

APPROVED MINUTES

**TOWN OF RYEGATE
PO BOX 332
RYEGATE, VERMONT 05042**

SELECT BOARD MINUTES

February 27, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Paul Keenan. Other members present: Andrew Smith and Claudette Sortino. Also present: Leonard Burroughs, Robert Sargent, Lois Boemig, William Hetu, Richard Fraser, Cheryl Slayton, Darcy Nelson, Nelson Elder, Irv Tomae, Devin and Jillian Coleman, Marsha Nelson.

Minutes of the February 13th meeting were read and approved after Paul added the Tenco bid was with a side dump. Claudette moved the minutes with the correction. Andy seconded the motion and it carried.

7:05 PM: An Informational Meeting was held on the Australian Ballot Vote to be held at Town Meeting on March 7th concerning the Bond Vote on the South Ryegate Wastewater System repairs. Several questions were asked. Lois Boemig wondered how the town can borrow money for the South Ryegate Wastewater System. Andy explained the Town has been working through the Clean Water State Revolving fund. He said the full amount, that the engineer says is necessary for the project, has to be borrowed. Four hundred yards of stone have to be piled for three years and then is safe to use. This is a better scenario than originally thought necessary as it is stone rather than sand and a smaller volume. The Agency of Natural Resources will require and give us a permit to pile. The proposed loan is for \$74,999.00 with a twenty year pay back. The users of the system will be paying it back. They now pay \$500 a year per unit and have done so for several years accruing about \$40,000 for such an event so far. There is a verbal understanding that Ryegate is first in line for a 50% forgiveness grant.

There being no further questions, the Board Meeting was recessed and the Board of Civil Authority meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM with the following members present: Paul Keenan, Andrew Smith, Claudette Sortino, Catherine Davie, Darcy Nelson, Marsha Nelson. Minutes of the last meeting on October 27, 2016 were read and approved on a motion from Andy seconded by Claudette that carried. Members reviewed changes to the Voter Checklist and voted to approve the Checklist with a motion from Paul seconded by Claudette that carried. The following Ballot Clerks were approved for work on March 7, 2017 the Annual Town Meeting with three Australian Ballot Votes being held from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM: Regina Hazel, Mary Dole, Elizabeth Page, Khristine Elder, Patricia Crocker. Andy moved to appoint them and Claudette seconded the motion that carried. The Board was reminded to count ballots at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall if at all possible. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM

The Select Board meeting was called back to order at 7:21 PM Irv Tomae was welcomed by the Board. He is a Railroad buff especially interested in the railroad that used to run through South Ryegate. He proposed giving the town some money to buy a parcel of land in South Ryegate that can't be developed. He would pay the purchase price and closing costs and the Ryegate Historical Society might be interested in maintaining it. There is knot weed and honeysuckle growing there, it's entirely in the flood plain. There was a granite shed there, operated by the Rosa family who still owns the land. He passed out photos of the Rosa shed during the 1920's. The railroad bed was torn up in 1957. Some supports for the granite shed are still there. He would like to see appropriately licensed individuals remove invasive plants and replace them with low growing plants to hold the bank together. The Historical Society might be willing to put up some interpretive signs. He thinks the Society would like to put a kiosk up. He has signed a Purchase and Sales Agreement with the Rosa Family. As a private individual owning the parcel, test pits for phase 1, 2, and 3 if needed would be required. He feels if the Town buys the land the Town would have Sovereign Immunity. Paul said it sounds worthy. Claudette said it sounds interesting. Andy suggested running the request by the Town Attorney.

Devin and Jillian Coleman were present to ask what progress was being made on the salt water situation. Andy mentioned the town would like to test their water as well as Tim Murray's and the Town Office water for salt. When asked why that was necessary Andy replied that District #7 suggested taking * our own water sample* rather than our own salt sample and because it's the first time we've ever done this we thought we should follow that advice. The other change is that the Town has requested that VLCT change the Claim to include road salt as they insure for salt claims based on application of salt rather than storage of salt. Tim Murray was contacted for a salt test to be done by the town but his well is currently disconnected even from electricity so it is not possible to get a sample.

Leonard Burroughs was present to ask the Town to enforce the Issue of snow being plowed or blown into the public road from driveways. Nelson found a statement in the State Handbook making it illegal to plow or blow snow into the public road. He said about fifty people in town do it. Nelson wondered if a letter could be mailed to people at the beginning of the snow season reminding people it is illegal. Burroughs wants to make sure it's enforced. Andy hopes for sense with this. Some driveways are impossible to have a side field to dump snow into. This would be a good item for the Town Report. A targeted letter was suggested and then a follow up from the Sheriff for repeat offenders.

Lois Boemig presented a letter to include with the Select Board minutes of the meeting. She had an informational letter from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation explaining her Class II Wetland is a palustrine wetland and is therefore protected under the Vermont Wetland Rules. A permit is required for any activity that is not an allowed use designated in Section 6 of the VWR, such as draining down or dredging the pond, or installation of a dry hydrant. The information went on to say that no project is proposed currently. Ms. Boemig's letter stated that any permit must be signed by the landowner and at this time she is unwilling to sign any permit requests.

Treasurer's Report: The Select Board viewed bills and signed orders. Cheryl passed out Cash Flow with Changes.

Road Report: Nelson explained a program the State is pushing to provide a hydro seeder to be shared by four towns: Groton, Danville, Ryegate and Walden. Each town would pay an initial fee of \$500 and then an annual fee of \$200 and share the equipment. It would be stored in Danville. The cost per hydro seeder would be \$29,000 to purchase. Conservation mix would be used in it. Paul is not enthusiastic. He feels it will be stored too far away and not used enough. Andy said the State seems to be working towards their Codes and Standards and this may be required eventually. It would be a five year commitment at a low cost. Claudette moved to accept becoming a partner in the regional hydro seeder plan that Nelson presented. Andy seconded the motion and it carried. Paul signed the agreement. Discussion was held on changing road conditions and variable winter weather.

There being no public comment Claudette moved adjournment at 8:40 PM. Andy seconded the motion and it carried.

-----Marsha Nelson, Clerk