

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

SELECT BOARD MINUTES

July 10, 2023

Town Office & Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Chairman Andrew Smith. Other members present: Regina Hazel and Darryl Perkins. Also present: Cheryl Slayton, Jeffrey Haslett, David Punt, Nelson Elder and Steven Crandall.

Minutes of June 26, 2023, Special meetings June 28, 2023 and July 3, 2023 were reviewed. Regina moved to approve all 3 meeting minutes as printed, Darryl seconded the motion and it carried.

Public Comment and Possible Additions to Agenda:

Additions to Agenda: Darryl added two Fire Dept. applications to review and approve. Darryl also asked to go into Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss a Fire Department personnel issue that needed immediate attention. Darryl moved, Regina seconded, and the motion to add FD applications and the Executive Session carried.

Public Comment:

Jeffrey Haslett shared his recommendations for the Ryegate Energy Committee governance:

1-The Select Board vote to create an advisory Energy Committee that is recognized and accountable to the Select Board [24 V.S.A. Chapter 117 S 4433(1)(A)].

2-The Select Board appoint at least three members [or more] to that advisory Energy Committee [24 V.S.A. Chapter 117 S 4433(1)(B&C)].

3-The Select Board appoint a Town Energy Coordinator for a term to be determined, let's say two years.[24 V.S.A. S 1311].

The objective is to maximize the Town's governance of its' energy future versus just defaulting to the PUC or State. Additional Town recommendations for Energy Committee and Corporate Solar:

*Decommissioning Town Requirements

*Corporate Solar Siting Constraints

*Vermont Corporate Solar Bylaws

*Conflicts of Interest

*Town Responses to PUC Recommendations of Municipalities and Adjoining Landowners

The Selectboard listened to Mr. Haslett's comments. Since the Board is the Energy Officer(s) of the Town the proposed Town Energy Coordinator is not necessary at this time.

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

Road Report: Replaced 2 culverts on Peacham/Groton Rd. Nelson asked Jason Sulham to work part-time to help with the projects. Bruce is unable to work due to swelling in knee. Returning the roadside mower to Danville this week. Andy questioned Nelson about overtime related to the roadside mowing. Andy stated given the availability of the roadside mower, mowing should be done on regular time. Nelson is still looking into decking options and pricing for a small bridge near the Mountain Meadow Pottery. Darryl mentioned that there were branches hanging low on Miller Drive.

For Action:

The Board reviewed 2 Applications for the Fire Dept., Hunter Fisher (Cadet) and Westley Blake. Darryl moved to approve the 2 applications, Andy seconded the motion and it carried.

Amendment to Town Plan Solar Siting Standards:

After a brief discussion, Andy moved to adopt the Solar Siting Standards proposed by the Planning and Zoning Board, Darryl seconded the motion and it carried.

Energy Subcommittee of P&Z, approval and appointments: After discussion Andy moved to form Energy Subcommittee of the Planning and Zoning Board, and to appoint 7 members: Kate Davie, Michael McLellan, Alice Allen, Carl Bayer, Gail Brown, Peter Sinclair and Donna Waelter. Regina seconded the motion and it carried. The Open Meeting Law applies to the committee.

FOR INFORMATION:

The Town Clerk asked for a Board of Civil Authority Meeting to purge the Voter Checklist. The BCA meeting will be Monday, July 24 at 7PM before the regular Select Board Meeting.

The MERP Assessment Application is finally open to apply. Andy has applied for Level 2 assessment for the Highway Garage, and a Level 1 assessment for the Fire Dept. building since no plans could be found.

Public Comment:

Darryl asked who was mowing the E. Ryegate playground. Hoyt Darby oversees the mowing at the playground.

Andy moved to proceed into Executive Session as requested by Darryl, to discuss a Fire Department personnel issue. Regina seconded the motion and it carried.

At 9:05 PM the executive session concluded. Regina moved to adjourn at 9:05 PM, Darryl seconded the motion and it carried.

_____ Elizabeth Page, Clerk for the Board