foreman Chad Whitcomb.

Motion by Stuart Rogers to approve the temporary liquor license. Seconded by Li Shen. **Vote 5-0-0**

Cathee Clement reported that Jill Graff was very happy to receive from the Town the retirement gift of a ceramic plate, hand-decorated with a Thetford motif. She is enjoying her retirement.

1 Stuart Rogers reported that Frank Sadowski had limited availability to meet to
2 discuss Town employee Class and Comp. The Selectboard decided that Wednesday
3 October 17th at 3:00pm would be the best compromise for a meeting time.

4 Douglas Stone reported that two of the bleachers at the Theford Center ballfield will
5 be moved to the ballfield at Post Mills, and one will be taken by the Upper Valley
6 Fish and Game Club.

7 **Warrants**

8	CT-8 Cash Transfer to General Fund	\$839.05
9	CT-7 Cash Transfer to General Fund	\$67.50
10	#29.3	\$51,574.70
11	#39.1	\$1,760.76
12	#30.3	\$28,045.88
13	#38.1	\$23,676.86

14 Review of payroll for last two weeks ending 9-21-2018

15 **Motion** by Stuart Rogers to accept warrants. Seconded by Li Shen. **Vote 5-0-0**

16 **Motion** by Cathee Clement to approve the minutes of August 27th. Seconded by
17 Douglas Stone. **Vote 5-0-0**

18 **Discussion with Recreation Director:** Recreation Director Nathan Maxwell made a
19 report to the Selectboard. The takings from Treasure Island amounted to just under
20 \$40,000 this year, an improvement over the last two years possibly due to the better
21 weather. The docks need to be pulled out and refurbished. The cost of refurbishing
22 will be compared to the price of a new 16 x 16 ft dock. Nathan Maxwell thought it
23 would not really be a benefit to build a skateboard park at TI. There is a group of 20-
24 30 youths and several adults who participate in a skateboard group at TES one day a
25 week. Nathan Maxwell presented a proposal to build skateboard ramps at the TES
26 ball courts. The materials would cost \$1,082.66 (to come out of the Recreation
27 Fund.) Some suitable pipe can be salvaged from Whaleback. Once built this facility
28 would be town-maintained. Nathan Maxwell said he would arrange sports practice
29 schedules to allow time for girls to use the skateboard facility. He also informed the
30 board that a community group is working on a bike trail at TES.

1 **Motion** by Stuart Rogers to approve the skateboard ramp proposal. Seconded by
2 Cathee Clement. **Vote 5-0-0**

3 **Discussion of Contracted Police Services:** Chief Evans was unable to attend the
4 meeting. The discussion of an interest by West Fairlee in contracting with the
5 Thetford Police for traffic control was postponed.

6 **Timothy Frost Church:** Stuart Rogers will contact the church board of trustees to
7 arrange for the Selectboard to tour the church on Monday October 1st or October 8th
8 at 6:00pm.

9 **Town Septic Update:** The septic installation is finished except for the electronics
10 and the alarm system. The back slope behind the Town Garage needs to be
11 stabilized. The septic mound will need to be enclosed by a snow fence in winter to
12 prevent damage from inappropriate uses.

13 **Sick Banks:** Tracy reported that she had received information about sick banks
14 from Jim Condos and the Town of Randolph. There was a brief discussion of what
15 constituted eligibility to use a sick bank.

16 **Discussion of Special Town Meeting on October 3rd:** Stuart Rogers received an
17 opinion from Garrett Baxter at VLCT about limiting the discussion at the Special
18 Town Meeting to the question presented - in this case whether to use Australian
19 Ballot to vote on November 6th on adopting the Town Manager form of government.
20 The topic of informational meetings about Town Manager government and how
21 much time the board has to post them was discussed. Tim Briglin thought that
22 people would be disappointed at the October 3rd Special Town Meeting if there were
23 no opportunity to discuss Town Manager government and this might reduce
24 participation. The possibility of adjourning the Special Town Meeting after the vote
25 and holding a meeting about the Town Manager topic itself was discussed. Stuart
26 Rogers will ask VLCT if this would be legal.

27 Town Clerk Tracy Borst commented that she and the Selectboard have tried every
28 avenue in an attempt to inform townspeople on the purpose of the October 3rd
29 Special Town Meeting. Yet she anticipates that people will expect to discuss the
30 Town Manager and will be frustrated if there is no discussion. Martie Betts
31 commented that the responsibility of becoming informed on an issue falls to the

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1 individual and that the Town has done as much as it can to inform people. Richard
2 Krzal commented that most people he had talked to expected to discuss the Town
3 Manager on October 3rd. Douglas Stone suggested that the board could hand out
4 informational packets if discussion of the Town Manager at the October 3rd meeting
5 is not legal. Sarah Martel asked what the Selectboard had done in addition to the
6 Town Manager Committee Report to clarify the job description for the Town
7 Manager, and that people would want specifics to inform their vote if the Town
8 Manager question is on the November 6th ballot. Tracy Borst commented that while
9 people want more information they do not come to the Selectboard to ask for it.
10 Richard Krzal shared information about Town Manager salaries in the towns
11 interviewed by the Town Manager Committee and commented that many of the
12 towns provide more services than Thetford. Sarah Martel discussed with the
13 Selectboard whether she would be allowed to post something on the Town Listserv
14 regarding the October 3rd meeting (as a private citizen) since she is the Moderator.
15 **Update on Stevens Road and Town Hall Driveway:** The work on Stevens Road
16 has started. Currently a diversion culvert is being installed.
17 The culvert for the south entrance of the Town Hall driveway is in the VTrans right-
18 of-way and in the neighbor's ROW. Replacement is scheduled for October 8th or 15th.
19 The board discussed the need to cover the Town Hall driveway with fresh hardpack
20 to put a firm surface over sand and mud.
21 **Personnel Policy Update:** VLCT is still reviewing the updated Thetford Personnel
22 Policy. Stuart Rogers received the new version of the Model Personnel Policy from
23 VLCT.
24 **Big Trash Day:** Douglas Stone reported that electronics appear to be allowed at the
25 Big Trash collection day on October 13th. However, tires are not mentioned in the
26 publicity for this event.
27 **Draft Update of Town Committee Policy:** Stuart Rogers will get printed drafts of
28 the provisionally updated Committee Handbook.
29 **Other Business:** Cathee Clement suggested that the Selectboard have a potluck
30 together before an upcoming meeting. This was scheduled for November 5th.

1 Tracy Borst learned from a landowner that a roadside memorial had been erected
2 without permission on their property outside of the Town right-of-way. Since this
3 falls outside of Town jurisdiction the landowner will be referred to the party in
4 question.

5 The Daniels Company is arranging a time to start repair work on the Tucker Hill
6 Covered Bridge.

7 **Motion** by Stuart Rogers that premature public disclosure of personnel matters
8 would place the Town or persons involved to suffer a substantial disadvantage.

9 Seconded by Li Shen. **Vote 5-0-0**

10 **Motion** by Stuart Rogers to enter executive session at 9:38pm. Seconded by Li Shen.

11 **Vote 5-0-0**

12 **Motion** by Stuart Rogers to exit executive session at 10:15 pm. Seconded by Douglas
13 Stone. **Vote 5-0-0**; no action taken.

14 **Motion** by Stuart Rogers to adjourn at 10:16 pm. Seconded by Douglas Stone. **Vote**
15 **5-0-0**

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