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Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes
Thetford Town Offices
Monday, November 5, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

(Times listed below are approximate)

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

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

Community members present: Joanne Kirsten, John Bacon, Mary Dan Pomeroy, Charles Goldersher

Public Comment: Mary Dan Pomeroy reported that six properties in town were in tax sale proceedings. The hearing will be on Tuesday February 5th at 1:00pm.

John Bacon said that the Listserv posting by a Selectboard member that contained misleading information about the salary for a Town Manager was extremely inappropriate. Also the claim that the Town’s portion of expenditure for road damage in the July 2017 flood was a million dollars was wrong and the interest to be paid on loans for said damage was anticipated in 2017.

Joanne Kirsten reported that she had heard ATVs apparently on the Town Forest and asked that the gate to the Town Stump Dump be checked. Douglas Stone responded that the Club had been using a four-wheeler on the property to pull a roller while spreading lime.

Sayre's Covered Bridge Repairs Update: Stuart Rogers reported that Daniels Construction will work on the bridge in about a week’s time. He asked Daniels to look at constructing railings at the Recycling Center, as per the insurance audit.

Storm Expenses: Stuart Rogers explained why the Town’s share of the 2017 storm repairs is not a million dollars. Of damage eligible for FEMA, the federal government pays 75% and the state covers 17.5% of the remaining costs. All the storm repair work done by the Town’s DPW is counted as in-kind payment of the Town’s share of the cost. Of damage eligible for the Federal Highway Fund, all but 11% of repairs completed prior to December 14th 2017 are covered.

Discussion of Town Manager Vote on Nov. 6th:

Stuart Rogers was contacted by concerned residents in response to the posting by a Selectboard member on the Listserv. In the eyes of the public, elected officials are not seen as separate from

1 their official status when speaking as taxpayers, even though, as Cathee Clement said, there is no
2 official policy. In response to another Listserv posting, Stuart Rogers said that a Town Manager
3 cannot take over school government without a vote of the School Board. In response to questions
4 from Charles Goldensher Stuart Rogers said that under Town Manager governance the
5 Selectboard would still have authority to accept real estate such as the Timothy Frost church.
6 Also the Selecbord has authority to change the non-statutory duties in a Town Manager’s job
7 description. Tracy Borst commented that in absence of a Town Manager she has to handle issues
8 that are not in her job description on a daily basis. Human Resources are a large part of this, for
9 instance there have been three Workers Compensation claims in the last week.
10 Joanne Kirsten asked if the Town has an emergency plan to handle a prolonged drought.

11 **Minutes and Warrants:**

12 #37.2	\$2,765.95
13 #50.1	\$1,299.86
14 #35.3	\$500.00
15 \$49.1	\$149,473.00
16 #34.3F	\$170,436.89

17 Time sheets were presented for the payroll period ending November 3rd 2018.

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

19 **Motion** by Stuart Rogers to approve the minutes of October 29th as amended. Seconded by
20 Cathee Clement. **Vote 5-0-0**

21 **Road Complaint & Refund Request:** In response to a request by a Fairlee resident for the
22 Town to pay the cost of replacing a punctured tire, Stuart Rogers said that it is standard practice
23 for the town to deny such requests.

24 **Motion** by Douglas Stone to deny the tire repair request. Seconded by Li Shen. **Vote 5-0-0**

25 **Notice of SAM Renewal:** The Selectboard received notices to renew registration for the System
26 of Allowance Management (SAM) that authorizes the Chair and the Treasurer to act as
27 signatories for federal grant funding. With the SAM number the Town is eligible for federal
28 grants such as the one for the Thetford Hill Pedestrian Project. As Treasurer, Tracy Borst will
29 apply to renew the SAM number.

30 **Draft Committee Handbook Update:** Li Shen will add wording to address committee use of
31 websites and social media.

32 **VLCT/State Reasonable Suspicion Training:** VLCT will hold a Reasonable Suspicion training

1 on November 28th from 9:00-11:30 am at the Randolph Fire Department. This training allows
2 one to initiate a drug test on an employee and is needed for Towns with CDL personnel. Cathee
3 Clement asked if the Fire Department, a non-Town organization, has a trained person.

4 **Town Hall Repairs:** The fund for needed Town Hall repairs has been drawn down due to paying
5 for the new septic system. There may be money left in the fund to repair the broken storm
6 window but not for water damage to the front façade. Rainwater splash remedies were discussed.

7 **Treasure Island Long Term Plan & Mission:** A vision statement and long term plan are
8 needed in order to be eligible to apply for recreation grants.

9 **Roads:** Cathee Clement asked if there should be signs on Latham Road to slow traffic down
10 because of pot holes.

11 **Correspondence:** The Selectboard heard from former Recycling Manager Sally Bugg that one
12 of the employees was probably leaving. There may be only two staff members left. Stuart Rogers
13 was not sure if a check list of duties exists for opening and closing the Recycling Center.

14 Regarding an email from Jean Gerber about a proposed book shed at Recycling, Stuart Rogers
15 said there was no way to attach it to the existing building. If the book shed were sited away from
16 the building it could be dangerous for kids crossing the traffic flow and an obstacle for snow
17 removal. Douglas Stone suggested that a new, lockable shed away from the central building
18 would be a better place to store tools and redeemables and the existing building could be used for
19 books. Also if a shipping container rather than a shed were used for tool storage it may not need
20 a building permit and the DPW could move it if needed. Stuart Rogers will ask if a permit is
21 needed. He said the book shed grant that Jean Gerber is applying for could be used to build
22 shelves, windows etc in the existing building. The price of shipping containers was discussed.

23 **Motion** by Stuart Rogers to adjourn at 9:38. Seconded by Cathee. **Vote 5-0-0**

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