

APPROVED MINUTES
TOWN OF RYEGATE
PO BOX 332
RYEGATE, VERMONT 05042

SELECT BOARD MINUTES

September 25, 2023

Town Office & Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Andrew Smith. Other members present: Regina Hazel and Darryl Perkins. Also present: Cheryl Slayton, Greg Murray, Peter Sinclair, Carl Bayer, Dover Ford, Jason Winchester and Nelson Elder.

Minutes of September 11, 2023 were reviewed. Darryl moved to approve the minutes as printed. Regina seconded the motion and it carried.

Public comment and Possible Additions to the Agenda:

Carl Bayer asked to make a couple announcements.

Carl stated that Mike Thomas, from Cross Vt Trails will be meeting with representatives from Danville, Barnet and Ryegate to discuss bike routes and signage of possible trails from Danville to Ryegate. He will make the Board aware of the date and time. The Solarbration was Sunday September 24th celebrating the new community Solar array in Peacham. It was organized by NVDA. At the event, a few people signed up for the Blue Mountain Solar Array. The Windowdresser Program will be providing 1/3 of the inserts for four Towns. Three Hundred inserts will be constructed, roughly 100 will be for Ryegate residents. The Energy Committee is spending time thinking about the Emergency Shelter at BMU. Gail Brown will be reaching out to Groton and Wells River residents and Green Mountain Power to discuss the needs it might have in reference to cooling, etc.

Bid Opening for the Old E6 Fire Truck:

The Board received 6 sealed bids:

Justin Shattuck-\$1555.25
Reggie Brown-R&M Auto-\$2501.00
Rob Miles-\$3550.00
Justin Bradshaw-\$1259.23
Thomas Marshall O'Neil-\$3000.00
Brad Staples-\$2001.00

Darryl moved to accept the highest bid of \$3550.00 from Rob Miles. Regina seconded the motion and it carried.

Greg discussed an issue with the new fire truck. The truck will not pass inspection due to a bad spot (rust) on the frame. The dealer, Larry Dingie, met with the Fire Dept officers and discussed the options. Greg and the Board discussed the options. The dealer will buy the truck back. Darryl moved to return(sell) the truck to the dealer, Larry Dingie. Regina seconded the motion and it carried. The Fire Dept. will have to purchase another truck.

Ryegate Historical Society-Fund Request:

Peter Sinclair representing the Historical Society stated that the building needs repairs. The ceiling paint and plaster is coming down. The toilet needs modernization and handicap accessibility. The hall needs new lighting. Peter presented two options for repairing the ceiling. Sheetrock would cost roughly \$8500.00 or vinyl \$5500.00. Peter asked about ARPA Funds. The Board is waiting for a possible Geothermal Grant before they disperse the remaining ARPA Funds.

Andy explained that the Board and the Auditors have been working on closing several inactive accounts. One of the inactive accounts is The Ryegate Historical Committee Fund, with a balance of \$7,721.26. After discussion, Regina moved to have the Treasurer close The Ryegate Historical Committee Fund and write a check for \$7,721.26 to the Ryegate Historical Society. Darryl seconded the motion and it carried. Darryl also suggested creating a line item for the Ryegate Historical Society at the annual Budget Meeting in January.

Treasurer's Report: The Board reviewed bills and signed orders.

Road Report: Paving of Stone Rd and the Peacham/Groton Rd will hopefully be in a couple of weeks. Replaced a culvert on Gilfillian Rd. The 2016 Truck is still in Lyndonville for repairs. The new truck that will be replacing the 2016 is in Vermont, the body and plow will be built in mid-October. Winter sand is completed. Due to limited space the crew will haul more in throughout the winter as needed. The beavers are beginning to cause problems. Nelson has rented a mini excavator to remove debris caused by the beavers from a culvert near Ticklenaked Rd. A hidden driveway sign is needed near 4470 Hall Rd. Resident Louis Brugliera would like the Town to take over maintaining Foley Hill Rd. It is currently a private road. The first step is for a petition, signed by all landowners on Foley Hill Rd to be presented to the Select Board.

FOR ACTION:

Blue Mountain Grange use of the Town Hall October 6th
Regina moved to allow the Blue Mountain Grange to use the Town Hall for the Ceilidh, October 6, 2023. Darryl seconded the motion and it carried.
The Grand List Errors and Omission was signed by the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Carl Bayer asked the Board how much solar the array at the Town Garage is producing. The Board said it is in the monthly bill from Green Mountain Power.

There being no further business. Regina moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM. Darryl seconded the motion and it carried.

_____ Elizabeth Page, Clerk for the Board