



Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes

Thetford Town Offices

Monday, October 22, 2018 at 6:30 pm.

Selectboard members in attendance: Stuart Rogers, Cathee Clement, Richard Krzal, Li Shen. Absent: Douglas Stone.

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

Motion by Stuart Rogers to enter executive session at 6:33 pm. Seconded by Cathee Clement. **Vote 4-0-0**

Motion by Stuart Rogers to exit executive session at 7:08 pm. Seconded by Cathee Clement. **Vote 4-0-0**

Motion by Stuart Rogers to approve the acceptance of an anonymous donation in the spirit in which it was made. Seconded by Cathee Clement. **Vote 4-0-0**

Motion by Stuart Rogers that personal time accrual by union members is to be acquired at the same rate, as per contract. Seconded by Li Shen. **Vote 4-0-0**

Stuart Rogers called the Selectboard meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Community members in attendance: Vickie Weiss, David Eggum, Joanne Kirsten, Kirsten King, Curtis Richardson.

Public Comment: Vickie Weiss and David Eggum introduced themselves as candidates running for positions of assistant judge at the county level. David Eggum is also running for the position of County judge. They presented the Selectboard with copies of the current County budget.

Correspondence: The Selectboard read an email from Sarah Jo Brown and Chris Senger describing property endangerment on Hauger Road.

Warrants:

#33.3	\$1,000.61
#35.2	\$4,063.04
#32.3F	\$3,416.30
#45.1	\$8,221.71

The payroll for the period ending October 20th 2018 was approved as presented.

Discussion and Comments on the October 17th Informational Meeting about Town Manager: Cathee

1 Clement noted that a member of the audience who questioned the need for a Town Manager did not see
2 why there was a need for a new type of governance. Richard Krzal wondered how towns without Town
3 Managers deal with governance. In response to a question from Joanne Kirsten, Stuart Rogers explained
4 that a Town Manager cannot create new employee positions that are not in the budget.

5 **Discussion of Timothy Frost Church & Town:** Curtis Richardson explained the process by which the
6 church members and the Methodist Church would transfer the church building to the town. The process, if
7 it were started soon, would probably take till January.

8 The Board noted that the church is currently tax-exempt and if it were taken over by a private, non-profit
9 organization it would remain tax-exempt. If it were owned privately there would likely be boundary and
10 parking issues with Town Hall. Richard Krzal commented that the church is a ‘money pit’ and would
11 need insulation and remediation of the floor levels and a water problem in the basement. Stuart Rogers
12 and Li Shen said that refusing to accept the church right away would be unwise. There is no rush to
13 decide how it might be used or to make changes to the building. Those decisions would come after a long
14 deliberation. If the Town took possession of the church it would not be obligated to keep it and would
15 have the authority to sell it in the future if need be.

16 Tracy Borst said if the Town accepted the church, that the building should have its own dedicated fund to
17 accept the bequest for maintaining the steeple and other donations toward its upkeep. Curtis Richardson
18 said it does not cost much to maintain the building unused in its current state. If it were used regularly it
19 might cost \$5,000 a year to heat and maintain it.

20 Richard Krzal asked if accepting the building should be put to a vote at Town Meeting. Cathee Clement
21 said that decisions at Town Meeting may be colored by public reactions to preceding debates and issues.
22 The Board would be abdicating their responsibility if a decision were made without due thought and
23 consideration at Town Meeting. In response to a question by Richard Krzal about who currently owns the
24 church Tracy Borst said that a title report was done recently.

25 **Recycling:** Three of the Recycling Center staff cannot work on the upcoming Saturday. Stuart Rogers and
26 Li Shen will work in their stead.

27 **Personnel Policy Update:** Stuart Rogers forwarded VLCT’s comments on Thetford’s Personnel Policy to
28 the rest of the Selectboard. The legalization of marijuana has generated much discussion among town
29 administrations across Vermont. Personnel who can be called in at any time in an emergency such as
30 police, firefighters and the road crew would require a zero tolerance policy, as would any drivers holding
31 a CDL. Federal law on marijuana prevails over state law. Cathee Clement said that much work is needed

1 before a new draft Personnel Policy can be brought forward for discussion and that the Board would need
2 a week just to look at the comments from VLCT. The policy was last updated in 2015. Jill Muhr from
3 VLCT will be at Town Hall on Tuesday Oct 23rd to meet with Stuart Rogers and one other Board
4 member.

5 **Committee Handbook Update Draft Review:** Stuart Rogers said that more wording changes were
6 needed and will send those changes to Li Shen.

7 **Health Insurance Annual Open Enrollment:** Tracy Borst informed the Board that there would be a
8 meeting to go over insurance options on Thursday Oct 25th at 9:30 am. Stuart Rogers and Richard Krzal
9 offered to attend. The Vermont Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives is adding two new
10 insurance programs to the Insurance Exchange in addition to MVP. Town employees may choose from
11 the whole Insurance Exchange. The Town's employee insurance is now handled through Jessica Jacobs of
12 the Richards Group in Burlington. Tracy Borst will send a letter to Town employees informing them of
13 open enrollment.

14 **Annual Appropriations Letter (Reminder of Changes & Petitions):** Petitions for Social Services
15 appropriations are due on January 14th.

16 **Paving Proposal for Road Repairs: Motion** by Cathee Clement to adopt the estimate from Twin State.
17 Seconded by Li Shen. Vote 4-0-0

18 **Motion** by Cathee Clement for the Chair to sign the paving contract with Twin State. Seconded by Li
19 Shen. **Vote 4-0-0**

20 **Time Off Request:** Stuart Rogers noted that due to requests for time off there will be three days when
21 there will be only two road crew members at the DPW.

22 **Motion** by Stuart Rogers to accept warrants as presented. Seconded by Cathee Clement. **Vote 4-0-0.**
23 Cathee Clement left the meeting at 10:00 pm.

24 **Motion** by Stuart Rogers to accept the minutes of the meeting on October 15th as amended. Seconded by
25 Li Shen. **Vote 3-0-0**

26 **Motion** by Stuart Rogers to adjourn at 10:07 pm. Seconded by Li Shen. **Vote 3-0-0**
27