

UNAPPROVED  
SELECT BOARD MINUTES  
JULY 23, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Philip E. Mazzucco, Deborah Baker, Linda Montague, Charles Rockwell and Thomas Wilson.  
OTHERS PRESENT: Andrea Lenhardt, Brett Lourie, Mark Lourie, Donald S. Lewis, John LaVecchia, Kelli Raymond, Gerard McNealus and Jay "Skip" Wilson.

Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m.

TOWN CLERK/TREASURER'S REPORT:

1. Mandy Mayer, organizer for the Kids' One Mile Fun Run to be held on Old Home Day, August 10th dropped off a waive and release form to hold the Town harmless from any liability associated with the Fun Run event. Linda will contact Vermont League of Cities and Towns and have them review the document as it pertains to the coverage provided by the Town's insurance policy.
2. Changes in the recording fees. Effective July 1st, it is \$15.00 per page. Of that fee, \$11.00 is retained by the Clerk and \$4.00 is placed in the records restoration fund. It is now \$25.00 to record a survey map in the plat book. The hourly search fee may also be raised from \$2.00 per hour to \$4.00 per hour. It was the consensus of the Board to raise the hourly search fee to \$4.00 per hour. Property owners searching their own deeds, mortgages or Lister cards will continue to not be charged for time or photocopies.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter from Susana Aldanondo inquiring why the Town has not cut down their dead tree.
2. Tom and Linda still need to write a letter to the Curries about having the Town remove their line of pine trees at the junction of Kent Hollow and Sandgate Roads.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Highway Report: The Board signed the paving grant form and the Town will receive the grant money in about one month after sending the paperwork in to District 1. Road Commissioner Skip Wilson said the health insurance keeps refusing to pay on a certain doctor's visit claim. Debbie, as the Health Insurance Coordinator will look into it and let Skip know if he has to pay the bill out of pocket or not. To answer Phil's sand question, Skip said we need to buy about 2,000 yards of sand. After Andrea finds out what we paid last year, Phil will call to get this year's price per yard. Pawlet Mountain Road's chip seal job has been completed. Crew has been working with Pawlet doing slate work on Kent Hollow Road. Two culverts are going in at Kent Hollow Road. Others are being placed near the Fisher Farm and at the Charlie Watrous residence, both on Route 153. The fifth culvert will be at the Country Gallery on Route 315. The hydroseeding done at the Town Garage and Fire Company properties was a failure reported Skip, due to the amount of salt in the ground. More topsoil is needed to provide suitable conditions for growing grass.
2. Tom announced that The Town Office Renovation Committee will begin to hold meetings after the Board of Civil Authority has made decisions on the two tax appeals.
3. Cemetery Commissioners Debbie Baker and Don Lewis met with Mike Hicks from Hicks Memorials today at the Sheldon Memorial Cemetery to determine boundary lines for some of the burial plots.
4. The Board examined draft prints of two proposed boundary lines versions for the 2 acres to be sold to Rupert Village Trust and the half acre to be retained by the Town. Charlie along with John LaVecchia of Rupert Village Trust explained how Option 1 will give the Town's lot 45' of frontage on Route 153 and Option 2 will have 55' of frontage.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Planning Commission members, Charlie and Phil said the Commission is compiling a list of changes they feel should be made to the Zoning By-Laws, when the update is done. Their list should be ready in two months.
2. On July 19th, Mark got together with Andrea, Tom and Linda to plan out the new tax rate. After consulting the worksheet prepared by Mark, and discussion about funding allocations, Linda made a motion, seconded by Charlie to take 2 cents (\$26,720.00) of surplus funds and use it to reduce taxes. Motion carried. Motion by Charlie, seconded by Phil to set the municipal rate at .4411 and voted contributions at .0484, combined to set the 2019 -2020 tax rate at .4895. Motion carried.

3. First Constable Kelli Raymond updated the Board concerning the aftermath of the dog attack incident of July 15th. The owners of the offending dog are keeping the animal confined until the shelter has space for her. At that point she will be returned and residing out of Town.
4. Kelli attended a meeting in her capacity as Town Health Officer regarding health code guidelines for rental housing. The State Department of Health wants input from the municipal Health Officers on how to proceed with code enforcement. Right now, only complaints trigger inspections of rental housing. Among questions asked were: should inspections be mandatory? should they occur once a year? how does a Health Officer determine what is a rental house? will the State or the Town pay for the inspections?
5. Orders were signed by the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Gerry McNealus of Sandgate Road presented the Board with a complaint about a speeding car that hit his dog and injured it enough to require veterinary care. He said vehicles travel at an unsafe speed on his road and he would like to see the speed limit lowered to 25 miles per hour.

Motion by Charlie, seconded by Phil to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Montague  
Select Board Clerk and Co-Chairman