

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

**SELECT BOARD MINUTES
November 13, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Andrew Smith. Other members present: Claudette Sortino and Paul Keenan. Also present: Charles Fisher, William Hetu, Richard Fraser, Richard Hodgson, Christopher Chartier, Gene Perkins, Nelson Elder, Rachel Clough, Cheryl Slayton, Marsha Nelson.

Minutes of the October 23rd meeting were read and approved on a motion from Paul seconded by Claudette that carried. Under Public Comment the Clerk asked to add several items: the South Ryegate Wastewater Inspector, Ron Morgan from the Papermill, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Opportunity.

Rachel Clough was present for clarification of some recommended procedures. She was encouraged by the Board to work with the Caledonia County Sheriff's department who has two deputies trained to deal with dog situations. She has responded to roaming dog concerns in East Ryegate. It was decided she would do a first step visit to the owner(s) and if the problem continues she can take the dog(s) to a pound and expenses will be collected from the owner. The Board encouraged a requirement that the impounded dog have proof of a rabies shot and town license before releasing it.

Ron Morgan was present to apprise the Board of his latest proposed project at the old papermill. He is working on having a distillery there. The State has looked at the project. They would generate 5000 gallons a day of wastewater. They will purchase 1000 gallons of whiskey from Alberta, Canada and see if they can get a brand going. He'll be able to pay his taxes when he sells his power plant in Maine. He is also planning a restaurant there. They will be rebottling whiskey but hope to plant some Haslet rye and see how it goes. They plan to name it Rascal's Rye Whiskey made in Ryegate, Vermont.

Charles Fisher was present along with Gene Perkins and Chris Chartier to discuss a concern of Mr. Fisher's. He said the new SOP's say that a person can't be on two fire departments at once but he knows of some who are. Gene explained that they are on the Groton Fire Department because they have to be to be on the FAST Squad. The old SOP's had no requirement of being on only one department and this person might be grandfathered. Paul pointed out it is the Groton-Ryegate FAST Squad and wondered why one can't qualify to be on the FAST Squad if one is a member of the Ryegate Fire Department. The Select Board will reach out to the Groton Select Board for clarification but feel it's an internal matter for the Fire Department.

Treasurer's Report: The Board viewed bills and signed orders. The Animal Control Officer's pay was set at \$15.59 with mileage at the federal rate. Cheryl asked for clarification about the two salt water checks. After discussion on whether to take all of it or half of it out of the Highway Fund and half out of the General Fund it was decided to take half from each. The Treasurer will create two line items to explain it to taxpayers. The salt shed is being paid for from the Highway Reserve Fund. Paul thinks a general radius should be established to prohibit people from drilling within that area. No action taken. The Clerk is authorized to give Tim Murray his check after he signs the release and it is witnessed and notarized. Paul talked to Steve Crandall about bidding on mowing jobs in South Ryegate and Ticklenaked Pond.

Road Report: Nelson reported on various dump truck problems and how they are being fixed. Rick Colby has started building the salt shed. A discussion followed on what doors to be used. Barn doors on slides were the choice. A floodlight can be installed in front of the shed doors. Most of the ditching is done in Town. The Board took no action on replacing tires for Tom Adams as there was not a rash of flat tires reported.

Public Comment: It was mentioned that Robert Mace has more unregistered cars on his property that will most likely interfere with snow plowing. The Board told the Clerk to call the Sheriff for a home visit.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM on a motion from Paul seconded by Claudette that carried.

-----Marsha Nelson, Clerk