

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

SELECT BOARD MINUTES
March 13, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Andrew Smith. Members present: Andrew, Claudette Sortino and Paul Keenan. Also present: William Hetu, Cheryl Slayton, Nelson Elder, Marsha Nelson, Richard Hodgson.

Minutes of the meetings held on February 27th, March 7th, and March 8th were read. February 27th: Andy suggested correcting the sentence reading “our own salt sample” to read “our own water sample” Paul moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Claudette seconded the motion and it carried.

Minutes of the March 7th Town Meeting were read and approved on a motion from Paul seconded by Claudette that carried. Minutes of the March 8th Organizational Meeting were approved after correcting the Ballot Clerks’ salary to \$10.65. Claudette moved to approve as corrected, Paul seconded the motion and it carried.

The Clerk asked to add the following items to the agenda: Richard Hodgson re Open Meeting Law, Gail Brown re: Summer Festival and Grant Nelson re: A Petition concerning the Water Situation.

Grant was invited to speak. He said he had been reading the minutes and had been thinking about water quality and has drawn up a petition because he is concerned. Farmers are under scrutiny for water quality and have to own their share of the problem. He hopes municipalities can own their share too. His petition asks for a special town meeting to address the situation: “Petition the Town of Ryegate Selectboard to take action concerning excessive levels of salt in residential wells near the Town Highway Department. We request a special Town Meeting.” Discussion followed. The Clerk was directed to research the signatures to be sure 5% of the Ryegate voters had signed. She will also research timing for holding a Special Town Meeting following a petition and report at the next meeting. Paul will check with the Secretary of State.

Treasurer’s Report: The Board viewed bills and signed orders. Cheryl will check with Gene about the pick up fee for recycling. She was asked to hold Chief’s bill for the Paton property clean up.

Road Report: Nelson reported on the proposed shared hydro seeder. He attended a meeting in Danville about it. They are leaning toward the Finn Company model after looking at four different models. The aggregate can be purchased locally. It would tow behind the town truck. The crew needs to document the use of it. Danville will pay registration and insurance. It is a five year deal. A choice will be made by the end of March.

Andrew signed the Roadside Mower Contract from Fairfield. It is the same mower, same price as last year. Ryegate will have the use of it from June 16th to July 7th. The form will be returned to Fairfield along with proof of insurance. Nelson reported on the Crew's work. They haven't needed the culvert thawer yet. He was asked about summer paving projects and will draw up a request for a Class II project also.

The Select board signed an unclaimed property form to be returned to the State of Vermont. The Clerk reported on the Irv Tomae request from the last meeting. She talked with the town attorney who offered some insight into the situation. She was asked to call the attorney with further questions.

It was noted that the bond vote passed for the South Ryegate Wastewater System Repair and Andy is working on the next step in the process. The Clerk will contact Terisa Thomas to see what she needs,

Richard Hodgson is concerned because he missed the Organizational Meeting and did not see it posted. He doesn't feel the Town is complying with the Open Meeting Law. He would like to see the website functional. After discussion Andy said he doesn't feel anyone is deliberately trying to be outside of the Open Meeting Law. Andy will check the website more often.

Bill Hetu asked about the second bill for clean up of the Paton property. Andy will check with Chief who has not responded to his first call.

In Gail Brown's absence, Claudette reported there is a group of people who would like to hold a summer festival and have had a couple of meetings to that purpose. Andy mentioned they might want to consider the insurance aspect of the event as far as being under the town's auspices.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned on a motion from Paul seconded by Andy that carried at 8:45 PM

----- Marsha Nelson, Clerk