

ROCKINGHAM SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, February 16, 2016

Present: Thomas MacPhee, Joshua Hearne, Peter Golec, Ann DiBernardo, Susan Hammond

Also Present: Willis Stearns, II, Municipal Manager; Kerry Bennett, Recording Clerk; Francis Walsh, Development Director; David King, Priority Placement School; Cass & Deborah Wright; Mary Helen Hawthorne & Patricia Fowler, BFDDA; Camilla Roberts, Pinnacle Association; Denis Jeffrey, Rockingham Fire Chief; Kevin Kingsbury, Rockingham Firefighter

Press: Alex Stradling, FACT8; Joel Slutsky, The Shopper; Nancy Cavanaugh, Eagle Times; Susan Smallheer, Rutland Herald

**MEETING OF THE ROCKINGHAM BOARD OF LIQUOR COMMISSIONERS**

Meeting of the Rockingham Board of Liquor Commissioners was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Thomas MacPhee. *Peter Golec made the motion to approve the Outside Consumption Permit for Bellows Falls Country Club; 1<sup>st</sup> Class License for Popolo Restaurant Group; 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Licenses for Lisai's Market, Inc. and Rite Aid Store #10311. Motion was seconded by Ann DiBernardo. Motion passed with Golec, MacPhee, DiBernardo and Hammond voting in favor of the motion. Hearne recused himself.*

**AGENDA**

Call to Order: Regular meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chairman Thomas MacPhee.

Additions to the Agenda for Routine Administrative Matters and/or Pressing Matters that will require ratification at a future meeting: None

Approve Minutes of February 2, 2016: *Ann DiBernardo made the motion to approve the minutes of February 2, 2016 as printed. Motion was seconded by Peter Golec. Motion passed unanimously.*

Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda (3 minutes per person): None

Manager's Report:

- Stearns noted that he and the Highway Superintendent have compiled a list of signs for the parking lots and will be ordering 16 signs. A question has come up of whether the name Centennial Parking Lot or Island Parking Lot is the correct name. The Board felt that Centennial Lot was the correct name.
- Stearns reported that Richard Stickney has approached him stating that he is interested in obtaining a small piece of land now owned by the Town. This will be put on the next agenda for further discussion.
- Stearns stated that the Town is now the owner of 3 properties from the tax sale held in February 2015. 2 properties previously owned by Michael Emerson on Route 5, and the Orvis property on Birch Street.

- Stearns also reported that 2 of the 3 pickup trucks for the Highway Department have been delivered.

Agenda:

1. Geocaching Presentation: David King from the alternative education Priority Placement was present and explained the geocaching to those present. King stated that this is basically like a scavenger hunt and is done all over the world. King demonstrated a type of container used for the Board's inspection. King stated that permission is needed to place these containers on town-owned property and is seeking that this evening. *Joshua Hearne made the motion that the Selectboard grant permission for the geocaching containers to be placed on town-owned property. Motion was seconded by Peter Golec.* Hammond asked King that the Municipal Manager be given a list of where these items are placed and King stated that he would. *Motion passed unanimously.*
2. Pinnacle Association Letter of Support: Camilla Roberts was present representing the Pinnacle Association requesting a letter of support from the Selectboard indicating the Town's support of the Association's project to acquire and conserve a property currently owned by Veronica Brelsford. Roberts demonstrated on a map where the property was off Bemis Hill Road and a section was in Rockingham. *Susan Hammond made the motion that the Rockingham Selectboard sign the letter of support for the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association to acquire and conserve a property, parcel #140620099, currently owned by Veronica Brelsford. Motion was seconded by Ann DiBernardo. Motion passed unanimously.*
3. Tuttle Road: Stearns stated that he had presented a letter from David Lillie at the last meeting regarding a dispute between the Lillie's and the Petraska's. Stearns stated that it did appear that work was being done on the road by the Petraska's without a Work Within the Highway Right of Way Permit as required. Stearns noted that the next day a letter was received from the Petraska's attorney as well. After discussion the Board decided that this was a neighborhood dispute and that the Town not get involved at this time. Stearns stated that the Highway Superintendent will check this road periodically.
4. Development Office
  - a) Discuss BFADC & BFDDA Agreements with Town: Stearns noted that 2 letters were included in the Board packet and it is his suggestion that the agreements between the Town and these two organizations be suspended for a period of 6 months. Stearns stated that the Development Director will be working with the Zoning Administrator to do the required re-write of the Town Plan. Golec stated that he had attended a BFADC meeting earlier this evening and that the BFADC was in agreement. Mary Helen Hawthorne and Patricia Fowler were present from BFDDA. The Board assured BFDDA that their monetary support will not be in jeopardy. The Board tabled this item until after executive session.

- b) Support of Renewal of Saxtons River Designated Village: Walsh stated that this designation has expired and he is assisting Saxtons River Trustee Chair Louise Luring to get this submitted within the next 2 weeks. Walsh stated that a letter of support from the Selectboard is being requested. *Peter Golec made the motion that the Rockingham Selectboard support this application and authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign the letter of support. Motion was seconded by Ann DiBernardo. Motion passed unanimously.*

5. Selectboard Items

- a) MOU – Town & SEVT: Stearns explained that this Memorandum of Understanding clearly states the Town’s responsibilities for the Park & Ride with Southeast Vermont Transit. *Ann DiBernardo made the motion that the Selectboard approve the Memorandum of Understanding as presented and authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign on behalf of the Board. Motion was seconded by Peter Golec. Motion passed unanimously.*
- b) Review & Sign Warnings for Merger Public Hearings & Special Town Meeting: *Susan Hammond made the motion that the Selectboard sign the warnings for the Merger Public Hearings and the Special Town Meeting as presented for a vote on April 19, 2016. Motion was seconded by Ann DiBernardo.* Hammond noted that this vote and one of the public hearings would take place during a school vacation. Hearne stated that he would like to see the vote moved to occur at the same time as the Bellows Falls Village Annual Meeting in May to save money. *Hammond withdrew her motion and DiBernardo her second. Joshua Hearne made the motion to sign a warning for a Plan of Merger vote on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 and to sign the warning for the required two public hearings on Saturday, April 30, 2016 and Saturday, May 14, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in the Bellows Falls Opera House and that these warnings be recorded and posted on April 22, 2016. Motion was seconded by Peter Golec.* Hammond stated that she felt that a projection of costs for town-wide policing and fire services be prepared for the public hearings and how it will impact taxes. Stearns stated that this, in reality, is an unknown until it actually happens. Stearns noted that now those in rural Rockingham and Saxtons River do not get much response from law enforcement and once coverage is available there will most likely be an increase in calls. Golec thought an estimated number would be good to have. Hearne stated that data is available on the Vermont State Police web site that could be used. *MacPhee called for a vote on the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*
- c) Review Town Meeting Warning & Motions: The warned articles and motions were reviewed by the Board.
- d) Discuss Fire Equipment Purchase and Recreation Building Repairs: The Board discussed Articles 9 & 10 at length. Golec stated that he has done some research on the cost for fire trucks and provided the information to Rockingham Fire Chief Denis Jeffrey. MacPhee noted that the condition of the vehicle to be replaced is described as “good” and asked

Jeffrey if Rockingham could wait another year. Jeffrey stated that they could. Stearns noted that one truck is being requested by Saxtons River Fire Department to replace 2 older trucks. The Board also discussed purchasing one jaws of life to be housed at the Rockingham Department. The Board decided that the amendment of Article 10 will include a reduction from One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) to a not to exceed amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) and the term be changed to 5 years from the warned 10 year period.

The Board also discussed Article 9 and the term of that article will be changed from 10 years to 5 years. Stearns did note that the repairs to the Recreation building and the work to the alley between Town Hall and People's United Bank will most likely take up most of the \$500,000.00 request.

Review Overtime & Comp Time Report: No comments or concerns.

Review Agenda Items for Next Meeting – March 1, 2016 (7:30 pm – brief organizational meeting) Golec asked if appointments would be done at this meeting. Bennett stated that the appointments required by State Statute would be done as well as any liquor licenses and items needing immediate attention. This is usually a very brief meeting following the Annual Meeting vote.

Review Agenda Items for Joint Board Meeting - March 29, 2016: The only thing on the agenda if the discussion of the Charlestown, NH mutual aid agreement request.

Review & Approve Orders, Bills & Warrants: *Peter Golec made the motion to approve the orders, bills and warrants as presented. Motion was seconded by Ann DiBernardo. Motion passed unanimously.*

Other Business:

- DiBernardo stated that she felt the Fire Equipment Committee should be started up again.

Executive Session: *Peter Golec made the motion that the Board enters executive session at 8:05 p.m. to discuss the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee, 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(3), and that the Municipal Manager, the Development Director and the Human Resources Coordinator be invited to attend. Motion was seconded by Joshua Hearne. Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board came out of executive session at 8:55 p.m. and the following action was taken.

*Peter Golec made the motion that the Board approve the suspension of the agreements between the Bellows Falls Area Development Corporation and the Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance regarding the utilization of the Development Director for a period of 6 months and authorize the Chair to sign the letters as presented to each entity. Motion was seconded by Susan Hammond. Motion passed unanimously.*

MacPhee noted that the Board would need to go back into executive session for the evaluation of the Municipal Manager. *Peter Golec made the motion that the Board enters executive session at 8:57 p.m. to discuss the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee. 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(3) Motion was seconded by Susan Hammond. Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board came out of executive session at 10:02 p.m. *Peter Golec made the motion to authorize the Selectboard Chair and the Selectboard Vice-Chair to meet with the Municipal Manager to review the evaluation. Motion was seconded by Joshua Hearne. Motion passed unanimously.*

Adjourn: *Susan Hammond made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 p.m. Motion was seconded by Ann DiBernardo. Motion passed unanimously.*

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kerry Bennett, Recording Clerk