

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

SELECT BOARD MINUTES
March 13, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Andrew Smith at 7:05 PM. Other members present: Regina Hazel and Darryl Perkins. Also present: Cheryl Slayton, Nelson Elder, Jeff Haslett and Elizabeth Page.

Minutes of February 27, 2023 were reviewed. Andy moved to approve minutes with 1 correction, 4th paragraph should read as with any Highway project, Darryl seconded the motion and it carried.

Minutes of Annual Town Meeting March 7, 2023 were reviewed. Regina moved to approve minutes with 1 correction, Article#3 Jeff Haslett's name was misspelled, Darryl seconded the motion and it carried.

Minutes of March 8, 2023 Special Select Board Meeting were reviewed. Darryl moved to approve the minutes as printed, Andy seconded the motion and it carried.

Public Comment and Possible Additions to the Agenda:

Jeffrey Haslett with 2 questions. Town employee raises and question about General Fund. Darryl moved to accept the 2 additions to Agenda, Regina seconded the motion and it carried.

Jeffrey questioned why pay raises were not given to all Town employees. Andy stated that there are 2 Town employees that receive a salary. The Town Clerk and Treasurer, they specified at the Budget Meeting a raise was not needed this year. Other Town employees receive the Uniform Pay Rate that was established in 2022. Some of the employees got a substantial increase in 2022.

Jeff was concerned about inflation and the cost-of-living increase for the Town employees. He feels it is important to have good employees for the Town. He thought the Board should consider whatever the CPI (Consumer Price index) is, automatically be a pay increase for all Town employees. The Board will consider this at the Budget Meeting in 2024. Jeff's second question was regarding the General Fund and possibly setting up a bank account clearly calling it a reserve fund account.

Treasurer's Report: The reviewed bills and signed orders.

Road Report: Nelson stated he was removing snow from the roof-overhang at the Highway Garage, he bumped the side of the building with the bucket loader damaging the siding. He did not want the snow to fall on the cars that would be parked there for Town meeting. He talked to Rick Colby about repairing the siding. The Board signed the magnesium chloride contract and the Municipal Road General Permit/Stormwater Discharge. New truck should be built in July, trading in the 2016 International. Nelson will get trade in numbers for the 2015 Kenworth, this is the next truck in line to be replaced. The annual meeting with the Vtrans District Rep. was discussed and the Whitehill Rd project.

FOR ACTION:

The Board reviewed and signed the Inter-Governmental Agreement-Ambulance Service.

The Caledonia Sheriff Contract and Riverside Rescue-Stray Dog/Cat Contract was signed.

A letter to Richard Balzano was signed by the Board.

The Board appointed John Munson to the Planning Commission for a 1 year term to fill the vacancy created when Regina Hazel was elected to the Select Board. The motion was made by Regina and seconded by Darryl, and it carried.

The Town Meeting Sound System was purchased by Regina. She asked if the Town would like to purchase the sound system for future meetings. After discussion, Darryl made a motion to approve the purchase of the sound system in the amount of \$525.00, to be paid for out of the ARPA Fund, Andy seconded the motion and it carried.

The Class 4 Road and Trail Policy will continue to be on the agenda.

Andy requested that Little Rivers Health Care be on the Agenda for the next meeting. They are requesting a gift of ARPA Funds for their Capital Fund and building projects.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

There being no further business. Darryl moved to adjourn at 8:55 PM, Regina seconded the motion and it carried.

_____ Elizabeth Page, Clerk for the Board