

Minutes
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday October 25, 2016

Select Board members present:
Randy Subject, Colin Stubbings, Teran Mertz

The meeting was called to order @ 7:01 pm by Chairman Subject. The meeting will be recorded for the purpose of accurate minutes.

Mr. Marvin led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Department Head Update:

EMD- Bernie Marvin submitted his final report and manual to the Board relative to the ambulance response project for the Lake Armington area. There has been an additional fee leveled on the project by the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid dispatch of \$2017 annually. It is up to the Board now to make a decision on how the fee will be paid so the project can be finalized and into place. The next Hazard Mitigation Meeting is scheduled for November 7th. It is open to the public. Chairman Subject asked Mr. Marvin if he would be available to discuss this at a Work Session after the Board has reviewed it. The E-911 project is ongoing.

Road Agent- Frank Rodimon reported the plow frames are on the trucks and ready to go, just in case. A load of salt is in. The installation of the new water line started on Monday. The distribution box is in, but not connected yet. The project is on schedule to be completed at the end of the week. Church Street has been shouldered and the work is complete.

Police Department- Chief Hebert had two reports, one for the Police Department and one for the Safety Committee. The September Blotter and Stats are on the sidebar of the Police Department webpage. Chief Hebert has received his patrol rifle, but is still waiting for the new optics. He has been in touch with a local PD regarding updating his qualifications from his personal firearm to the Town firearm. He has purchased a set of winter tires for the cruiser and will be rotating the tires seasonally.

Chief Hebert purchased a laptop for the Road Agent because the Road Agent does not have the money in his budget and Chief Hebert does have the funds in his budget. Selectwoman Mertz asked Chief Hebert if he purchased a laptop for another department out of his budget and asked how that works. Chief Hebert advised the Chair that he had extra money and was going to buy the Road Agent a laptop. Chief Hebert requested this be tabled until he gets to the Safety Committee report.

There has been another walk-in complaint of loose cows on Route 25. Currently there is a policy for loose dogs, but not other types of animals. Maybe it is time to have a policy in regards to nuisance animals, other than dogs.

Safety Committee- Police Chief Hebert, Chairman of the Safety Committee, discussed the issue regarding Fox Run Rd and the school bus route. Currently, the school bus is backing down Fox Run Rd into Route 25C. This poses a significant safety concern for the kids, the bus, and traffic on Route 25C. The issue has been brought up at a School Board Meeting, but no decision has been made. The issue is between the School Board and the bus company, the Board of Selectmen has no authority over the school bus route. Chief Hebert agreed to attend a School Board Meeting in an effort to mediate between the bus company and the School Board so that a decision will be made.

Due to an incident that occurred in the Board of Selectmen's Office, Chief Hebert made a recommendation to install a locking door separating the Town Clerk's Office from the Selectmen's Office. Access will be limited to those that are authorized by the Town Clerk, so this will limit access to the restroom located in the library. Selectwoman Mertz asked the Chief if those working in the offices will have the code so they can go through the Town Clerk's Office to access the bathroom located in the library. Chief Hebert stated that normal access will be during normal business hours, so plan accordingly. Chief Hebert recommends updating the Building Access Policy to reflect the change in access to the Town Office Building. Bernadette Ratel, Town Clerk, asked the Board to limit access to her office by allowing the new door to be installed. It was agreed that nobody needs access through the Town Clerk's Office after normal business hours. Chairman Subjeck suggested the topic of updating the policy for access be tabled until the Work Session on November 3rd.

The Town Clerk asked which budget will cover the cost of the new door. Selectman Stubbings replied the cost of the door will come from Town Buildings and Grounds. The recommendation for the installation of a door between the Town Clerk's Office and the Selectmen's Office was agreed upon by the Board.

Fire Dept. – Chief Bruce Henry gave his department report. They've had 26 calls so far this year. Chief Henry and Tucker Trapp attended the department's 2nd successful Safety Day at Aubuchon's in Bradford, VT. We are still getting equipment from East Corinth Fire Chief that he does not use anymore. Fire pond maintenance is ongoing; Tim Cole started clearing the brush at the Four Corners Pond. They had a drill there using small pumps. The Church Street Fire Pond will need to be cleaned out as well as drained. The budget for the upcoming year is being worked on. Although the fire department is in the process of applying for a grant for the SCBAs, the budget will include money to cover the cost of new equipment if they do not receive the grant.

Due to the very dry conditions, there are some homes in Piermont that are out of water. There is a faucet on the back corner of the Fire Station by the door for anyone that needs water.

Cemetery Trustees- Abby Metcalf discussed the Cemetery Maintenance Contract. Margaret Byrnes from NHMA had been contacted for advice regarding legal requirements since a potential bidder is related to Mrs. Metcalf. It is required for Mrs. Metcalf to recuse herself from the bidding process, which she was aware of. She provided the Board with a copy of the information that will be included in the ad to be placed requesting bids for the Cemetery Maintenance Contract. Mrs. Metcalf stated the ad will run for two weeks in the Bridge Weekly. Mrs. Metcalf stated the bids would be opened on November 18 at 3 pm in the Town Office with the two remaining Trustees doing that process with Jen Rugar and Susan Belyea as witnesses. Selectwoman Mertz requested that it appear in the Journal Opinion as well. The ad will run in both papers for two weeks.

Treasurer- Heather Subjeck gave the Board the September Monthly Report. Selectwoman Mertz asked Mrs. Subjeck to give a monthly oral report of account balances. Chairman Subjeck stated there are printouts available on the table.

Deputy Treasurer, Diane Kircher was sworn in today by the Town Clerk. She will begin her training as soon as possible.

Town Grounds- John Metcalf reported that all mowing is done and all that is left to do is leaf clean-up. There is a dying maple tree on the side of the Town Office parking area that should come down. Mr. Rodimon, Road Agent, agreed to assist in the removal of the tree. It was not possible to get a sample of the pool from the dirt/sand that was there. It may be possible to get a sample in the spring. The ballfield did not get cleaned up due to the delay in getting the Roundup Policy approved and signed by the Board.

Closed landfill just needs work on the fence and to flag the test and vent pipes. The bush hogging was done the second time inside the fence at the top of the landfill.

The mowing and trimming of the cemeteries is complete. All work at the cemeteries is complete except for Cedar Grove. There are a few trees to take care of. There was an issue with a lot being bought/sold, but with the help of Fred Shipman it has been sorted out.

The Sewer System was flushed, and manhole inspections were done in preparation for winter.

There have not been any issues. Jay's Septic pumped the primary and secondary siphon tanks.

Jay's Septic is anticipating an increase of \$100 per tank next year. Mr. Metcalf will look into costs with other companies.

Bookkeeper- Susan Belyea was unable to run an updated financial report. She will have it available for the next meeting. Selectwoman Mertz asked Susan if the BMSI Software problem had been resolved. Susan said yes, it is all resolved.

The Forest Fire Warden/Deputy Reappointment form will be reviewed at the Work Session scheduled for November 3rd to allow Forest Fire Warden Roy Belyea to have it signed by his boss.

Chairman Subjeck reminded all department heads that the budget figures need to be submitted as soon as possible.

Transfer Station- Wayne Godfrey submitted his monthly report for the Board. Chairman Subjeck read it in Mr. Godfrey's absence. Mr. Godfrey added a "Thank you" to the Piermont Plant Pantry for the use of a trailer during the Hazardous Waste Collection Day.

Zoning Administrator- Terry Robie discussed a form regarding building permits and residential construction and demolition in the town. Jen Rugar will call the number on the form and find out more information as to the requirements of the filing of the form. Mr. Robie requested to speak to the Board without any cameras or recordings being done after the meeting. He was given a form to look at to see if his reason for requesting a private meeting falls under one of the legal requirements for a nonpublic session.

Approve Manifest- The manifest was reviewed and signed by the Board.

Old Business- None

New Business-

The Forest Fire Warden/Deputy Reappointment form was already addressed during the Bookkeeper's Report.

Excavation Tax Warrants for Walter Gladstone Map R 09 Lot 20 and Stacey Thomson Map R02 Lot 03 were reviewed and signed by the Board. They will be submitted to the Tax Collector for processing.

Assessing Contract – Selectwoman Mertz would like to know the status of letters sent to solicit bids from other assessing companies, as well as what assessing companies the surrounding towns use. Jen Rugar had looked back at the April 4 minutes that stated bids would be going out. She contacted Jennifer Collins to follow up on what happened in April. Mrs. Rugar has not seen any proposals except for Avitar. Selectwoman Mertz suggested the BOS look at surrounding towns to see what assessing companies are being used and if they are satisfied with the results. Selectwoman Mertz suggested the BOS look at surrounding towns to see what assessing companies are being used and if they are satisfied with the results. Selectwoman Mertz further stated she provided a list of DRA recommended assessors to the Board. Jen Rugar stated that Mark Stetson of Avitar would be willing to talk with the town again. Selectwoman Mertz stated that residents in Piermont are not happy with Avitar Assessing and the bottom line is the Board works for the people. Jen Rugar stated that she will look into it and let the Board know prior to the Work Session scheduled for November 3rd.

Chief Hebert stated that in agreement with the Library Trustees, he will be moving the camera from the library over to the vault area in the BOS Office.

Junk Yard Properties- Selectwoman Mertz would like to have the Board of Selectmen send a general letter to all residents encouraging owners to clean up their properties before the Board has to get involved. After some discussion between the Board and members of the public, it was decided to look at this again on November 3rd at the Work Session. Greg Stelzner asked for clarification on cost analysis on Junk Yard properties.

Public Input- Rob Elder presented a petition to Selectwoman Mertz asking for her resignation. The petition is signed by 30 registered voters in the Town of Piermont.

Steve Rounds asked the question, what happens next. Chairman Subject stated there is nothing the Board can do; the Board cannot accept the petition as Board business. What happens next is up to Mrs. Mertz.

Selectwoman Mertz responded by stating that she has no intentions of resigning. The petition is attached.

Selectwoman Mertz asked to make a statement unrelated to the petition, prior to the approval of minutes, since many people leave rather than sit through the minutes. Selectwoman Mertz stated that she cannot go into Non-Public Session because she has been threatened during a Non-Public Session in the past.

Diane Kircher asked if it was Selectwoman Mertz's responsibility to be at all meetings if she is physically able to be there. Selectwoman Mertz stated not if she feels she is being threatened. She was advised by both her own legal counsel and the NHMA and has a letter from the staff attorneys stating such.

Selectwoman Mertz stated that she has been told concealed weapons were carried in the meetings. Bernadette Ratel, Town Clerk, asked if that meant she was giving up her right to vote during a Non-Public Session. Selectwoman Mertz stated that she cannot vote on anything if she does not attend a session and if two members of the Board are present, they constitute a quorum and can vote on any issue. Chairman Subjeck stated that it is her choice and the remaining two Board members do constitute a quorum so a vote can take place if needed.

Approve Minutes- Minutes from the October 11, 2016 were reviewed. They were tabled until the Work Session scheduled for November 3rd to allow Jen Rugar to review the audio recording and clarify a statement made by Selectwoman Mertz.

Non-Public Session– none. The resident that had requested a Non-Public Session had left.

Motion to Adjourn – Selectwoman Mertz made a motion to adjourn regular meeting. Chairman Subjeck seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Attendees (from sign-in sheet)- Diane Kircher, Heather Subjeck, Helga Mueller, Peter Decato, J. T, Keely Marie, Terry Robie, Tim Cole, Bernie Marvin, Frank Rodimon, Steve Rounds, Gary Hebert, Greg Stelzner, Bill Morris, Rebecca Bailey, Peggy Fullerton, Suzanne Woodard, Helena Saarion, Evelyn Conroy, Kelley Monahan, Ceil Stubbings, Bruce Henry, Donald Mitchell, Abby Metcalf, Walter Rodimon, Roy Belyea, John Metcalf, Susan Belyea

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Rugar

Board of Selectmen:

Randy Subjeck, Chairman

Colin Stubbings

Terri Mertz

Approved: 11/10/2016

We believe that there are times when the events of our town of Piermont call us as citizens to request a change for its benefit.

We thank you for your consideration.

We the undersigned request the resignation of Selectboard Member Teran Mertz for these reasons:

Ongoing litigation against the town

Her recent leave of absence

Current relationships with other Piermont municipal officials.

Robert 21 dea

Walter E. Poshovan

Barbara Stevens

Paula Dwyer

Donald Stevens

Edward French

Nancy French

James E. French

James D. French

~~Robert French~~

Monica Adams

Peter R. Dotter

Laura Kaimon

Steve Schmitt

Margaret Hitchcock

Cynthia Roberts

Teran Mertz

Garnet L. O'Brien

Michael Hogan

John

Georgette Underhill

Margaret S. Hogan

Mary R. Musty

Charles J. Wood

Charles S. Howe

Cecilia J. Manschley

James A. Manschley

Nancy Fagnano

Donald S. Meade

Jim

Jeffrey S. Underhill

Verified Voter Sign Checklist
April 2016

Town Of Piermont
Reconciliation Summary
 Woodsville Guaranty Savings, Period Ending September 30, 2016

	<u>September 30, 2016</u>
Beginning Balance	201,390.97
Beginning Balance ICS Account	<u>507,250.02</u>
Subtotal Beginning Balances	908,640.99
Cleared Transactions	
General Account Transfer to ICS	0.00
ICS Transfer to General Account	-200,000.00
ICS Interest	65.00
Checks and Payments - 28 items	-81,501.81
Deposits and Credits - 23 items	<u>737,448.47</u>
Total Cleared Transactions	<u>-43,788.41</u>
 Ending Cleared Balance	 <u>758,555.56</u>
 Uncleared Transactions	
Checks and Payments - 29 items	-25,878.94
Deposits and Credits - 7 items	<u>4,014.77</u>
Total Uncleared Transactions	<u>-21,864.17</u>
 Register Balance as of 09/30/16	 <u>736,691.36</u>
 New Transactions	
Checks and Payments - 57 items	-320,647.22
Deposits and Credits - 15 items	<u>215,517.39</u>
Total New Transactions	<u>-105,129.83</u>
 New Transaction Balance	 <u>622,882.15</u>