

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 19, 2020, 5:30 p.m, via Zoom

Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Christopher Martin, and Laurie Colgan; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Visitors Shawn Cochran and Rebecca

At 5:30 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

Changes or additions to the agenda: Fire Dept complaint, stump dump, metals business

Public Comment: none

Review and Approval of Minutes: The board approved the minutes of May 6 and 9

Fire Department Complaint: Laurie received three responses to her inquiry. Laurie feels that it is clear that there was an argument. It wasn't just a brush fire, and other materials were being burned. That incited Tim. Chris noted that Tim Maclay was the only firefighter from Marshfield to respond. He is a member of the Marshfield firefighter but also the Deputy Fire Warden. The Fire Wardens are appointed by the Commissioner of Forests & Parks with a recommendation from the Selectboard, and can only be removed by the Commissioner. Chris also stated that it is illegal to burn anything other than untreated wood, per Vermont Statute. Fines can be levied by the Agency of Natural Resources for illegal burning. The Fire Warden can also levy fines for burning without a permit, and there was a statewide ban at the time. In the case of a brush fire the Fire Warden has complete control over the scene. In the case of a fire or accident, the highest ranking officer has control. They have a great deal of authority when on scene. They don't need permission to enter private property.

Shawn stated that even before Tim saw what was being burned, he approached them with "what the (**%\$ are you doing? Chris explained that the firefighters were upset because they were called out on a Sunday to a fire during a burn ban, for a fire that contained garbage. He noted that his neighbor who is a member of the fire department also had a fire going, and they apologized that they didn't know there was a burn ban. Becky stated that whether or not there was a burn ban on or a permit was required, he should not have approached people the way he did. Shawn noted that there were firefighters from Plainfield who apologized for Tim because that is just the way he acts.

Laurie asked what their expectations are. Shawn said they want an apology. It was inappropriate for him to step to a 16-year old. He feels that he has owned up to his mistake but Tim has not owned up to his mistake and he should, as a public firefighter.

Laurie stated that they have accounts from other firefighters at the scene, and they need to go into executive session to discuss this since it involves personnel.

At 5:55 p.m. Rich moved to enter executive session to discuss a personnel issue. The Board returned to open session at 6:10. Chris explained that the Board is going to draft a letter to Becky and Shawn explaining what was discussed in Executive Session.

COVID19 Measures: Bobbi explained that the door that was put in is not wide enough to be accessible, and another door was ordered. There is some confusion about whether the wrong door was ordered or the wrong door was given to us. Chris will call Poulin Lumber to see if they will take the door back.

The Board discussed having a Zoom account for the Listers. The Board approved, and will let the Listers decide if they need a monthly or an annual subscription.

Bobbi will order digital thermometers for the town office and the highway garage.

The Board approved having the library do a story walk along the nature trail, and drive-in movies at the Old Schoolhouse Common.

Humane Society: The Selectboard discussed the contract that Central Vermont Humane Society has proposed for cats only. The Board authorized Bobbi to sign on behalf of the town. The contract doesn't cost anything unless there are strays.

Cemeteries: Mike Baril was not able to get the trees cut in New Discovery over the winter. The Board authorized him to go ahead with the project, and they would also like him to take the tree that fell in the corner.

Solid Waste District: The Board authorized Ben Davis from Cabot to vote on behalf of the Town until we can recruit our own representative to the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District. The Board is going to invite someone from Central Vermont Solid Waste District to attend a meeting and give us more information.

Conservation Commission: The Board received one application but there is another person who may be interested. The Board will wait until the next meeting to appoint someone, to give the second person a chance to apply.

Stump Dump: The State has issued a draft permit to dump stumps, and the permit would require the Town to cover stumps that have been dumped. The State has indicated that they will not enforce that requirement. The Board authorized Bobbi to comment on behalf of the Town.

Metals Complaint: Laurie has received another complaint about activity at the Gerard Ducharme Jr. residence. The complaint alleges that someone is taking cars apart at 2:00 in the morning. It appears that they are running a scrap metal business. Chris will talk to Gerard about it.

Highway Grants: The deadline to apply was May 15th. Chris will talk to VTrans to see if the deadlines were extended.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll, with the exception of the cost of the door on the Poulin bill.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the May 19, 2020 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
