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Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes

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Monday, October 29, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

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Stuart Rogers called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

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

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Absent: Douglas Stone.

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Community members in attendance, Alford Stone, Lynn Miller, Charlie Buttrey, Charles

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Goldensher, Curtis Richardson, Mike Keiss, Martie Betts, Heinz Trebitz.

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Public Comment : Al Stone expressed interest in purchasing metal roofing on the old Hatch's

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Store in Post Mills. Stuart Rogers informed him that he should contact the owner, Fred Budzyn.

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Lynn Miller asked for an update on the repair of Stevens Road. Stuart Rogers informed her that

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there will be a meeting with the contractor later this week. The borings for footings have run into

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deep clay, they are now 6-8 feet deeper than planned and not finding bedrock. A re-design is

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needed. The site will be cleaned up at the end of the job in accordance with ANR specifications.

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Discussion & Information Regarding Town Manager Vote on Nov. 6th: Most residents are

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not aware of how much town business does not get done under the present system. Lynn Miller

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said that a 9:00-5:00 person is needed to get town business 'under control.' Charles Goldensher

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asked about the job description and selection process, should the town vote for Town Manager

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governance. Stuart Rogers replied that this would be a long process involving formation of a

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search committee, posting the job description, reviewing the applications etc. Charles

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Goldensher asked if the job finalists could be presented to the townspeople. Cathee Clement said

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the search committee should look at the process used by other towns. Mike Keiss said that the

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Regional Planning Commission and VLCT have offered to be formal advisors to the selection

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process.

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Final Discussion & Decision of Timothy Frost Church Offer: A rear intercept drain and

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basement sump pump were discussed. Richard Krzal asked whether the Historical Society could

1 take over ownership of the church. Curtis Richardson said that they had been approached but
2 were not interested. Mike Keiss said that for the last ten years the church has been unused and
3 has gone for months at a time without being inspected. The building has proved to be in stable
4 condition and is not deteriorating. The church is not listed in the Historic Registry, however Li
5 Shen said that it is a significant piece of Thetford's heritage and a landmark element in the
6 appearance of Thetford Center. If the church fell into private ownership the Town would lose
7 control of the land and parking adjacent to Town Hall and would have no say in the appearance
8 of the church and its grounds. Stuart Rogers said that as long as the church is unused it would not
9 significantly increase the Town's insurance.

10 Douglas Stone joined the meeting at 8:15 by speaker phone. He said it is a good idea for the
11 Town to accept the church and that keeping control of the land and the building is most
12 important. Future repurposing of the church is a separate issue. Cathee Clement wished that the
13 Town had a plan and a budget but because the church building in its present state does not incur
14 big maintenance costs it seemed a safe enough decision to accept it. Richard Krzal said that
15 people would be sad if the church were demolished.

16 **Motion** by Stuart Rogers to accept the offer of the Timothy Frost church from the United Church
17 of Thetford with the understanding that the Town would take it over on January 1st 2019.

18 Seconded by Cathee Clement. **Vote 4-1-0** Curtis Richardson said that the next step would be to
19 seek the approval of the church membership.

20 Douglas Stone left the meeting at 8:32 pm.

21 **Roads Update (Sawnee Bean, Stevens, Rt. 132):** Stuart Rogers reported that Sawnee Bean
22 Road was closed just uphill from Barker Road due to weakening and partial collapse of a
23 concrete box culvert (possibly the oldest such structure in town) and in compliance with an order
24 from VTrans. The culvert had been inspected after the flood of July 1st 2017 and some
25 deficiencies had been noted. More water flows through now, due to land use changes.

26 VTrans is conducting an emergency hydraulic study to determine what type of culvert should be
27 installed. The Town has been allowed to open one lane with a steel plate spanning the weakened
28 culvert. No general trucks are permitted to cross, however emergency vehicles are allowed and
29 residents' insurance will not be affected. Heinz Trebitz was satisfied with the decisions made by

1 the Fire Department and thanked the Selectboard for their decision to open the road but better
2 signage was needed. A signage package was already scheduled for pick-up the next day. Stuart
3 Rogers said that VTrans offers a structures grant that would cover 90% of the repair.
4 Regarding Rt 132, the EPA proposes to take the dollar amount for a ‘shim and overlay’ treatment
5 for the 5.5 miles of Rt 132 in Thetford and apply it to rebuilding the worst section of Rt 132,
6 from the Strafford town line to Tucker Hill Road. For this, Thetford will need to perform a
7 survey and wetland delineation. Because the EPA is exempt from some rules it is only required
8 to present 60% of the detail normally required in a plan for such a project. The Town has
9 obtained estimates of \$26,000 from Vermont Survey and Engineering for a survey to satisfy
10 these requirements and \$2,700 for a wetland delineation study.

11 **Motion** by Cathee Clement to accept the proposal from Vermont Survey and Engineering for the
12 Rt 132 topographical survey as written. Seconded by Li Shen. **Vote 4-0-0**

13 **Motion** by Cathee Clement for the chair to sign the proposal. Seconded by Li Shen. **Vote 4-0-0**

14 **Motion** by Cathee Clement to accept the proposal by TEC Environmental Consultants for a
15 wetland delineation on Rt 132. Seconded by Stuart Rogers. **Vote 4-0-0**

16 **Motion** by Cathee Clement for the Chair to sign the proposal. Seconded by Li Shen. **Vote 4-0-0**

17 **2019 Town Health Insurance Rates:** Stuart Rogers summarized the highlights of the history of
18 Town employee insurance and other information that he and Tracy Borst had put together at a
19 lengthy insurance meeting. Prior to 2016 the Town paid for a high deductible plan with full
20 coverage of employee plus spouse. The Town offered a Health Reimbursement Account to cover
21 60% of the high deductible. However, this plan became unavailable. Thus in 2017 the Town
22 allowed employees to choose from plans offered under the Vermont Health Exchange through Vt
23 Heath Connect and contributed a sum equal to the average cost of the available plans. The
24 increase to employees was substantial so a one-time contribution of \$500 was given pre-tax to
25 Health Savings Accounts. Faced with rising premiums the Town is trying to shift some more
26 insurance cost to employees, but a union contract limits this to 2.5% per year. Stuart Rogers
27 reviewed a union communication that clarified this point.

28 **Motion** by Stuart Rogers to approve the Town’s contribution to employee health insurance at
29 \$748 per month for a single plan and \$1,496 for a double plan, for both union and non-union
30 employees. Seconded by Cathee Clement. **Vote 4-0-0**

31 **Motion** by Stuart Rogers that the difference between the Town’s contribution and the actual plan

1 premium may be applied to an employee Health Savings Account or a family plan contribution.

2 Seconded by Li Shen. **Vote 4-0-0**

3 Cathee Clement asked that insurance advice from the Richards Group be available to employees.

4 **Annual Appropriations Letter (Reminder of Changes & Petitions) : Motion** by Cathee

5 Clement to accept the appropriations letter to the social services organizations, to be sent out

6 Nov 1st. Seconded by Li Shen. **Vote 4-0-0**

7 **Motion** by Cathee Clement for the Chair to sign the appropriations letter. Seconded by Li Shen.

8 **Vote 4-0-0**

9 **Draft Personnel Policy Update:** Stuart Rogers reported that he met with Jill Muhr from VLCT

10 about changes in state statutes and regulations regarding personnel. The Town Personnel Policy

11 needs a section on Victims of Crimes and many other changes.

12 **Line of Credit Re: FEMA and Federal Highway Funds:** Stuart Rogers attended the ANR

13 Municipal Workshop on Friday and talked to the State FEMA representative. The Town will

14 need to re-apply for a line of credit until FEMA reimburses the Town for the road repairs after

15 the July 1st 2017 storm. The Town should apply to a bank for a Grant Anticipation Note.

16 **Budget:** Stuart Rogers said worksheets are in preparation for Town department heads.

17 Preliminary budget meeting is scheduled for November 17th.

18 **Minutes & Warrants: Motion** by Cathee Clement to accept the minutes of October 22nd as

19 amended. Seconded by Stuart Rogers. **Vote 4-0-0**

20 Warrants

21 #22.4 \$25,747.70

22 #46.1 \$16,335.8

23 #34.3 \$9,526.00

24 #48.1 \$7,124.18

25 #22A.4 \$1,867.21

26 #33.3F \$5,376.50

27 #36.2 \$1,906.70

28 #47.1 \$71.00

29 Cash Transfer Warrant #CT-9 \$485.85

30 **Motion** by Stuart Rogers to accept warrants as presented. Seconded by Cathee Clement.

31 **Vote 4-0-0**

1 **Motion** by Stuart Rogers to adjourn at 11:22 pm. Seconded by Li Shen. Vote **4-0-0**