

ROCKINGHAM SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, October 18, 2016

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

Also Present: Willis Stearns, II, Municipal Manager; Kerry Bennett, Recording Clerk; Alan LaCombe, Chair ZBA/PC; Deborah Wright

Press: KMO, FACT8; Joel Slutsky, The Shopper

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Lamont Barnett.

Additions to the Agenda for Routine Administrative Matters and/or Pressing Matters that will require ratification at a future meeting:

- Fairpoint Communications request for License to Bury: Barnett stated that this will be taken up under the agenda.

Approve Minutes of October 4, 2016: *Peter Golec made the motion to approve the minutes of October 4, 2016 as printed. Motion was seconded by Joshua Hearne. Motion passed.*

Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda (3 minutes per person):

- Deborah Wright asked the Board to consider re-appropriating funds during the budget process to repair the Depot Street Bridge.

Manager's Report:

- Leaf & lawn debris pick up will continue through the end of November, weather permitting. All leaves and debris must be placed in clear plastic bags and be able to be handled by one individual. Leaves & debris may also be taken to the Recycling Center.
- The overnight parking ban will be effective November 1 through April 1. There will be no parking on the streets inclusive of the Villages of Bellows Falls and Saxtons River. This also includes no parking on the streets during a snow storm and 24 hours after a storm. Violators will be towed with no warning and at owner's expense.
- It has been noted that the Town will need to advertise the quit claim deed of property to Chroma and also the lease with option to purchase of the TLR building to the Bellows Falls Historical Society for 30 days.

Agenda: Barnett stated that item 4b will be moved to item #1.

1. Recommended Separation of Planning Commission & Zoning Board of Adjustment: Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Adjustment Chair Alan LaCombe was present to answer questions on this recommendation. Barnett asked what percentage of towns currently have this separation. LaCombe stated that he doesn't have exact numbers but most towns are trending toward this and believes it is a significant percentage. Zoning Administrator Chuck Wise has spoken to other towns looking for negative aspects and the result is that they are not seeing any negative signs. The Board did discuss at length the issue of getting qualified people to serve on 2 boards as opposed to the one board noting that the ZBA/PC reduced its

number from 7 to 5 just over a year ago for this reason. LaCombe agreed that this has been an issue but would like the Board to approve the split in concept and allow the ZBA/PC to advertise and recruit over the next 3 or 4 months and come back to the Board with a definite recommendation. Hearne asked what would happen if the recruitment only yields a few people, would the current members serve on both boards? LaCombe felt that if that were to occur things would stay the same and they would re-evaluate the process. If the ZBA/PC was forced to stay as is, LaCombe noted that they would most likely have to increase the meeting frequency especially in light of the Town Plan rewrite. *Peter Golec made the motion that the Selectboard approve the separation of the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustment in concept and revisit this plan in 3 to 4 months. Motion was seconded by Joshua Hearne.* Barnett asked if this recommendation were to be approved in 3 to 4 months and over a year or so it was not working could this be undone? Stearns stated that the process could be reversed and the 2 boards dissolved and go back to 1 board. Barnett also reminded the Board that a Planning Commission member can be removed for no cause but a Design Review Board member can only be removed for cause after hearing. *Barnett called for a vote on the motion. Motion passed.*

- 2.. Green Mountain Power – ~~License to Bury Cable Pole~~ Petition: Stearns noted that this should have been a pole petition and this petition has been distributed to the board members tonight. Stearns stated that this is for work on Pine, George and Atkinson Streets. Some work will be done on private property and Green Mountain Power has secured easements from property owners. *Peter Golec made the motion to approve the pole petition for Green Mountain Power for work on Pine Street, George Street and Atkinson Street. Motion was seconded by Joshua Hearne.* Hearne asked about the removal of poles and how many have been removed to date. Stearns stated that there were approximately 170 poles that had remained a year or so ago and to date over 100 have been removed. *Barnett called for a vote on the motion. Motion passed.*
3. Recreation Center Repair Update: Stearns stated that the 25 page contract has been reviewed and approved by the Town attorney today and hopes to have it signed tomorrow with Jeff Ingram. DiBernardo asked how much time Stearns would be spending on this project. Stearns stated that he believed it would be about an hour a day.
4. Town-Owned Property Update
  - a) 34 Old Terrace: No change
  - b) 42 Hyde Street: No change – has been secured again over the last few weeks.
  - c) 456 Rockingham Road: Attorney is preparing a petition to the court for publicizing Notice of Eviction from the property.
  - d) 38 Green Street: Locks have been changed and the yard has been cleaned up. The Highway Department will be emptying the barn into the dumpster and the dumpster removed. Ruggiero will be cleaning out the house. When this is complete we will move forward with asbestos testing and it is doubtful that demolition would occur before winter. Stearns also noted that he has not heard back from the individual interested in purchasing the property.

5. Selectboard Items

- a) Appoint Green Up Day Coordinator & Co-Coordinator for 2017: *Joshua Hearne made the motion that the Selectboard appoints Guy Payne as Coordinator and Amy Howlett as Co-Coordinator for the Town of Rockingham. Motion was seconded by Peter Golec. Motion passed.*
  
- b) Recommended Separation of PC – ZBA: Moved to Agenda Item #1.

Review Overtime & Comp Time Report: No comments

Review Agenda Items for Next Meeting – November 1, 2016:

- Fairpoint request to bury
- Budget Status
- Financing for fire trucks, highway equipment and Town Hall repairs. Peter Golec asked about the elevator here at Town Hall. Stearns stated that the two original article at Town Meeting were reduced from \$1,000,000.00 to \$500,000 for fire trucks \$500,000 to \$250,000 for building repairs. The Board should discuss the remaining repairs during the budget process.

Review Agenda Items for Joint Board Meeting - November 29, 2016:

- Sidewalks/Infrastructure
- Parking Permit Policy
- Manager Evaluation Form
- Fixed Asset Disposition Policy
- Speed Control – Saxtons River: DiBernardo noted that a schoolbus was rearended earlier today and noted that there is a huge concern with speeding in Saxtons River and would like to discuss traffic calming possibilities. Stefan Golec noted that there is an agreement in place between the Town and the Bellows Falls Village for traffic control outside the Village and this should be utilized. Stearns stated that he and Highway Superintendent Hindes had met with the Saxtons River Trustees and representative from Vermont Academy and spent about 2 ½ hours walking the problem areas. It was discovered that students were the major violators of the speed limits. As well, large trucks and cars were noted to be going in excess of 45 MPH. Stefan Golec again stated that we should look at the BFPD for enforcement. Barnett stated that he felt the discussion would be better between Saxtons River Trustees and the Bellows Falls Trustees. Hearne suggested looking at something like what Keene, NH has near Keene State College with the elevated crosswalks. It was decided to invite the Saxtons River Trustee Chair to the Joint Board Meeting for this discussion.

Review & Approve Orders, Bills & Warrants: *Peter Golec made the motion to approve the orders, bills and warrants as printed. Motion was seconded by Joshua Hearne. Motion passed.*

Other Business:

- DiBernardo requested that in light of the reduction of weight on the Depot Street Bridge that the Manager notify the busses, Cota & Cota and CRT as those seem to be the major large vehicles that cross this bridge.
- Peter Golec noted that in reviewing the Board goals, one of the items was to review the policies and ordinances and felt that a committee should be formed also noting that there was a committee several years ago who reviewed these. Deborah Wright stated that she was on that previous committee and these were reviewed but no recommendations came from the committee.
- Peter Golec also noted that at the August 2 meeting the Chair was tasked with investigating the Bartonsville Bridge debris and asked what the outcome of this was. Barnett stated that he has not heard anything back yet and will inquire.
- Stearns asked what the Board wanted to do for budget meetings – incorporate these discussions into the regular meeting schedule or continue with Saturday budget session. It was the consensus to incorporate these budget discussions into the regular meeting schedule and the budget portion be limited to 2 hours. Peter Golec also noted the question of whether or not to have department heads attend. Stearns stated that if this were to occur he would expect that the Board would treat them cordially and with respect as on an occasion previously they were not.

Executive Session: No executive session was necessary.

Adjourn: *Peter Golec made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. Motion was seconded by Joshua Hearne. Motion passed.*

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