Town of Rupert..
Regular Select Board Meeting
22April2025
Draft Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deborah Baker, Kyle Hunter, Phil Mazzucco, Charles Rockwell, Tom Wilson

OTHERS PRESENT: Arlene Bentley, Tom Covino, Lucas Krauss, Michael Krauss, John LaVecchia, Andrea Lenhardt, Don Lewis, Brett Lourie, Bill Meyer

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm by Kyle Hunter

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN CLERK:

1. Approval of licenses for sale of liquor, tobacco, and tobacco substitutes by Sherman's Store moved by Deb Baker seconded by Charlie Rockwell approved 5-0.
2. Vermont Green-up Day plans are available at town office.
3. Town needs to sign up for new 5-year plan with Bennington County Waste. Town needs to supply a container for hazardous wastes after a flood. Details for disposal of household hazardous wastes available from town office.
4. The Secretary of State has updated town on proof of citizenship requirements for voters. The matter is being litigated so status is uncertain. There may be differences for federal and state elections.

COMMUNICATION: A resident has expressed concern of use of LED lights for street lighting because of claims that LED lights cause cancer.

REPORTS:

Highways – Routine spring roadwork in progress. Pay loader delivery date may be in May, Charlie Rockwell to follow up on bank financing.

Road Commissioner – Matter of roadside tree removal being followed up.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Town office standby generator installation in progress.
2. Town website upgrading being pursued trying to identify suitable vendor.
3. Contract design for use of Town Green permission being pursued by John LaVecchia and Charlie Rockwell. This needs attention for we already have more than one request in hand.
4. Vermont Declaration on Diversity and Inclusion. Kyle Hunter learned from sponsors that a number of towns have adopted this declaration and the only expectation of Rupert if it adopts the declaration is that it be published in the Annual Report of the Board of Officers and be framed and posted in the Town Office. The Board and the audience discussed the issue and opinion varied from (a) there is no need to adopt the declaration because it already is the practice of the town and its residents to (b) while this may be true newer or prospective residents might not feel this and would be reassured if the Town adopts the statement. Adoption of the Declaration was moved by Charles Rockwell but failing to receive a second no action could be taken. The matter may be considered further in the future.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. MERP – Installation of a heat pump in the library would cost $26,933.96 which is well within the grant available for same. Installation will be pursued.
2. Access to the Sheldon Memorial Cemetery. Upgrading of the existing town right of way(the formerly known Pawlet Turnpike) off of Route 315 has received okay from right of way neighbors and is being planned.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved by Phil Mazzucco seconded by Charlie Rockwell to adjourn at 7:20 pm approved 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Meyer, Clerk of the Board