

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

SELECT BOARD MINUTES  
JANUARY 9, 2023  
Town Office & Zoom

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steven Crandall at 7:05 PM. Other members present: Andrew Smith and Darryl Perkins. Also present: Michael McLellan, Mike Thomas, Regina Hazel, Carl Bayer, Cheryl Slayton, Patricia Crocker, Levi Welch, Gregg Murray, John Munson, Nelson Elder and Elizabeth Page.

Minutes of December 27, 2022 were reviewed. Andy made a motion to approve the minutes with correction on 2<sup>nd</sup> page, 2 apartments to 3, Darryl seconded the motion and it carried.

Public Comment and Possible Additions to Agenda: Gregg Murray-Fire Dept Job Application. Darryl made the motion to accept the addition to the agenda, Andy seconded the motion and it carried.

Lister, Regina Hazel stated in preparation for the upcoming Budget meeting, the Board should be aware of the CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) rate and how it will impact the Town's homestead and non homestead education tax rates. These tax rates will be higher than last year. The Board will take this into consideration when planning the Town budget for 2023.

Michael McLellan-Friends of Barnet/Ryegate Trails. This group envisions a multi-use trail system in Ryegate using a combination of town roads and trails that would stem off the Cross Vermont Trails. Mike Thomas, Cross Vermont Trail Association Chairman was contacted by this group to see if CVTA was interested in this idea and offer any help. A trail system like this would promote safe bicycling, hiking, bike commuting and recreation throughout the town. Mike Thomas stated his first suggestion was to connect the CVT with the Lamoille Trail by improving the bike-ability of the Bayley Hazen Rd. In Ryegate the Bayley Hazen Rd dissects the town acting like a main artery that future trails and bike loops could be created off. He is hoping to get the approval of the Ryegate Select Board to research this project, work on a plan and to report back.

Carl Bayer asked if money in the Town Energy Efficiency budget was not spent in 2022, would that money be rolled into the 2023 budget. Andy stated that unspent money in that line item would get rolled into a fund that we have started. Carl also asked if \$500.00 could be donated toward the Window Dresser Project for recipients in Ryegate that were not able to pay for the window inserts. The Board will take this into consideration.

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

Road Report: The 2015 Kenworth is continuing to have mechanical issues.

Still waiting for the garage door motor.

The Board signed the Stream Alteration Permit for Whitehill Rd Culvert project, abutting landowners will need to be notified.

Nelson has been looking into a roadside mower for this summer. Fairfield is no longer doing a lease program. The Town can rent a roadside mower from Pete's Rental in Morrisville for 2 weeks at roughly \$6000.00. Or another option is to partner with the Town of Danville as half owners of their roadside mower. Danville was in partnership with St. Johnsbury. St. Johnsbury has purchased a new tractor. After discussion Andy made a motion to approve the purchase of half ownership of the 2006 Challenger Roadside Mower with the Town of Danville for \$13,000.00, to be paid for out of the Hwy Machine Fund, Darryl seconded the motion and it carried.

FOR ACTION: Certificate of Mileage-The Board will wait to sign.

Additions to the Agenda:

Gregg Murray and Levi Welch, from the Fire Dept. were present. The Board looked over one application. They approved the application and to order a set of Turnout gear for the applicant. Gregg stated that the 1988 Fire truck needs major repairs. After discussion the Board instructed Gregg to research finding a good used truck.

Carl Bayer wanted to update the Board on the Ryegate Community Solar Project. The project will need an off taker. He would like to bring in a manager/developer to a meeting to explain the process.

Budget meeting reminder January 16, at 7:00 PM. Town Report was discussed.

The Clerk will send a letter to the landowner Morrison Trail.

There being no further business, Andy made the motion to adjourn at 9:05 PM, Steve seconded the motion and it carried.

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