

UNAPPROVED  
SELECTBOARD MINUTES  
JANUARY 10, 2023

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Andrea Lenhardt, Donald Lewis, John Lavecchia, William Meyer, Arlene Bentley, Stephen Niles, Susan Nichols, Jim Henderson Jason Norton and Carey Braidt.

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

Motion by Linda seconded by Debbie to approve the December minutes with a minor Correction as noted. Motion carried.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

1. The shelving for the vault room will be done soon.
2. Animal Control Officer Kelli Raymond has been rescuing many abandoned cats and has gotten them vaccinated for them to be placed in new homes. Another kind individual is going to take care of the cost of neutering and spaying.
3. The Local Emergency Plan form needs to be filled out, signed and submitted.

TREASURERS' REPORT:

Cash on hand	December 1, 2022	\$709,221.61
Receivables		184,686.83
Disbursements		106,411.23
Cash on hand	December 31, 2022	\$787,497.21

Andy will look into whether Berkshire Bank has a service to allow payment of property taxes with a credit card.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Jim Henderson of the Bennington County Regional Commission spoke extensively of his efforts to improve the parking areas at the rail trail along with more signs to direct the public who use the trail. Trespassing issues have happened on private property, and with more signs in evidence, people may continue to enjoy the trail without inconveniencing the adjacent property owners. Also Jim spoke about the important work being done by the Battenkill Watershed Alliance.
2. Debbie mentioned that a person is interested in purchasing the gun safe.
3. Highway: Brush has been cut, clean up after a few small storms. The State has surplus funds. Tom will investigate what might be available for Rupert. Phil marked a number of dead trees on Route 153, and Green Mountain Power will be removing trees on Route 315 over the mountain.
4. Constable Jason said there have been a few minor issues lately. He needs to give the Town a time sheet for any reimbursement he is owed for patrols, etc.
5. Bill gave an update on his work with the Communications Union District.
6. Zoning: Violation with illegal camp on Kent Hollow Road. They were sent a written notice of the offense on November 5, 2022. Motion by Linda seconded by Phil to fine Michael and Melissa Morin \$1,400.00 for the violation. Motion carried. John LaVecchia is getting the State involved with the Saunders junkyard and general change of use at his property on Route 315.

7. John also mentioned that a use policy for the Town Green will be drafted at the committee's January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.
8. Library: Stephen said that sixty people attended Christopher Smith's art show opening.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Carey Braidt announced that there will be an appreciation reception for Gene Higgins at the Congregational Church on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. following a short worship service.
2. Request for the Town along with the Rupert Street Cemetery Association, Inc. to take over the North Rupert Cemetery.

Orders were signed by the Board.

Motion by Tom, seconded by Phil to adjourn. Motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Montague  
Selectboard Clerk