**Selectboard Meeting**

**Richford, Vermont**

**Approved Meeting Minutes**

**June 19, 2023**

Chair Pond called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with members Wally Steinhour, and Alan Fletcher present. Guests at the meeting included Joey Randall, Robert Wetherby (Zoom), Linda and Donny Marcy, Town Administrator Michael Olio, and Cameraman Gerry Vaisey.

The board said the pledge of allegiance.

Chair Pond recognized guests. He started with Donny and Linda Marcy. A loose dog killed 32 of their chickens. This was very disturbing to them and do not want to see it happen to others. Chair Pond asked if animal control was contacted? Linda said animal control was called and they thought nothing much could be done based on the lack of enforcement. Chair Pond asked if the dog owner was contacted? Donny said the owner was contacted, but that has not resulted in a solution to the problem. The State Police were called and said there isn’t much that can be done other than working it out with the dog owner. Selectman Steinhour asked if Police Officer Andre Labier was contacted? He was not because the initial call went to the State Police. Chair Pond said Andre should be contacted about it. The Selectboard will review the town’s ordinance relating to animals, and the Town Administrator will send it to Linda and Donny.

Robert Wetherby attended the meeting through Zoom and had questions about the Ambulance Department. He was reading the ambulance report from 2022 and questioned some of the vocabulary used in the report like the title “ambulance directors” and the use of “prompt”. He thought the Selectboard oversees the ambulance service? Selectman Steinhour said the director title was for Selectwoman Paquette and Chair Pond as they are the selectboard members who oversee the ambulance service. Mr. Wetherby then said he understood the Richford ambulance crew has taken a class in Enosburg, leaving the Richford area with no EMS coverage if there was a call. Chair Pond explained they would respond from Enosburg if there was a call. There is an approximate 10-minute response time. They had the Richford Ambulance truck with them so they could respond directly from the class. Next Robert asked a question about the Vermont Emergency First Responders, and if they are certified to run on an ambulance. He wanted the training officer, Joey Randall, to answer the question. Chair Pond and Selectman Steinhour said Robert should ask the state his question. Lastly Mr. Wetherby had a concern during a specific ambulance call. Selectman Steinhour said he needed to be more specific and encouraged him to write down his concerns and send it to the Selectboard. That way they can do their research on his concern and do their best to resolve it.

The selectboard moved to approve payment of bill from NorthCountry Federal Union for the ADA compliant ramp built behind the Post-Office building. The bill included minor repairs in the basement mechanical room to satisfy fire code standards, and a new electrical sub-panel. The total bill was $ 31,576.78. Selectman Fletcher had questions about the total cost, and asked for a breakdown. The Town Administrator handed out a breakdown of the costs.

Selectman Steinhour motioned to approve payment of the bill from NorthCountry Federal Credit Union for the ADA compliant ramp, patching in basement mechanical room, and electrical sub-panel. Chair Pond seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Chair Pond received an update from Selectwoman Sheperd on the Fourth of July parade. She is in the process of recruiting parade participants. She said Andre will lead the parade for Franklin County Sheriff and is looking for someone to line up the participants in the parade. The Town Administrator received a quote from Security Onsite LLC for street security during the parade. They would have four security personnel along the main traffic routes: South Main Street, Troy Street, Province Street, and River Street. The quote was $ 740. Chair Pond would like to know if Onsite Security would be utilizing the Fire Department gates. The Town Administrator will follow up.

Selectman Steinhour motioned to approve Security Onsite LLC for traffic security during the Fourth of July Parade. Chair Pond seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Next the selectboard moved to approve the 6/5/23 meeting minutes and the 6/8/23 special meeting minutes. Selectman Steinhour made the motion with Selectman Fletcher seconding. Motion passed 3-0.

Update from Town Administrator – Last week the Town Administrator worked with Selectman Steinhour and Jason Wetherby on submitting for a small grant from Vermont Agency of Transportation. The grant was to increase road safety for drivers. The application would clear shrubs and trees in the town right of way along the South Richford Road at the intersection of McAllister Road.

A quote for the scope of work from Trudell was sent for the rail trail extension project. Selectman Steinhour said he has reviewed it and is conflicted on how to move forward. He would like to set up a meeting with Ande DeForge about the future of the project and all the scenarios.

Highway Report – Selectman Steinhour reported the highway crew is sifting sand. Due to the rain, paving has been rescheduled from Pike Industries to this week. Work has started to lay the playground hill sidewalk.

Buildings Report – Selectwoman Paquette did not attend the meeting. The Town Administrator said she is still researching the Post-Office heating system.

Selectman Steinhour said the board needed to renew the maintenance agreement with the Town of Jay to plow the West Jay Road. It is a 3-year deal.

Chair Pond motioned to approve the maintenance agreement deal with the Town of Jay to plow the West Jay Road for three years for $ 9,000 per year. Selectman Fletcher seconded. Motion passed 3-0. The agreement will be sent to the Town of Jay for their review.

Water & Sewer Report – Chair Pond said there will be another policy meeting this Thursday. The water chemicals were ordered in bulk to reduce shipping costs. Selectman Steinhour asked if there is enough storage capacity? Chair Pond said a resident was billed for a frozen water meter. A new meter is approximately $ 300. Selectman Steinhour asked for an update about locating the water line by the old hockey stick factory? Chair Pond said he does not have one.

Parks, Playground, and Cemeteries – Selectwoman Sheperd was not present to give a report.

Other Business – Selectman Steinhour said the selectboard needs to renew an extension of the trash contract. A motion was initially made, but the selectboard would like to discuss it further with the Town Clerk before moving forward.

Selectman Steinhour said a resident who is looking to move out of state said some communities have built in the trash service into the property tax. Selectman Steinhour thought it was a good concept to curb delinquencies. Selectman Fletcher said it is difficult because it is one tax rate, and the trash service is only for the special services district. There are many potential ideas, but it would have to be put on the ballot to vote on.

Chair Pond motioned to go into executive session for personnel at 7:04 pm. Selectman Steinhour seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Selectman Steinhour motioned to come out of executive session at 7:26 pm. Chair Pond seconded. Motion passed 3-0. No decisions were made as a result of the executive session.

Submitted by

Michael Olio – Town Administrator

Attest: