

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

SELECT BOARD MINUTES

January 22, 2024

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, Patricia Crocker, Nelson Elder. Carl Bayer, John Harkins and Daniel Primmer.

The minutes of January 8, 2024 and Special Meeting Budget January 15, 2024 were reviewed. Darryl moved to approve the January 8<sup>th</sup> minutes as printed and the January 15<sup>th</sup> minutes with two corrections. Regina seconded the motion and it carried.

Public Comment and Possible Additions to Agenda:

Addition to Agenda-Board of Civil Authority meeting before Town Meeting.

Regina moved to add the one addition to Agenda. Darryl seconded the motion and it carried,

Public Comment-None

Ben Gandin-Discussion on retailing Cannabis in Ryegate.

John Harkins and Daniel Primmer asked the Board to consider adding a question (Article) on the Town Warning regarding retail sales of legal cannabis. He explained that the law requires a Town opt-in to allow retail sales of cannabis through a store that is licensed by the state Cannabis Control Board and meets all the standards and regulations of safety and security established through the legislature. After discussion Darryl moved to add the Article to the warning after consulting with the Town's attorney. Regina seconded the motion and it carried.

Treasurer's Report:

The Town received the Class 2 paving grant of \$98,546.00.

The Treasurer asked about the S. Ryegate Library request for \$3000.00. Darryl moved to instruct the Treasurer to withdraw \$3000.00 from the Marion Hall Library Fund for the S. Ryegate Library to pay for heating costs. Regina seconded the motion and it carried. Cheryl discussed with the Board the appropriation request of \$1000.00 for Window Dressers funded by the Mini MERP Grant and the Energy Committee's request for \$150.00 for supplies.

The Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium appropriation request will be funded from the Nicole A. Haye fund. The Board instructed the Treasurer to send that appropriation to ensure that Ryegate residents can enjoy free general admission to the Museum all year.

The Board reviewed bills and signed orders.

Road Report: Nelson will use the grader to clear the field for parking at the Winter Carnival. The 1-Ton is scheduled at Wells River Chevy to repair the DEF sensor. New tire chains for loader and a new front tire for grader. Energy efficiency pressure test was done at the Highway Garage. A written report will follow. The highway crew participated in a 2 hour safety procedure class sponsored by VLCT. Nelson will be sending a letter to the residents on Foley Hill regarding plowing snow across the Town road.

FOR ACTION:

Proposed Budget Final Review

Regina expressed her thoughts and reconsiderations on the proposed budget. The Board decided to reject the increase of the Select Board stipend. After discussion Regina moved to change the Select Board salary line item back to \$3000.00. Andy seconded the motion and it carried.

The Board discussed the reserve fund and the 15% increase in summer and winter labor rates. The board agreed to leave the remaining budget as proposed.

The Town Meeting Warning:

The Board discussed the addition of two Articles to the Warning for Ryegate residents to vote on. An Article to authorize the Select Board to expend the \$30,000.00 appropriated for the purpose of financing an engineering study on the Ticklenaked Pond Dam to help finance the renewable energy project at the Town Garage and Fire Station instead of the aforereferenced engineering study. The other Article would ask the Town of Ryegate to permit the operation of retail cannabis.

Public Comment: None

There being no further business. Darryl moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM. Regina seconded the motion and it carried.

\_\_\_\_\_ Elizabeth Page, Clerk for the Board