

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

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
October 17, 2017 – Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM at the Ryegate Town Hall by Moderator Regina Hazel. About thirty people attended the duly warned meeting. The Moderator said the same Robert's Rules of Order apply as they do at a regular Town Meeting. One must raise their hand to be recognized. She read the warning and asked if there was a motion relating to the article.

Article 1: Shall the voters of the Town of Ryegate, Vermont authorize the Select Board to reimburse A) Timothy Murray and B) Devin and Jillian Coleman, a sum of money not to exceed A) \$12,398.46 to Timothy Murray and B) \$14,994.34 to Devin and Jillian Coleman, as reimbursement for damages incurred due to salt in their water source in exchange for general releases to be executed by the landowners.

Jennifer Nelson moved the article and Richard Hodgson seconded the motion. The Moderator asked for discussion and/or questions. Jennifer Nelson asked for an update on what has been considered.

Andrew Smith, Chairman of the Board, summarized the six approaches that have been considered and studied.

- 1) Do nothing – The Town Attorney's recommendation. Town is not liable. Still an option
- 2) File an Insurance Claim - Two were filed, two were denied because Town is not liable
- 3) Flush the wells – This would take a considerable amount of time and not be guaranteed
- 4) Filter the water – Estimate nearing \$50,000 for only two houses
- 5) Creating a public water system – No guarantee of cost as no current water source
- 6) Pay the claims from the two affected property owners – Both landowners prefer this and would sign a general release. The Select board may be agreeable to allowing water rights to these landowners.

Ernest Demers read a letter written by Timothy Murray which stated his preference for the sixth option. Richard Hodgson asked for clarification of the article. It is a vote whether or not to reimburse Tim Murray and the Colemans – no water rights are connected to the article.

The Moderator asked for a voice vote. The article passed unanimously. There being no further business Jennifer Nelson moved adjournment and the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

----- Regina Hazel, Moderator -----Andrew Smith, Chair
----- Marsha Nelson, Clerk