

UNAPPROVED
SELECT BOARD MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

Members present: Deborah Baker, Linda Montague, Philip E. Mazzucco, Thomas Wilson and Charles Rockwell.
Others present: Andrea Lenhardt, Donald S. Lewis, Althea Lewis, Michael Watrous, Roger Tooley, William Meyer, Arlene Bentley, Jay "Skip" Wilson, Mark Lourie and Kelli Raymond.

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Motion by Linda, seconded by Charlie to approve the August minutes as written. Motion carried.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

1. There will be a Republican Caucus at the Town Office on September 17th at 6:30 p.m., and the Board of Civil Authority will meet at the same time in the conference room to purge the checklist.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

1. Due to the time taken up with taxes coming in, the financial report for August will be given at the next meeting.
2. The education tax must be paid by September 30th, and Andrea contacted BRSU about the amount of this payment.
3. A Town Garage payment of about \$35,000.00 is in the orders.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Second letter received from Richard Ventrella about the July 15th dog attack upon his Chihuahua and wife. Christopher and Sarah Porter, owners of the offending dog still have not removed the dog from Town, and the animal is not licensed. First Constable Kelli Raymond told the Porters to get the dog licensed. After consulting the Rupert Animal Control Ordinance, it was decided to sign a warrant on September 24th for all unlicensed dogs. Motion by Charlie, seconded by Debbie to impound all unlicensed dogs in Town by October 8th, after 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Highway Report by Skip Wilson: The slate project with the Pawlet highway crew has been completed. Have done some stone lining of ditches and have hauled gravel to Hebron Road. Roadside mowing has been done, but is needed again. Five culverts have been put in. Any blacktop jobs will have to be done next year when it gets warm enough again. A maple tree was removed at the corner of Ebenville and Dole Roads. There remains 1000 yards of crushed gravel and need to get more if available. Finally, Linda mentioned that the letter still has to be written to Russell and Julie Currie about the Town taking down their pine trees, which are a safety hazard at the corner of Kent Hollow and Sandgate Roads. The trees are in the highway right-of way.
2. Cemetery Report by Don Lewis: There is a September 17th appointment with the Town Attorney to clarify some issues on the operation of cemetery affairs. Debbie Baker and Don have been assessing where the open graves are in the Carver section of the Rupert Street Cemetery and there was a full burial today in the Sheldon section of same.
3. Town Green update by Mark Lourie: Mark showed the Board a plan, drawn by Ray Smith of the proposed parking area of 20' x 9'. The Committee would like to have the parking lot completed and the informational kiosk in place this Fall. Ray is working on an overall plan which will include a gazebo. Charlie added that the surveyor is working on the final plat for the conveyance of two acres of Town Green land to Rupert Village Trust.
4. The Town Office Renovation Committee will meet on September 16th at 6:30 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Andrea still has not received an invoice from the Board of Listers, requesting to be paid the customary bonus from the balance remaining of the Reappraisal Account.
2. Bill Meyer addressed the Board about the internet being down in West Rupert for the past few weeks, and how it has adversely affected his home based business. He presented his proposal for the creation of a Town of Rupert Communications Infrastructure Officer and Advisory Committee. Board members suggested that Bill register a complaint about the issue to the Public Service Board and to contact Representative Robin Chestnut-Tangerman. Bill thought a Town Communications Officer would benefit the residents, and asked the Board to seriously consider his request.

3. Mike Watrous registered a complaint against NEMRC, the appraisal firm hired to do the recent reappraisal of the Town. He said a considerable error showed up on his tax bill, and was discovered when he applied for a home equity loan. The Board told Mike to bring the mistake to the attention of the Listers, who will correct it.
4. Board reviewed the revised estimate from Smith's Paving, Inc. for seal coating the Town Garage and Library parking lots. Motion by Debbie, seconded by Charlie to hire Smith's Paving to seal coat the Library and Garage parking lots. Motion carried.
5. Charlie said Phil Chapman has sold his house and will be stepping down from his positions on our Planning Commission and the County Planning Commission. A new person will have to be appointed to fill the vacancies in November.
6. Orders were signed by the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mark Lourie expressed his disappointment that the new Lister cards are not readily available to the public. The only way to get a card is to ask a Lister for it, which is an impossible request to fulfill when the Listers are not in the office. The cards should be available to the public during regular office hours. Mark passed out copies of the Access to Public Records Law which states: **any person may during customary office hours, inspect or copy any public record or document of any political subdivision of the State, including towns, cities, villages, counties, schools and all their subdivisions. "Public record or document" includes all papers, documents, machine-readable materials, or any other written or recorded matters, regardless of their physical form or characteristics, produced or acquired in the course of agency business. Upon request, the custodian of a public record shall promptly produce the record for inspection unless:** (and a list of exceptions follows). Charlie said he has an appointment with Attorney John Thrasher tomorrow and will seek his opinion on the conduct of the Listers.

Motion by Linda seconded by Charlie to adjourn. Motion carried.

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