

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

**Selectboard Present:** Herb Childress, Chris Fenton, Carl Haynes, Patty Kenyon, Terry Redfield

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

**Public Present:** Don & Pat Hemenway

**Called to order:** 7:02 p.m.

*Fall got here suddenly, didn't it?*

**Minutes:** T. Redfield moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 12<sup>th</sup> as amended; P. Kenyon 2<sup>nd</sup>; [*all in favor, motion carried*]

**Public:** Pat Hemenway has been doing the Town's solid waste report for about 15 years, but finds that there have been enough changes that she would like to pass the baton to a new reporter. T. Redfield has volunteered to take up that reporting. The Board thanked Pat for having done this reporting for so long.

Don Hemenway attended on behalf of the fire company, but without a specific report. The Fire Chief will provide further design and financing information on the proposed firehouse within the coming week.

**Town Officers:** The Town has received a report from Disability Rights Vermont indicating that the Town's polling place has shortcomings with regards to the Americans with Disabilities Act. Specifically, they identified three issues: an inadequate accessible parking spot, no sign on the front of the building telling people how to get to the accessible entrance, and loose mats in the dining hall. The Board will review the report, share it with the Historical Society, and consider next steps.

The Auditors have recommended that the electronic versions of the final external audit be placed on the town website. The Board agrees, and will post a notice of audit completion in the October town newsletter.

**Highway:** The Board signed the new Town Road and Bridge Standards.

We have received our contract from Cargill for 2019-20 road salt: 275 tons at \$76/ton. T. Redfield moved to accept the contract from Cargill at \$76 per ton for up to 275 tons; P. Kenyon 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*]

We have a Better Back Roads grant for the Spruce Knob project, but have not filed our proof of insurance yet. Bill will pick that up.

We have roughly \$3000 remaining in a grant after the purchase of a new leaf blower; we have permission from the Better Back Roads to use that for engineering research on a modification of Daisy Hollow Road, or pay for excavator time to clear some of the Class 4 section of North Road that feeds mud and debris down into Class 3 culverts. Bill, Barbara Noyce, and the Rutland Regional Planning Commission have agreed that Daisy Hollow is a prime candidate for engineering study; in addition, sections of Daisy Hollow are highest priority areas in our new Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Bill also believes that the repair and upsizing of the Haley Road culvert would be grant-eligible, and is working with Devon Neary of RRPC to file a grant application for next year. The general structure would be similar to the recent culvert on Spruce Knob just north of Norton.

The Board and Bill did a site visit of several prospective work sites on Garron Road.

Bill has located a note from Liftech (Rob Ryan) indicating that “JCB is going to pay to have your bucket repaired and re-enforced.” We continue to have difficulties in getting full breakdowns of their billing so that we know what work is covered by warranty and what we’re responsible for.

West Street paving is moving along well, and Fuller will be graveling driveway transitions to level accesses. VTrans intends to stripe the resurfaced area before winter.

Spruce Knob will be under construction next week (Sept 30-Oct 4). Culverts are being placed in advance.

**Town Lands:** The Building Committee is working on its response to the feasibility study. Otter Creek Engineering will attend our October 10 meeting to deliver their 90% report

**Solid Waste:** Chris has ordered the four dumpsters for Large Waste Day, to be placed on site on Friday 10/4.

### **Correspondence:**

- [email] Notice from Treasurer that we pay \$50 a month for a phone line dedicated to a fax machine. H. Childress moved to ask the Treasurer to cancel that telephone line if it isn’t required by any State agencies; T. Redfield 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*]
- [email] Notice from Delinquent Tax Collector of properties that she recommends for a delinquent tax sale. We will ask her for a full spreadsheet of recommended sale properties and dollar amounts, and will discuss at our October 10 meeting.

**Board Orders:** H. Childress moved to approve the board orders, with the note to check that the Otter Creek Engineering invoice and check number have been duplicated on the Town and Highway orders; C. Haynes 2<sup>nd</sup>; [*all in favor, motion carried*].

We discussed the short-term process of paying for the West Street paving prior to receiving the grant funding. H. Childress moved to authorize the Treasurer to borrow up to \$150,000 for a short-term loan to allow timely payment of the Fuller Sand & Gravel invoice in anticipation of grant reimbursement; P. Kenyon 2<sup>nd</sup> [*all in favor, motion carried*].

**Legal:** H. Childress has been in conversation with attorney Paul Giuliani about the legal structure for a possible financing vote; he has provided draft language and contracts. The Board will hold a working meeting on Thursday October 3 (7:00 p.m.) to craft predicted budget implications for these projects.

**Other Business:** C. Fenton has been in contact with VTEL to hold an informational meeting about fiber optic service and battery backup questions. That meeting will be tentatively held on November 20, 7:00, at the school.

The highway crew has identified an issue with water coming off the Ventrella driveway across the turnaround area. The Board will request a meeting with the Ventrellas to consider options for remediation.

The long-term question of our relationship with Poultney Rescue Squad remains unclear, but the insurance and relationship with the Poultney organization seems to be stable at least for 2020.

**Adjourn:** C. Haynes moved to adjourn; H. Childress 2<sup>nd</sup>; [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Meeting adjourned 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Herb Childress, Selectboard Clerk