

UNAPPROVED
SELECTBOARD MINUTES
APRIL 9, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deborah Baker, Philip E. Mazzucco, Linda Montague and Thomas Wilson.

OTHERS PRESENT: Andrea Lenhardt, Brett Lourie, Suzanne Moore, Susan Nichols, Michael McKeighan, William Meyer, Arlene Bentley and Jay "Skip" Wilson.

Meeting called to order at 6:39 p.m.

There was a motion by Phil, seconded by Debbie to approve the March minutes with one correction as noted. Motion carried.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

1. The Town Office needs to have screening installed at an opening in the crawl space where the skunks are getting in and spraying under the building. Tom replied that he will take care of the problem, and install the barrier to keep the skunks out.
2. The voting booths need to be disassembled and put into storage.
3. A wooden flower barrel near the Town Office flag pole is rotten and needs to be disposed of.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

1.	Cash on Hand	03/01/2019	\$451,279.27
	Receivables		189,016.07
	Disbursements		51,305.12
	Cash on Hand	03/31/2019	\$589,490.22

2. \$101,917.38 in grant money for the Kent Hollow bridge project has been received by the Town.
3. A Board of Civil Authority hearing is scheduled for April 30th.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Debbie was questioned by a resident concerning a new sign for a business which has been placed near Hebron Road, between the rail trail and Route 153. The sign appears to not be in the highway right-of-way, but no zoning permit application for it has been submitted to the Town. The matter will be turned over to Zoning Administrator John LaVecchia to see if the sign is in compliance.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Highway Foreman Jay "Skip" Wilson said the crew has cleaned up the trucks and has cut two trees that were in the right-of-way. They want to do the needed ditch work on Pawlet Mountain Road, prior to chip sealing it. Mr. and Mrs. Andrea, who are on the corner of Sykes Hollow Road and Route 30 have given permission to have the Town create a swale on their property to control water run off. The Town recently got the grant money to pay for the Kent Hollow Road bridge project which was done last year. Tom called the Vermont State Police barracks and ordered a speed cart, which is presently on Route 153 in Rupert Village.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Tom asked the Board if we should rent out the Town Green property as a hay field. It presently is being hayed, and to continue cutting the grass would keep the land open.
2. Regarding pay raises for the Highway Department, Debbie said that she is researching what other Towns offer their employees, in terms of pay, health insurance, vacation time and retirement funds. She wants more time before making a decision, so she can gather enough information in order for the Board to be able to compare Rupert's employee pay and benefits against those of other towns. Phil commented that a pay raise should be an annual occurrence.

3. The Board was ready to choose one of the four candidates for the vacant seat on the Selectboard, so a motion was made by Debbie and seconded by Linda to go into executive session, with the Town Clerk/Treasurer present. Motion carried. Went into executive session at 7:10 p.m., and came out of executive session at 7:24 p.m. There was a motion by Phil, seconded by Linda to appoint Charles Rockwell to serve on the Selectboard until Town Meeting Day, March 3, 2020. Motion carried. Tom will call all the candidates to inform them of the Board's decision.

4. Orders were signed by the Board.

5. Andrea cited difficulties she has been having with her provider for office supplies, and would like to start using Staples for them. It was the consensus of the Board to have her set up a means of paying for on-line purchases, whether it is an account with Staples, a Staples store charge card or debit card.

Motion by Debbie, seconded by Linda to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Montague
Selectboard Clerk