

**SELECTBOARD MEETING  
RICHFORD, VERMONT**

**April 7, 2014**

Chair Linda Collins called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM with members Tim Green, Wayne Hurtubise (7:15), Chris Martel and Norris Tillotson present. Also present were Laura Ovitt, Sue Martel, Susan Fletcher, Kim Collins, Alan Fletcher, Sheila Record, Joanne Foote, Levi Fuller, Sonia Holmes, Ashley Piatt, Mary Mankin, Andrew Richards, Mike Randall, Lyle Willey, Tracy Ovitt, Albert Perry and Joe Pollender.

Alan Fletcher discussed the penalty imposed for late filing of homestead declarations. He said the selectboard has the authority to waive the penalty, and urged the board not to do so.

Susan Fletcher informed the board that training is available for the board of civil authority. She asked that a town-wide reappraisal be included on the 2015 town meeting warning. Susan suggested selling some town-owned properties that will no longer qualify as tax-exempt. Susan recommended having the town hall, library and post office properties surveyed. Susan discussed the resignation of Allen McMurphy, and recommended that the board consider appointing Eric Collins to the vacant position. Susan, Kim Collins, Alan Fletcher and Sheila Record left the meeting.

Linda reminded the guests of the rules of the meeting.

Joe Pollender stated he believes the town is going backward rather than forward.

Mike Randall discussed the town trash service, saying he is self-employed and disposes of the household trash himself. He is disputing the trash bill. The board agreed they will discuss the matter later in the meeting.

Linda Collins addressed the community center representatives, saying one person would be allowed 10 minutes to speak, and could choose one more person to speak for 5 minutes. She advised that, per the town's attorney, the selectboard does not have the authority to overturn the opinion of the development review board. She said that, when the DRB was formed, they chose not to develop rules of procedure but to revert to state statute.

Lyle Willey said the community center has given up and will not pursue relocating to 140 Main Street. He said they are looking for selectboard input and to, perhaps, become a community center without walls.

Linda suggested forming a committee to include the selectboard. Linda volunteered to be on the committee. Mike Randall volunteered to assist with renovations and/or repairs if needed.

Andrew Richards asked if the selectboard could appeal a DRB decision. Linda said if they disagreed with the decision, it would have to go to Environmental Court.

Andrew discussed marketing vacant properties, and suggested 'vision marketing'.

Andrew discussed the DRB vote on 140 Main Street. Linda explained the DRB vote was ultimately ruled to be legal.

Andrew suggested the selectboard visit with the DRB regarding policies of procedure and conflict of interest.

Mary Mankin questioned the timing for the selectboard to appeal the DRB decision, saying May 15 may be the deadline.

Mike Randall, Lyle Willey, Joanne Foote, Levi Fuller, Sonia Holmes, Ashley Piatt, Mary Mankin and Andrew Richards left the meeting.

Motion made by Tim Green, seconded by Chris Martel, to enter executive session at 7:51 PM to discuss personnel. The motion carried. Joe Pollender, Albert Perry and Sue Martel left the meeting.

Motion made by Wayne Hurtubise, seconded by Norris Tillotson, to leave executive session at 7:56 PM. The motion carried. No action was taken as a result of executive session. Tracy Ovitt left the meeting. Joe Pollender and Albert Perry joined the meeting.

Motion made by Chris Martel, seconded by Linda Collins, to approve the minutes of the March 17 regular meeting and board of control commissioners meeting. The motion carried.

Motion made by Norris Tillotson, seconded by Chris Martel, to approve the minutes of the April 2 special meeting. The motion carried, with Wayne Hurtubise abstaining.

Linda Collins reported that she and Chris Martel have completed the ICS-100 training. Norris Tillotson and Laura Ovitt will take the training on April 10. Laura will arrange an appointment for Tim Green and Wayne Hurtubise on April 17.

Linda reported on the court hearing regarding the vicious dog complaint. The plaintiff was ordered to amend the complaint to remove the selectboard.

A Notice of Vacancy for the lister position was reviewed. The board determined to add 'part-time, paid' to the notice.

Motion made by Wayne Hurtubise, seconded by Chris Martell, to appoint Deborah Green as Town Service Officer. The motion carried, with Tim Green abstaining.

Wayne Hurtubise read a notice regarding clean-up from the ice storm. The notice gives property owners until May 1 to collect down and/or damaged trees from the town right-of-way.

Wayne reported the paving of routes 105 and 139 is going out for bids, with work to begin June 23. He said the highway crew will not have time to complete town road work prior to the paving beginning.

Wayne reported the 1998 Mack truck and the 2002 dump body are being put up for bids. Bids are due May 5.

Wayne reported John Nutting has allowed use of his own trailer to move the town's excavator. Wayne recommended that John be compensated for use of the trailer.

Motion made by Linda Collins, seconded by Wayne Hurtubise, to approve the Annual Highway Financial Plan and Certification of Road and Bridge Standards. The motion carried.

The American Legion has requested two handicapped parking spaces in front of the Legion hall. Motion made by Linda Collins, seconded by Chris Martel, to approve the request.

Motion made by Wayne Hurtubise, seconded by Linda Collins, to approve amending the ordinance regarding restricted parking to include the two spaces in front of the Legion. The motion carried.

Chris Martel reported the regional transportation committee has included the South Richford Road in the 2014 High Risk Rural Roads Program. The designation makes the road eligible for new signage.

Chris reported the Christmas lights have been taken down at Memorial Park.

Motion made by Tim Green, seconded by Linda Collins, to approve the health center's request for use of the playground from June 30 through August 8 for summer day camp. The motion carried.

Tim Green reported he will be issuing a RFP for the replacement of the library roof. Laura suggested contacting Steve Pitkin to obtain a template.

Tim reported he has a proposal from Larry Bessette for the proposed vault expansion. There are no drawings in place. He has contacted the fire marshal. He said the project may be able to begin by the end of the month.

The board discussed potentially available space for community center/public events.

Chris Martel reported the planned replacement of the camera on River Street will be done Wednesday rather than today.

Tim Green reported he has met with Bruce Wetherby regarding the town's trash service. The town clerk has said the service is currently self-sustaining. He suggested possible changes to the service.

Albert Perry left at 8:55.

The board approved the special collection for household hazardous waste on June 21.

Linda reported an issue with a person sleeping at the fire station.

Norris Tillotson reported a problem with turbidity at the water plant. He is currently feeding from the reserve reservoir, and turbidity has decreased from .19 to .08.

The men need to go to the intake almost weekly. Norris reported on his and Chris Martel's research regarding purchasing a 4-wheeler.

Motion made by Norris Tillotson, seconded by Linda Collins, that Norris meet with Alan Fletcher and send a purchase order to Northeast Farm Sales and Service for a 4-wheeler. The motion carried.

The board discussed the homestead late-filing penalty. Motion made by Chris Martel, seconded by Linda Collins, that the selectboard will not waive the late filing penalty. The motion carried.

The board determined to discuss selling town-owned property at later time.

The board determined to discuss the B&D property at the next meeting.

Laura will research whether there is a sewer line easement on the 'Priest Block'.

The board revisited Mike Randall's trash bill. Motion made by Tim Green, seconded by Wayne Hurtubise, to not approve him hauling his own trash. The motion carried.

Tim Green said he will develop a policy of procedure and conflict of interest policy for the development review board.

Motion made by Linda Collins, seconded by Wayne Hurtubise, to enter executive session at 9:31 PM to discuss personnel. The motion carried.

Motion made by Linda Collins, seconded by Wayne Hurtubise, to leave executive session at 9:40 PM. The motion carried.

As a result of executive session, motion made by Wayne Hurtubise, seconded by Norris Tillotson, to notify the animal control officer that, as of April 30, 2014, her services will not be needed. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Laura Ovitt  
Administrative Assistant