

APPROVED
SELECTBOARD MINUTES
OCTOBER 25, 2022

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Andrea Lenhardt, Jason Norton, Susan Nichols, Donald Lewis, Arlene Bentley, William Meyer, John LaVecchia and Kelli Raymond.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

1. There will be a Board of Civil Authority meeting at 6:00 p.m., followed by the regular Selectboard meeting at 6:30 p.m on November 1st.
2. Absentee ballots have been coming in. The Clerk reminds voters to sign the inner certification envelope and to enclose your ballot in it.
3. The vote tabulator was tested on October 24th.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

1. Monthly payments for the truck loan to Bank of Bennington will be made on the 15th day of the month.
2. The Town has been receiving electronic payments from the State, perhaps due to someone having withdrawn from the land use program.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Debbie said a telephone line is needed for the Historical Society in case someone must call out. Library telephone not accessible anymore due to the new security lock on the door.
2. Linda reported that Suzanne Moore is having additional water runoff in her driveway and front yard as Route 153 has been built up more after the recent paving job. Tom will look at the situation.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Highway report: leaf blowing, cleaning out culverts and doing maintenance to get trucks and equipment ready for winter. Winter salt has been ordered. Phil suggested that to reduce the washboard on a portion of Hebron Road that paving be done down the hill and around the corner. He also feels that a speed limit be posted on the road.
2. Jason spoke with two State Troopers who are willing to travel on Hebron and Kent Hollow Roads occasionally. The First and Second Constables will be out patrolling on the nights of October 30th and 31st. In the surrounding area there have recently been robberies. Catalytic converters have been stolen too.
3. Kelli investigated a dog bite from a Pitbull at 1852 Route 315. The victim sought medical treatment and received twenty stitches. Dog is now under quarantine, needs rabies vaccination and licensing. The Great Dane will soon be in Kelli's custody. Carol Johnson surrendered her two dogs to Kelli. They will be placed in the animal shelter. It will be considered whether to start going door to door to check on the presence of dogs and their status as to required shots and licensing. Maybe put a notice announcing the program in the annual Town Report.
4. Bill Meyer alerted us that the contract with Consolidated Communications for highspeed internet will be updated.
5. Charlie spoke of the illegal structure at the corner of Kent Hollow and Sandgate Roads, and what measures the Development Review Board may be taking to resolve the issue.
6. Debbie was contacted about the North Rupert Cemetery being taken over by Rupert Street Cemetery Inc. She will take the request to the Cemetery Trustees at their next meeting.

7. John cited three zoning violations by Timothy Saunders. These being his two junk yards, one of which has a camper on it with a new porch addition. A used car business also seems to be in operation at his residence on Route 315. Bill Charlton sent the Town an email concerning the blight in the West Rupert village and the junk yards on Route 315. John will respond to Mr. Charlton's email.
8. Auction for former Grange lot will be October 27th at noon. The buyer will pay an attorney's fee of \$500.00. Motion by Tom, seconded by Debbie to appoint Mark Lourie as the auctioneer. Motion carried. Motion by Tom, seconded by Linda to have Debbie sign the papers at the closing. Motion carried.
9. Charlie was given a \$90,000.00 check from the Bank of Bennington, which he turned over to Andy for the additional body work to outfit the new truck.
10. For installation of the heat pumps, Charlie asked for three additional bids, but none were forthcoming. Baker's Burner Service had submitted a written bid on the job. Motion by Linda, seconded by Phil to have Baker's Burner Service install the heat pumps. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Received an estimate on five computers and a 75" flat screen display for \$8,400.00. Other estimates will be sought from Staples, Crutchfield etc. We may not need as large a display screen.
2. Jason said the Fire Company is still deciding on their outdoor sign. Town would like to post messages there as needed.

Orders were signed by the Board.

Motion by Tom, 2nd by Phil to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Montague
Selectboard Clerk