

APPROVED MINUTES

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

SELECT BOARD MINUTES

April 24, 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: Sheriff Dean Shatney, William Hetu, Cheryl Slayton, Gail Brown, Richard Fraser, Richard Hodgson, Nelson Elder, Elizabeth Page, Rachel Clough, Marsha Nelson.

Minutes of the April 10, 2017 meeting were read and approved on a motion from Paul seconded by Claudette that carried.

Public Comment: The Clerk asked for the following items to be included in the agenda – Gail Brown re: Summer Festival, Rachel Clough re: Animal Control Officer, Nick McLure re: Tires on Boltonville Road, and trash on Creamery Road. Paul would like to add the Meader Road. Richard Hodgson doesn't feel the Town is managing their investments well. He suggested they be turned into CDs or Treasury Bonds. Andy said we could contact the Broker. He thinks they were given to the Town as stock. It's something to look into.

Sheriff Shatney apologized for being unable to attend the last meeting. The Contract between the Caledonia County Sheriff's Office and the Town was discussed. The amount voted at Town Meeting was an increase to \$5,000. The Board feels the department has been very helpful this year. Discussion was held on protocol and Sheriff Shatney explained calls coming from the Town are good. If it's a citizen from the Town, the Sheriff's office will check with the Town Board before proceeding. The Sheriff explained their department has three highly trained officers for animal problems. If the Town has an Animal Control Officer it should be their job to handle the complaint but the Sheriff's Office is willing to accompany the ACO on a visit if there is concern. If there is no Animal Control Officer, the Sheriff's Department will step in to handle it. He mentioned Care Tracks which can keep track of ongoing cases and repeat offenders. They will do patrols on nights and weekends. Please call ahead. Paul asked about the dumped tires on Andre Bellavance's land. The Sheriff encourages people to call with complaints and observations. Contact information for the Sheriff's Department will be put on the Town Website. Paul moved signing the Contract. Claudette seconded the motion and it carried.

Gail Brown was present to discuss the Summer Festival to be held in South Ryegate on July 8, 2017. She asked if the Town would be willing to pay for a bounce house with the Andrea Hayne Account at the Festival as the Committee feels it would be a good draw. She mentioned

there would be an attendant running the house and the company would cancel the house if high winds or rain prevailed with no payment to the town. The Clerk will call VLCT and see if bouncey houses are covered under the town insurance. A Parade Permission form was signed to be mailed.

Rachel Clough was present to discuss the open position of Animal Control Officer. She is hoping to start a pet sitting business in her home and thought the two might pair together nicely. The Board recommends she holds stray pets or those picked up only briefly on her premises before taking them to the pound used by the town in Lunenburg. The Board discussed the responsibilities with her and mentioned the Sheriff's department could be helpful if there is a pet owner involved who is problematic. If she decided to get a rabies vaccination, the town would pay for it. Pay is currently \$11.50 an hour with mileage. Paul moved to appoint Rachel Clough as Animal Control Officer for the Town of Ryegate. Claudette seconded the motion and it carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Board viewed bills and signed orders. The Clerk will send VLCT a broken windshield claim on the 2011 truck. Cheryl passed out Cash Flow with Changes Reports and Balance Sheets through March 31, 2017.

Paul Keenan is in the process of putting American Flags on the graves of Veterans in the Town Cemeteries. It is hoped people will contact the Town or him if your family has a veteran buried in one of the cemeteries who does not have a flag. The Clerk will ask the Webmaster to put that info on the Town Website.

Road Report: A FEMA form was signed by the Chair, stating that no request for FEMA funds on Terry Hill was made as there was no eligible damage. Nelson will call Nick Kendall and ask him to take a look at the Town Hall where the roof is pulling up in one corner. The Road Crew has completed a 10 hour OSHA Class and all are now certified. There will be a Grader School on Thursday at the Town Garage with Gene Perkins generously allowing the use of the class room at the Fire Station. This year's paving will most likely concentrate on shim and overlay of the Stone Road and work on Pleasant Street. Some signs have been ordered to replace ones that are old and need replacing such as sharp curve etc. Paul reported on talking to people about Meader Road and the ROW in front of the Carrigan's house. If the Town would throw up that ROW she would give a ROW in back of her house. Not all parties agree.

Regarding the salt situation in Ryegate, Paul moved to have the Town pay half of the cost of reconnecting Tim Murray's well so that the Town can take a sample. The Town's share may be \$150 to \$200. Claudette seconded the motion and it carried. The Town has been told it needs a consistent protocol for investigating salt claims.

There was no other Public Comment.

Paul moved adjournment at 8:40 PM Claudette seconded the motion and it carried.

-----Marsha Nelson, Clerk