

**Town of Readsboro
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
September 6, 2017**

Selectboard Present: Helyn Strom-Henriksen, Jim Franzinelli, David Marchegiani
Others present: Normajeon Marchegiani, Forrest Hicks, Sue Bailey, Rebecca Stone, Roberts Batarags, Walter Meisner, Omar Smith

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.

Reading & Approval of Records:

Helyn moved to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of August 23, 2017, as corrected. David seconded. So voted.

Fiscal Matters:

A) Review of Budget Status Report
No report available.

Selectboard Administrative Report:

A) Updates

Helyn gave a summary of the Department of Public Works monthly report. Work continues on the Grant In Aid project, changing culverts, ditch digging, banks and culvert ends and swails, along with weed whacking. The mowing is nearly complete for the season but DPW is waiting on parts for the tractor. The reservoir was cleaned on August 16th. The Freightliner truck has arrived. The DPW is on schedule to receive the International truck mid-October. Interdepartmental staff person begins water treatment classes this week which will run for six weeks.

B) Town Administrator Report:

Becky reported that the Vermont Center for Geographic Information office that is coordinating the Statewide Parcel Mapping Project is waiting on signed contracts from companies. Becky plans to inform the Selectboard, Assessors office, and John Whitman with any new updates to the project. There are multiple meetings coming up in September and October as follows: Housing Revenue Bond Regional Meeting on September 18th in Bellows Falls; Wildlife Habitat Connectivity on September 19th in Wilmington; Local Emergency Planning Committee on September 19th in Putney with the State Fire Marshal presenting information about permit requirements through their office; VLCT Town Fair, October 4th in Killington; and a Vermont Landscape Conference on October 20th in Weston.

C) Communication Regarding 91 School Street Property – Discussion & Action

The Selectboard has received a request from a management company that is overseeing 91 School Street. The company is inquiring if they are able to find a buyer to rehabilitate the home, would the town be willing to forgive any outstanding liens. The Selectboard asked the Town Administrator to contact the company and let them know that the Selectboard would need to meet with a potential buyer by having them attend a Selectboard meeting if they were serious about making the purchase. The Town Administrator will contact the management company as directed.

Old Business:

A) Sidewalk Improvement Project – Discussion & Action

The Town Administrator reported that 8 unsigned easements remain, 3 that are on Main Street and 5 on School Street. Discussed the timeframe to take by eminent domain. The Town has the option of not replacing the sections of sidewalk where they cannot obtain an easement. The Selectboard were all in favor of notifying The Dufresne Group and the Local Project Manager at Windham Regional Commission that they are moving ahead with the project without all of the signed easements, even if it means leaving out sections. The Town Administrator will follow up with town counsel and will provide the Selectboard with any updates.

B) Planning Commission Recommendations Regarding Zoning Petition – Discussion & Action

The Planning Commission Chair Sue Bailey presented recommendations regarding the zoning petition. It was noted that the Selectboard has 120 days to conduct a public informational meeting. Helyn made a motion to take the recommendations under review and to do what is necessary within the 120 day time period. Jim seconded. So voted.

New Business:

A) Personnel Policy Review – Discussion & Action

Helyn reported that she has followed up on the use of sick time since the adoption of the revised policy and that there are no reports of misuse of sick time by any employee. Helyn made a motion to take no action on any changes to the Personnel Policy. Jim seconded. So voted.

Hearing of Visitors:

Forrest Hicks offered a summary of the Cemetery Long Range Planning Committee's goals. Forrest also requested that a member of the Selectboard consider joining the committee, noting that it meets 4 or 5 times a year. The Selectboard will let Forrest know by the end of the month.

Omar Smith as a member of the Broadband & Cell Committee, along with Sue Bailey on behalf of the Planning Commission and the Readsboro Hometown Redevelopment Group, explained that there are upcoming public forums relating to the Southern Vermont economy being held in several locations in the Deerfield Valley. Omar explained that State officials are expected to be in Readsboro on September 22nd. More details will be made available as the date approaches.

Representatives from Avangrid Renewables, Walter Meisner and Roberts Batarags, took some time to update the Selectboard on the progress of the Deerfield Wind Project, noting that the windmills expect to be fully operational in December.

Executive Session

Helyn moved to go into executive session according to 1 V.S.A. S 313, evaluation of a public officer or employee at 7:20 p.m. Jim seconded. So voted. Out of Executive Session at 7:40 p.m.

Fiscal Matters:

A) Signing of Selectboard orders/bills

The Selectboard reviewed and signed orders/bills as presented.

Jim moved to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. David seconded. So voted. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca Stone, Town Administrator
September 6, 2017