

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

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

SELECT BOARD MINUTES

September 12, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Paul Keenan. Other members present: Andrew Smith and Claudette Sortino. Also present: Wade Franklin, Crystal Carrigan, Tom Dole, Gary Mason, Bill Elder, William Hetu, Cheryl Slayton, Nelson Elder, Richard Fraser.

Minutes of the August 22, 2016 meeting were read and approved after Claudette moved to change "running" to *sitting* and accept them as corrected. Public Comment The request was made to add the following to the agenda: Waiver of fine for AOT \$28,000. Signal Agent to avoid.

Crystal Carrigan and Wade Franklin were present to discuss Issues with the location of Meader Road. They live on Hall Road near Meader Road. Peter Musty has a right of way there. He claims the R.O.W. is his road. Ms. Carrigan wants to know where Meader Road is legally. She is concerned about the old road in front of her house through the swamp. She would like to have it thrown up. The Town should research if Old Meader Road is thrown up. If not, the Select Board should throw it up and designate a different road for access. Ms. Carrigan's folder was left for the Town.

Tom Dole was present to discuss bookkeeping changes needed for the Treasurer's work. The NEMRC accounting system he proposes is not cheap but meets the town's needs. The set up cost would be between \$4-6,000. That would need to be paid in 2017. The four soft-ware modules would be billed one per year. The total cost over a five year period would be \$14,000. There would be no increase in the annual tech service fee once it was purchased. Andy Smith asked if the Auditors feel they would like to choose the outside auditor. Paul would like to have numbers to put in the budget for next March for the NEMRC system.

Bill Elder was present to discuss his compensation package. He finds more has to be done on the job. Discussion followed on hourly rate and mileage and permit costs. Under the Treasurer's Report it was decided the Select Board will pay mileage and an hourly wage to Bill Elder. It will be a separate line item, with the Board deciding how to cover the cost.

Linda Libuda was present to say the back of her mother's property has an old RR bed. They were told it was owned by the town. The Town owns a right of way down to the RR bed.

Would the Town consider selling that piece of RR bed to the Johnsons. The Town expects to put a road down there eventually.

Treasurer's Report: The Board viewed bills and signed orders. Road Report: Fifteen hundred yards of sand have been purchased from Kevin Horne's pit. The road crew will start shouldering the newly paved roads, on Witherspoon and the north end of the Groton-Peacham road. The salesman for the 2016 International truck came over and inspected the truck and realized there is no holdback in the truck. Something is wrong with the engine brake the way it operates "hold back". Chief will do the Wetherbee culvert next week. Nelson was asked to keep the Board up to date on that project.

The Board received a contract for monitoring the South Ryegate Wastewater System from New England Water Systems. Andy recommends signing this contract for 12 months. This company would also do annual inspections and repairs. Keeping up with the changing regulations is very difficult. The Board voted to accept the contract. Paul will sign it and have it notarized tomorrow.

Town House Renovations of the west door, landing and ramp can be ready by General Election Day according to Rick Colby.

The Board is talking about making an offer on the Paton Property for the appraised value minus the cost of cleanup. Two contractors have been contacted about clean up prices.

Bernard Weinburg's family has a 1.4 acre parcel of land on Davidson Drive. They want to know how to dispose of it as Weinburg has died and neither the family or the neighbors want it.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Richard Fraser, Guest Clerk