**Selectboard Meeting**

**Richford, Vermont**

**Approved Meeting Minutes**

**October 16, 2023**

Chair Pond called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with members Sherry Paquette, and Alan Fletcher present. Guests at the meeting were Town Clerk Kiley Deuso, Assistant Town Clerk Marissa Tessier, Joey Randall, Carl Wetherby, Debra Atherton, John Libbey, Rowena Brown, Carita Simons, Gordan Wittenberg, Robert Wetherby (Zoom), Librarian Christy Liddy (Zoom) and cameraman Gerry Vaisey.

The board said the pledge of allegiance.

Chair Pond recognized guests. He started with John Libbey who had read the minutes from last meeting about new hanging ornaments for the light poles. John was upset the board didn’t recognize that the Beautification Committee had been doing this for the last 37 years. Chair Pond stated there was money that was returned from the Lions Club for the fireworks, and they figured the money should be used for new hanging ornaments. Chair Pond and Selectwoman Paquette both apologized on behalf of the board.

John Libbey let the board know that the candidate that was chosen for the Assistant Zoning Administrator position no longer wants the position. There were some other candidates he was going to contact.

Debra Atherton stated she had a meeting with Selectwoman Paquette and Michael about the repairs to the library, and in the meeting, Sherry had an idea for the library to move to the old supervisory union, upstairs in the post office building. Debra thought the space was amazing, the library is limited to space now. They will not stop the work that was planned for the repairs to the library, there is grant money that will be applied for the repairs. Selectwoman Paquette spoke about the maintenance of the library and post office building and how it would be easier to just have to maintain one building. The library building could be sold. There would need to be more parking made available for the post office, possibly a parking garage. More research would need to be done before a decision could be made. Christy Liddy stated it would be meaningful to the library to have the space, and more opportunities for different age group activities.

Board members were missing so no decision will be made on the library at this time.

Carl Wetherby had five things to discuss. The first thing he pointed out was at the last meeting he was told he was interrupting another guest, he wanted to make it clear that was not the case and to watch the video from last week. Second, he was concerned with everyone being treated fairly when it comes to water and sewer leaks. Selectman Fletcher and Chair Pond stated the water and sewer rules are still being worked on and the goal is to have them in black and white so there is no question about residents being treated fairly. Third Carl stated when someone calls in or comes to the meeting and the board members sit there and roll their eyes and turn their heads to make facial expressions, the camera catches that and people can tell their feelings towards them. Fourth Carl was concerned with a petition for a new fire truck that was posted in town after being told that Chair Pond knew nothing about it. Joey Randall explained that he was the one who came up with the idea all on his own. He did all the research on his own. The fire department didn’t know anything until their meeting on the Wednesday after the Monday selectboard meeting. Lastly, he was upset with the way the shrubs that hid the generator behind his house on the property line were trimmed. There was an agreement when the generator was put in that there would be shrubs put in to cover it and now, they are gone. Carl showed pictures of the shrubs to the board. Someone could get hurt on the sticks that are poking out. Once again, he stated the town doesn’t stick to anything they agree to. Chair Pond will speak to Selectmen Steinhour about the issue.

Robert Wetherby was just listening in.

Emily Klofft couldn’t make it, John Libbey spoke on her behalf. John handed out a packet of information on the Municipal Planning Grant. The grant is for a rewrite of the Town plan that expires in December 2025. Emily had been working with Michael on this, John wasn’t sure of the little details. Kiley stated that if the Town plan should expire it will prevent the Town from applying to certain grants. The Planning Commission will also need to sign.

Ambulance – Ambulance was involved in an accident, Chair Pond stated they are not liable. Should consider replacement eventually. Currently using the old ambulance as a backup. Kiley said the insurance is waiting for the police report before moving forward. Carl asked how many accidents the ambulance has been in, in the last year, with the same driver. Chair Pond and Joey listed 2 accidents.

The board moved to approve the 10/2/23 meeting minutes.

Selectwoman Paquette motioned to approve the 10/2/23 meeting minutes. Selectman Fletcher seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Highway Report – Selectman Steinhour was not present, Chair Pond spoke on his behalf. Chair Pond spoke with Selectman Steinhour on the phone, and he would like to have the highway crew clean up the priest block and put some barriers or fencing to keep surrounding landowners from using the land. With the parking ride going in on Eastern Ave it will take some space away for excess snow, with clearing out this space there will be a spot for the excess snow.

Chair Pond motioned to approve the clean-up of the Priest block. Selectwoman Paquette seconded. Motion passed 3-0

Building Report – Selectwoman Paquette is meeting with someone to show them some work that needs to be done in the boiler room, and at the library. Everything else is going well.

Water & Sewer Report – Approval for changing out the water line on Noyes Street due to breaks. Going to put some curb stops in. Chair Pond stated the fire hydrant by the wood chip plant will be moved towards the road, and the hydrant at the end of Noyes Street and Home Street will be raised for easier access. Continuing to have Thursday meeting.

Park, Playgrounds & Cemeteries Report – Selectwoman Sheperd not present, nothing to report.

Chair Pond motioned to go into executive session at 6:35 pm. Selectwoman Paquette seconded.

Chair Pond motioned to come out of executive session at 7:04 pm. Selectwoman Paquette seconded.

No decisions were made as a result of the executive session.

Meeting Adjourned 7:05 pm.

Submitted by

Marissa Tessier – Assistant Town Clerk

Attest: