

**Town of Readsboro
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
July 12, 2017**

Selectboard Present: Helyn Strom-Henriksen, Jim Franzinelli, David Marchegiani (at 7:05 p.m.)
Others present: Rebecca Stone, Eunice Crowell, Tony Caruso, Larry Hopkins, Jim Dassati, Sgt. Michael Morin, Amber Holland, Sue Bailey, Jason Day, Normajeane Marchegiani

Call to Order:

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

Agenda Additions/Deletions:

None.

Approval of Agenda:

Helyn moved to accept the Agenda as written. Jim seconded. So voted. Helyn commented that the Agenda should have reflected a 6:30 p.m. start time. She also indicated that the police services discussion may be moved up on the Agenda as soon as the representative from the Bennington County Sheriff's office arrives.

Reading & Approval of Records:

Helyn moved to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of June 28, 2017, as corrected. Jim seconded. So voted.

Fiscal Matters:**A) Review of Budget Status Report**

Checking balance	\$ 114,895.32
Owed to school FY 2016-2017	\$ -
Water Account	\$71,240.07
Sewer Account	\$58,131.98
Taxes Collected July 1 to Present	\$
General Fund Balance	\$ 114,895.32

B) Discussion & Action on Setting FY18 Tax Rates

Helyn reviewed the information as provided by the Treasurer. Helyn made a motion to set the Municipal Rate at \$1.0229 and the Local Share at \$0.0107, and to accept the Non-Residential Educational Rate at \$1.1848 and the Homestead Educational Rate at \$1.0854. Jim seconded. So voted. The Total Non-Residential rate is \$2.2184 per \$100. The Total Homestead Rate is \$2.1190 per \$100 valuation. Larry Hopkins asked what the percentage of the change was. Helyn said the change from FY17 in Non-Residential rate is down .0164, and the change from FY17 in Homestead rate is up .1740.

Selectboard Administrative Report:**A) Updates**

None.

B) Town Administrator Report:

Riverbank Stabilization Project – request for grant-related documents received from Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development and all requested documents have been forwarded.

Economic Development – coordinating with area businesses for inclusion of advertisements in the Catamount Trails Association yearly coupon book. Additional initiatives to promote the natural resources of the area are in process.

Upcoming Selectboard meeting agendas include: July 26th Water & Sewer Capital Reserve Funds discussion and award of Heating Oil & Diesel Fuel Bids.

C) Discussion & Action on Sidewalk Improvement Project

Town Administrator reported that of the 27 signed easements necessary for the sidewalk project, 12 have been returned, noting that the project cannot move forward without all of the signatures. Helyn made a motion to have Town officials meet in person with the property owners who have not returned their signed easements. Jim seconded. So voted.

Old Business:

A) Bennington County Sheriff's Office, Police Services

Sgt. Michael Morin met with the Selectboard to discuss the police services that will be provided by the Sheriff's Office. Sgt. Morin explained that he has met with some residents since the beginning of the month and that the Sheriff's office is under contract to handle all law-enforcement issues. Helyn summarized a noise complaint that was brought to their attention a few months ago by Tony Caruso. Mr. Caruso asked Sgt. Morin how they would handle noise issues and Sgt. Morin said that without a noise ordinance in place it is difficult to enforce, but if they are called to respond to a complaint, they will respond. The Selectboard explained that if a noise ordinance were to be adopted, it would encompass the entire town. Research into adopting a noise ordinance has been done and the process requires much more than a simple vote of the Selectboard.

New Business:

A) Discussion & Action on Website Proposal

Helyn brought everyone up to date with the reason for possibly switching website and email services from GoDaddy to E-Enable. E-Enable has provided their cost estimates. Discussed putting off a decision until next year since the town has already paid \$800 to the current provider and that the contract is in place for both services until next year. Helyn offered that staff has had ongoing issues with GoDaddy, noting inefficiencies. Jim will follow up with Debbie Calnan to address the difficulty uploading information. The Selectboard will discuss the issue again in four weeks.

B) Discussion & Action on Town Administrator Contract – Executive Session

Helyn moved to go into executive session according to 1 V.S.A. S 313, contract discussions at 7:20 p.m. David seconded. So voted. Out of Executive Session at 7:50 p.m.

Hearing of Visitors:

Jason Day raised property questions as he is trying to sell a portion of his land. Larry Hopkins from the Assessors office and Sue Bailey from the Planning Commission were at the meeting so they met with Jason independent of the Selectboard meeting while they were in executive session in order to discuss the issues. Jim Dassati inquired about the possibility of having hillside areas in town be planted with flowers instead of mowing them. Examples might include areas along Phelps Lane and the bank near the Fire Station. The Selectboard indicated that they will follow up on his request for beautification of areas owned by the Town. The Selectboard plans to discuss the noise issue again in four weeks.

Fiscal Matters:

A) Signing of Selectboard orders/bills

Jim moved to adjourn at 8:36 p.m. David seconded. So voted. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca Stone, Town Administrator
July 12, 2017
Approved: July 26, 2017