

**Selectboard Regular Meeting • December 26, 2019**  
**Approved Minutes**

**Selectboard Present:** H. Childress, C. Fenton, C. Haynes, P. Kenyon, T. Redfield

**Town Officers Present:** Town Clerk Laura Castle; Auditor Sarah Grimm; Road Foreman Bill Reed

**Public Present:** Michael Beattie; Art Castle

**Called to order:** 7:00 p.m.

*A year almost behind us!*

**Minutes:** P. Kenyon moved to approve the minutes of the meetings of December 12<sup>th</sup> and December 19<sup>th</sup>; T. Redfield 2<sup>nd</sup>; [*all in favor, motion carried*].

**Public:** Art Castle asked about the status of the Facilities Questionnaire, and the revised firehouse lease. H. Childress replied that Town's attorney is at work on two documents, one a new understanding of property and building ownership, and the second a new lease, both to be reviewed, revised, and adopted by the Selectboard and the Fire Association Board. The results of the questionnaire will be up on Front Porch Forum tomorrow, and the entirety of the comments will be posted on the Town's website.

**Highway:** Bill has been working on the 2020-2021 Highway budget proposal.

Bill has been working with Jenny to learn the status of the extended JCB warranty that we purchased. We have a LifTech bill for the fuel pump, and we aren't sure if it's covered under warranty or not. We will pay the bill as presented, and work to see if our extended warranty will reimburse us.

The highway crew has been doing equipment maintenance, and has been grading from the rutting of the last week of mud/rain.

The Selectboard will hold a special budget meeting at 7:00 pm on Thursday January 2, 2020, for focus on the highway budget.

**Town Lands:** Michael Beattie presented his thoughts regarding revisions to the Town Office planning, and its construction method. He also recounted the history of his work (originally along with Mark McManus) and that of the building committee, and the four principles on which the building was designed:

- efficient footprint and plan layout
- net-zero design to eliminate utility costs
- reliance on grants and donations for cost offset
- construction manager system of project management

He has developed a first redesign that revises costs by perhaps as much as half a million dollars, in the following ways:

- Move the exterior library stairs into the building and eliminate the entry gable in the roof
- Eliminate the basement. Build the building on a frost wall and insulated concrete slab.
- Simplify the mechanical system.
- Convert the two-story west porch to a simple one-story farmhouse-style porch at the entrance to the meeting room
- Get a variance to use a lift instead of an elevator
- Get a variance to eliminate the fire escape on the west end.

He expressed a desire for an effort that was to be a unifying project rather than a divisive project, bringing builders and volunteers together. In Tinmouth, the school addition and the community center were done largely through a sequence of volunteer weekends facilitated by the builders.

The library site really is untenable for even current use, much less expansion. But a great number of comments indicated voters' desire to remove the library from the town office project.

It may be our next best step to recruit a project manager for all Town projects, to refine designs and construction methods, obtain cost estimates, and recruit local contractors.

He expressed gratitude to everyone who have invested so much energy in the planning of the new Town Office, in particular David Munyak and Patty Kenyon as chairs of the Building Committee. The Board as well expressed its appreciation to Michael for the years of thought and energy he's invested in the success of these projects.

**Solid Waste:** the new garbage compactor has been working very well, even in sub-zero temperatures. The hydraulic hoses need to be relocated, but otherwise the unit is a great improvement.

#### **Correspondence:**

- [email] Delinquent Tax Collector Debra House offered an end-of-year status update.
- Notice of final Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement from RRPC, to be deliberated and signed if approved by March 1, 2020
- [email] Annual report and ballot request from PMNRCD (\$500, level with last year)
- [email] Letter of outreach and annual report from the US Veterans' Health Administration
- A mailed copy of the Town Facilities Questionnaire
- Notice of Town Meeting moderator training from VLCT

- Christmas thank-you cards from Mentor Connector and ARC Rutland
- RRPC notice of annual dues (\$975, level with last year), and annual report
- VT Department of Taxes 2019 Equalization Study Results: CLA 99.54, COD 8.21%

**Board Orders:** H. Childress moved to accept the board orders as presented; P. Kenyon 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*].

**Other:** The Vermont Secretary of State posts the following important dates relative to Town Meeting 2020:

- Any citizen petitions for ballot items must be received by end of business on Thursday, January 16
- The warning for Town Meeting, which includes all ballot items and the completed budget requests, must be posted between January 23 and February 2
- Any petitions for interest in running for local offices must be received by end of business on January 27

H. Childress will put a notice in Front Porch Forum soliciting bids for the design and production of town report 2019. We have yet to determine the cover photo.

**Adjourn:** H. Childress moved to adjourn; T. Redfield 2<sup>nd</sup>; [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Meeting adjourned 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Herb Childress, Selectboard Clerk