

ROCKINGHAM SELECTBOARD SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Present: Peter Golec, Joshua Hearne, Lamont Barnett, Stefan Golec, Ann DiBernardo

Also Present: Willis D. Stearns, II, Municipal Manager; Kerry Bennett, Recording Clerk; Tim Knight

Press: Joel Slutsky, The Shopper; Nancy Cavanaugh, Eagle Times

Call to order by Municipal Manager: Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Manager Willis Stearns. Stearns stated he would entertain nominations for Chair.

- *Stefan Golec nominated Lamont Barnett as Rockingham Selectboard Chair. Nomination was seconded by Joshua Hearne.*
- *Ann DiBernardo nominated Peter Golec as Rockingham Selectboard Chair. There was no second to the nomination.*

There being no further nominations Stearns called for a vote on the nomination and Lamont Barnett was elected as Selectboard Chair.. Stearns then turned the meeting over to Barnett. Barnett thanked former Board members Tom MacPhee & Susan Hammond for their service.

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

Agenda:

Organizational Meeting – Selectboard Duties

1. Required Statutory Appointments

a) Elect Chair: See above.

b) Elect Vice-Chair: *Ann DiBernardo nominated Peter Golec as vice-Chair. Golec declined the nomination. Stefan Golec nominated Joshua Hearne as vice-chair. Nomination was seconded by Ann DiBernardo. There were no further nominations and Joshua Hearne was elected as Selectboard Vice-Chair.*

c) Elect Clerk: *Ann DiBernardo nominated Stefan Golec as Selectboard Clerk. Nomination was seconded by Peter Golec. There were no further nominations and Stefan Golec was elected as Selectboard Clerk.*

d) Appoint:

- *Fence Viewers (3): Peter Golec made the motion to appoint Ann DiBernardo, Peter Golec and Joshua Hearne as Fence Viewers. Motion was seconded by Stefan Golec. Motion passed unanimously.*
- *Poundkeeper: Joshua Hearne made the motion to continue under contract with the Windham County Humane Society as Poundkeeper for the Town of Rockingham. Motion was seconded by Peter Golec. Motion passed unanimously.*
- *Inspector of Lumber, Shingles & Wood: Stefan Golec made the motion to appoint Raymond Perry as Inspector of Lumber, Shingles & Wood. Motion was seconded by Ann DiBernardo. Motion passed unanimously.*

- Weighers of Coal (3): *Ann DiBernardo made the motion to appoint Joshua Hearne, Robert Wheeler and Peter Golec as Weighers of Coal. Motion was seconded by Peter Golec. Motion passed unanimously.*
- Tree Warden: Barnett asked if this was just looking at village trees or if it was more like the State Tree Warden. Stearns stated that it is primarily to deal with tree issues within the Town. *Joshua Hearne made the motion to appoint Raymond Perry as Tree Warden. Motion was seconded by Ann DiBernardo. Motion passed unanimously.*

Barnett stated that the remainder of appointments would be made at the next regular Selectboard meeting.

- e) Set Time & Place of Regular Board Meetings (1st & 3rd Tuesdays @ 6:00 p.m.): Stefan Golec asked if anyone had an issue with moving the time of the meeting to 6:30 pm. DiBernardo stated that she would prefer that it stay at 6:00. Hearne stated he was flexible. *Stefan Golec made the motion to set the Rockingham Selectboard Regular Meetings for the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Rockingham Town Hall Lower Theater. Motion was seconded by Peter Golec. Motion passed unanimously.*
- f) Select Official Newspaper of Record & Alternate Newspaper of Record: There were 2 letters of interest for the official newspaper of record – The Shopper and The Commons. P. Golec noted that The Commons did not send any rates for advertising with the letter of interest. Bennett also stated that The Commons never covers the meetings. Barnett stated that this was good to know. Stearns stated that The Shopper is delivered in mailboxes and has been the paper of record now for a few years with the Eagle Times being the alternate in the event a daily paper is necessary. DiBernardo stated that she feels the Board should stay with The Shopper as reporter Joel Slutsky is present at every meeting and does an excellent job. *Peter Golec made the motion that The Shopper be the Town of Rockingham paper of record and the Eagle Times be named as alternate. Motion was seconded by Joshua Hearne. Motion passed unanimously.*

Barnett stated that the following procedures and policies were Joint policies with the Bellows Falls Trustees.

- g) Adopt Rules of Procedure: *Peter Golec made the motion that the Board adopts the Rules of Procedure as presented. Motion was seconded by Joshua Hearne. Motion passed unanimously.*
- h) Adopt Conflict of Interest Policy: *Peter Golec made the motion that the Board adopts the Conflict of Interest Policy as presented. Motion was seconded by Stefan Golec. Barnett stated that he assumes that everyone has had a chance to read these policies. Motion passed unanimously.*
- i) Adopt Code of Ethics Policy: *Peter Golec made the motion that the Board adopts the Code of Ethics Policy as presented. Motion was seconded by Joshua Hearne. Motion passed unanimously.*

- j) Continue All Other Policies & Procedures as Previously Adopted: *Peter Golec made the motion that the Board continues all policies and procedures as previously adopted. Motion was seconded by Joshua Hearne.* Barnett asked again if all members clearly understand those policies. *Motion passed unanimously.*
- k) Appoint Selectboard member to review & sign warrants: *Peter Golec made the motion to appoint Lamont Barnett as the Selectboard member to review and sign warrants. Motion was seconded by Stefan Golec.* Barnett asked P. Golec if he would be interested in doing this. P. Golec stated that he would be interested in being the alternate. *Barnett called for a vote on the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Joshua Hearne made the motion to name Peter Golec as the alternate board member to review and sign warrants. Motion was seconded by Ann DiBernardo. Motion passed unanimously.*
2. Approve Minutes of 2/16/2016: *Peter Golec made the motion to approve the minutes of February 16, 2016 as printed. Motion was seconded by Joshua Hearne. Motion passed with P. Golec, Hearne & DiBernardo voting in favor of the motion. Barnett & S. Golec abstained.*
3. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda (3 minutes per person): None
4. Manager's Report:
- Stearns noted that information was provided to each Board member this evening on the Selectboard Institute being held on Saturday, March 12 and urged members to attend. P. Golec, Barnett, S. Golec and Hearne stated that will attend. DiBernardo will let him know.
 - Stearns also directed the Board's attention to a memo that was distributed to each member this evening regarding an article from the Listers' Office to exempt certain properties from taxation that should have been on the Annual Meeting Warning and will need to be put on the Warning for the Special Town Meeting in May.

MEETING OF THE ROCKINGHAM BOARD OF LIQUOR COMMISSIONERS

Barnett stated the Board would now meet as the Board of Liquor Commissioner for the following applications:

1. Bellows Falls Polish American Club #1 – 1st Class for Club
2. Bellows Falls Elks Lodge #1619 – 1st Class for Club
3. Loyal Order of Moose Lodge #527, Inc. – 1st Class for Club & Outside Consumption
4. Athens Pizza House, Inc. – 1st Class Restaurant/Bar
5. American Legion Club Post #37, Inc. – 1st Class for Club
6. James Petro, LLC – 2nd Class
7. PK's Public House, Inc. – 1st Class Restaurant/Bar
8. Wellfleet, Inc. – 2nd Class
9. John Leslie, Corp. – 1st Class Restaurant/Bar & Outside Consumption

Peter Golec made the motion that the Board approves the following - Bellows Falls Polish American Club #1 – 1st Class for Club; Bellows Falls Elks Lodge #1619 – 1st Class for Club; Loyal Order of Moose Lodge #527, Inc. – 1st Class for Club & Outside Consumption; Athens Pizza House, Inc. – 1st Class Restaurant/Bar; American Legion Club Post #37, Inc. – 1st Class for Club; James Petro, LLC – 2nd Class; PK's Public House, Inc. – 1st Class Restaurant/Bar; Wellfleet, Inc. – 2nd Class; John Leslie, Corp. – 1st Class Restaurant/Bar & Outside Consumption. Motion was seconded by Ann DiBernardo. Motion passed unanimously.

Review Agenda Items for Next Meetings: March 15, 2016

- Board appointments
- Stickney land request
- Year to Date Budget
- Revolving Loan Fund – Jamaican Jewelz
- Review of Town Meeting
- Updates on Safe Routes to School; Bridge Street Bridge; ADA Alley Access to Town Hall; Park & Ride.
- Fire Committee

Review Agenda Items for Joint Board Meeting: March 29, 2016

- Mutual Aid Agreement – Charlestown, NH
- Social Media Policy

Review & Approve Orders, Bills & Warrants: These will be on the March 15, 2016 agenda.

Other Business:

- Hearne asked if there was an update on the dip in the road over the railroad tunnel in the Square. Stearns stated that the Central Vermont Rail representative is scheduled to meet with the Highway Superintendent on the Parker Hill washout and will then review this issue. Hearne asked if there was significant damage on Parker Hill. Stearns stated that the recent storm had undermined the edge of the road and this will need to be repaved. Stearns also indicated that there was damage in the Village to Hyde Street – Laurel Avenue area that will most likely require the road be ripped up and repaved. In addition, Cherry Hill to both Green Street and School Street had damage. Stearns noted that the rumors are out there that the Hyde Street flooding was the fault of the highway department. Stearns stated that this was not the case and that all grates and covers had been cleaned out and that this was an unfortunate act of nature.
- S. Golec thanked those who voted for him and the other candidates for running. DiBernardo asked S. Golec how his being a member of the Bellows Falls Trustees would impact him. Golec stated that he would listen and work in the best interest of each entity.
- Stearns also asked the Board to think about the possibility of splitting the Planning/Zoning Board into two separate boards.

Executive Session – *Stefan Golec made the motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel where premature general knowledge could place the municipality at a substantial disadvantage. Stearns reminded the Board that the only personnel they could discuss in executive session was him. Stearns also stated that if any other personnel were to be discussed that the Manager and the HR Coordinator should be included. Barnett asked Stefan Golec if he was comfortable with that. S. Golec stated that he was. Motion was seconded by Josh Hearne. Barnett called for a vote on the motion. Motion passed with S. Golec, Barnett and Hearne voting in favor of the motion. DiBernardo opposed. Bennett asked S. Golec if he was inviting the Manager to attend the executive session. Barnett and S. Golec stated they were not.*

The Board came out of executive session at 8:30 p.m. and the following action was taken.

Lamont Barnett made the motion to defund the development office until further notice and instruct the Municipal Manager to secure town interest up to and including taking keys and passwords. Motion was seconded by Stefan Golec.

There was no discussion from the Board. Barnett asked Stearns if he had any comments. Stearns stated that the Board had just violated executive session by entering executive session with a motion to discuss personnel. Barnett indicated the Board had discussed the budget of a department, not personnel. Stearns also noted that this appeared to be a desire of board members to remove Francis Walsh from accessing Town Hall. Stearns also stated that in doing so this puts in jeopardy the \$90,000 investment in the Robertson Paper building and any other projects of the Development Office will cease immediately. Stearns stated that should the motion passed he will do as instructed. Barnett asked if he would do this tomorrow. Stearns stated that he would do it tonight. Stearns stated that he will contact Attorney Ankuda, Town Counsel and it will likely be necessary to call a special meeting this week. Stearns stated that in his opinion this Board has overstepped its bounds and any consequences will be the Boards’.

Being no further discussion Barnett called for a vote on the motion. Barnett voted in favor of the motion. Peter Golec voted no. No other board members voted and the motion failed.

Adjourn: *Ann DiBernardo made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Motion was seconded by Peter Golec. Motion passed unanimously.*

Attest: _____
Kerry Bennett, Recording Clerk