

UNAPPROVED
SELECTBOARD MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2018

Members present: Mark Lourie, Thomas Wilson, Deborah Baker, Philip E. Mazzucco and Linda Montague.
Others present: Andrea Lenhardt, Jane Davies, Kelli Raymond, Philip Chapman and Donald S. Lewis.

Meeting called to order at 6:40 P.M.

December's minutes reviewed. Motion by Linda seconded by Tom to approve the minutes with one minor correction as noted. Motion carried.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

1. An article asking for a re-vote on the school merger issue was submitted to Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union and BRSU wants to schedule the election for February 15th.
2. The Town Green Committee will be mailing out a survey to residents asking them for suggestions on the future use of the Town Green.
3. Andrea would like to buy software from NEMRC for handling the dog licensing. It would be of assistance to her and Kelli Raymond. It was the Board's consensus to purchase the software for \$395.00.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

| | | | |
|----|---------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. | Cash on Hand | 12/01/17 | \$419,081.48 |
| | Receivables | | 112,306.53 |
| | Disbursements | | 83,108.43 |
| | Cash on Hand | 12/31/2017 | \$448,279.58 |

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Board of Auditors request a pay raise for the 2018-2019 budget of \$1,850.00 up from \$1,500.00.
2. Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System notice of pension contributions going up to 5.625% from 4.8% under the Group B Plan. The Town's matching contribution will reflect the higher amount.
3. Kittay Library would like the Board to increase the voted contribution to the Library from \$600.00 to \$1,200.00. This would be first increase since 1997. It was the consensus of the Board to wave the twenty-five voter petition names and place this article directly on the Town Meeting ballot.
4. First Constable and Certified Animal Cruelty Officer Kelli Raymond reported that she responded to a few recent animal complaints. She investigated and talked to the owner of a dog which was ill housed outdoors during the subzero weather and was in danger of getting hypothermia. She asked the owner to keep the dog inside overnight until the temperatures moderated, but he refused to do so. After more complaints she paid a call at the residence with a Vermont State Trooper and took the dog's temperature which was at three degrees above where hypothermia sets in. The dog was transported to a veterinarian for evaluation and then returned to its residence. The temperature got warmer two days later so no further action was taken. The second complaint had Kelli checking on the welfare of a dog possibly abandoned for several days. When she investigated she found no dog present, but a flock of chickens exposed to the elements without food or water. She herded them into a greenhouse for shelter, fed and watered them. Before the owner returned she took care of the birds' needs again. Because the chickens were unattended for eight days, by Vermont Statute they were considered to be abandoned. Upon the owner's arrival, she found out that the family had the dog with them. The third complaint involved the Pit Bull housed at 188 East Street who went into attack mode and chased a girl with her small dog, who found safety by escaping into their home. An adult was walking the Pit Bull on the rail trail with no leash or muzzle. Mark will write a letter along with Kelli to the owners and the adult who had violated the Town's Leash Law. Kelli had offered to take the Pit Bull to an animal shelter.
5. There have been many good comments received about the condition of our roads this winter.

SBM January 9, 2018

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of the future Town website proposal. It was the consensus of the Board to place an article on the Town Meeting ballot asking voters if the Town shall establish and maintain a Town website at the cost of \$1,500.00?
2. Highway Report: Storms, lots of plowing snow. Equipment holding up well. New truck has been ordered. Working on grant applications.
3. The Board signed the annual Certificate of Highway Mileage.
4. Worked on the 2018-2019 fiscal year budget, and should finalize it at the next meeting.

Orders were signed by the Board.

Motion by Tom, seconded by Phil to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Montague
Selectboard Clerk

