

UNAPPROVED
RUPERT SELECTBOARD MEETING
MARCH 26, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Debbie Baker, Phil Mazzucco, Charlie Rockwell, Tom Wilson

OTHERS PRESENT: Andrea Lenhardt, Steven Knapp, Bill Meyer, Arlene Bentley, Don Lewis

Meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Charlie Rockwell at 6:32 P.M.

TOWN CLERK REPORT

1. Clerk will call the Mudgett, Jennett & Krogh-Wisner firm to set up date for an independent town audit.
2. Clerk announced that she has appointed Deborah Baker as Assistant Town Clerk.
3. The 2024 dog licenses are due April 1st. The town office will be open on Saturday March 30th from 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. to accommodate dog registrations.

TREASURERS REPORT

1. The February financial statement was provided to the Selectboard. The following information was reviewed:

Cash on Hand Feb. 1, 2024	-	\$ 880,593.86
Receivables for February	-	\$ 696,771.00
Disbursement for February	-	\$ 934,475.41
Cash on Hand February 29 th .	-	\$ 642,889.45

Selectboard also reviewed the Accounts Payable and Payroll reports.

Discussion followed on the need for the Selectboard to obligate the ARPA funding for the Town of Rupert. Motion was made by Tom Wilson, seconded by Deborah Baker for the ARPA funding be used for Town Office renovation and for a walk-in vault. Motions carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A thank you card was received from the Haynes House of Hope for the contribution sent by the Town of Rupert in memory of Gene Higgins.

HIGHWAY REPORT

1. Tom reported the unfortunate incident that occurred on March 14th. when the town's 2020 Dodge Truck caught on fire. Tom was operating the truck when an electrical problem was noticed and then the brakes suddenly failed. After being able to stop, he exited the truck and then the fire erupted from the engine. As a result, the entire engine and cab is now totaled, however, the dump body is still usable. The plow is also okay except for the components. With another storm forecasted, Tom sort out other means for a temporary replacement truck and Washington County was able to provide the town with one on their trucks. Since then, VLCT has been notified and an insurance adjuster came to appraise the damage. Tom was also able to find a 2024 Dodge, at Stephen's in Bennington, with a similar cab and chassis. Quoted price was approximately \$77,000. The dealership will hold this truck if provided with a down payment. Motion was made by Debbie, seconded by Phil to approve a down payment in order to hold the 2024 Dodge cab and chassis at Stephen's dealership in Bennington as a possible replacement for the totaled 2020 Dodge town truck. Motions carried.
2. Recent storm was difficult, but the Highway Crew was able to maintain the roads.

3. Tom learned that the Town of Salem has an over abundance of salt that they are willing to sell for \$15 / ton. Since this is a lower price than what Rupert can purchase elsewhere, the town will take up this offer.
4. The White Town Truck and the two unused safes at the town office have been put online to be auctioned off. The auction ends Friday, March 29th. and there have been some offers.

ROAD COMMISONERS REPORT

1. Phil Mazzucco announced that there will be much needed cleanup of the town roads after these storms.

PLANNING COMMISSION

1. The Planning Commission is seeking new members and three people, Rima Georgeson, Rich Ventrella and Steven Knapp, have come forward to serve. The Commission asks that these three people be appointed by the Selectboard. Some discussion with Steven Knapp, who was in the audience, followed. Motion was then made by Debbie, seconded by Tom to appoint interested persons, Rima Georgeson, Rich Ventrella and Steven Knapp to the Rupert Planning Commission. Motions carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Don Lewis announced that he has started cleaning out a town office back room and will then go through the maps that have been stored there.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Deborah Baker, representing the Rupert Street Cemetery Association, informed the Board that the Association is planning on having a website that will display grave locations and deeds and will be linked to Rupert's website. There will be a \$599 annual fee for the site and they are asking if the Board would approve including that fee in the town's general fund budget. Motion was made by Tom, seconded by Phil to include \$600 in the town's budget to cover the website fee. Motions carried.
2. Debbie announced that the Cemetery Association now has two new trustees – Judy Barden and Rich Ventrella. She also informed the Board that Casey's Landscaping will now be doing the cemetery mowing.

With no public comments and no further business to address, a motion was made by Debbie, seconded by Tom to adjourn this meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Lenhardt, Rupert Town Clerk/Treasurer