

UNAPPROVED
SELECTBOARD MINUTES
JUNE 14, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomas Wilson, Deborah Baker, Charles Rockwell and Linda Montague.

OTHERS PRESENT: Andrea Lenhardt, Sally Achey, Jed Rubin, Donald Lewis, Brett Lourie, Susan Nichols, Scott Grimm-Lyon, John LaVecchia, Richard Ventrella, Jason Norton, Arlene Bentley & William Meyer.

Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m.

State Representative Sally Achey addressed the Board about her efforts to have more internet access in Rupert. She will contact Consolidated Communications about providing services. Sally said it is estimated that by the end of 2023 ninety-five percent of Rupert will have fiber internet.

Scott Grimm-Lyon of the Bennington County Regional Commission stated that the Arlington and Shaftsbury transfer stations could be used by Rupert residents as part of the solid waste alliance which we belong to. The annual cost will be \$3,800.00 for our share to operate both facilities. Recycling is free and there is a charge per bag of trash.

Motion by Tom, seconded by Debbie to approve the May minutes with minor corrections as noted. Motion carried.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

1. Computer locked up due to a scam threat. Problem was solved by shutting the machine off and restarting it a few minutes later.
2. A disaster recovery agreement is offered by Canon for \$500.00 per year for each computer. The back up service will be through NEMRC, which will back up data for two years. For a onetime set up charge of \$695.00 we can use the cloud, then \$10.00 per month for each user. Jed mentioned that the Listers are using Axiomatic in New Hampshire to back up the grand list.
3. The copier now may be used to fax or scan documents.
4. The Board signed the delinquent dog list.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

1.

Cash on hand	05/01/2022	\$1,168,196.09
Receivables		15,559.49
Disbursements		295,346.56
Cash on hand	05/31/2022	\$ 888,409.02
2. It was verified by the State that the Town did have to pay an additional \$22,501.78 to the Mettawee school district.
3. An audit of Town funds is due. Quote from Mudgett, Jennett & Krogh-Wisner for a four year audit was \$8,000.00 to \$9,000.00. Andy will get an estimate from RHR Smith Accounting for comparison.
4. Motion by Debbie, seconded by Linda to approve the \$250.00 annual clothing allowance for each employee of the highway crew. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Helen Maikisch would like a tree removed which is in the road's right of way. Tom said the job will be done this autumn.
2. Voter approval is needed to sell the former Grange lot in Rupert Village. At the August 9th State Primary election, the question will be before the voters.

3. Charlie mentioned the passing of Robert "Bob" Bain today. Bob was a longtime member of the Fire Company and the Planning Commission. Our condolences to the family. Funeral at 1:00 p.m., Rupert Methodist Church on June 22nd, with a reception following at the firehouse.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Highway: grading of back roads, roadside mowing and have installed culverts. More culverts need to be purchased and put in place.
2. State wants Town to lease the parking areas for the rail trail and obtain a VTrans grant. Discussion. No action by the Board.
3. Bill Meyer, on behalf of the local Communications Union District announced that all addresses on the Rupert roads need to be identified to determine the areas that have internet service or not.
4. First Constable Jason Norton said of recent activity was a car collision, medical assists, suspicious behavior and vandalism to a speed sign, which caused damage. VT State Police said bullet proof vest were necessary for the constables.
5. June 16th is grievance day here at the Town Office.
6. John LaVecchia said that Selectboard should examine the agreement between the Town and the Fire Company for the land swap before it is signed by the Town attorney.
7. Next month will begin the renovation of the Town office.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Debbie said in back of the library there is a hole which should be closed off.
2. Discussion about the inaccessibility of the historical society museums to use the library telephone due to the coded keypad lock on the door. The matter should be taken up with the trustees of each organization.

Orders were signed.

Motion by Linda, seconded by Debbie to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Montague
Selectboard Clerk