

Minutes of the 10/13/2014 Select Board meeting

In attendance: Ron Tallman, George Wild, Dustin Comstock, Kathie Felch, Lee Youngman

Ron Tallman called the meeting to order at 6:05pm

On a motion made by George, the minutes of the 9/8/2014 select board meeting were approved as presented.

On a motion made by George, the minutes of the 9/22/2014 special select board meeting were approved as presented.

Lee gave a presentation on the changes to the Open Meeting Law which went into effect in July, summarizing the information Kathie and Lee got at the VLCT Town Fair on October 9.

The board passed over agenda item 3, with no new information to discussion.

The board discussed the proposed contract with Barre Town for plowing services. The details of the contract were different than what was discussed last month. On a motion made by Dustin and seconded by George, the board agreed to sign the contract with Barre Town that has the Town of Orange sanding and plowing the portion of Ladd Road in Barre Town, in exchange for Barre Town plowing and sanding the portion of Partridge Road in Orange. Both towns will maintain the roads to their stated standards.

Kathie gave a brief summary of the information she has researched for accepting credit card payments in town for taxes, license fees, etc. She will bring a contract for consideration to the next meeting.

Kathie told the board about a resident's complaint about the condition of the kennel we are now using for Animal Control contract. Our new animal control officer suggested we look into Random Rescue. Kathie spoke to the owner of Random Rescue. Her rates are \$25.00 per day, and if the owner of the dog never comes to claim the animal, she takes possession of the animal, insures it is vaccinated, and adopts it out. Her reputation is solid. We currently pay \$10 per day up to \$10 days. The new contract would have the town paying \$25 per day for 4-5 days, or whatever the minimum number of days is by statute. The board directed Kathie to have a contract ready for discussion next month. In the meantime, if we have an animal complaint that ends up in a kennel situation, the board has authorized Kathie to have the animal taken to Random Rescue.

The board began discussion about a 5-10 year road plan. Ron would like the town to review all the roads and ditches, and prioritize them for maintenance and repair. George gave the following summary of his read on our road needs:

- Pursue a state paving grant for the portion of Tucker Road at the intersection of 110 below the bridge. We apply for this grant every year.
- Reservoir Road – continue reconstruction
- Provencher Road – resurfacing and re-ditching
- Entrance of Provencher Rd at 302 – find a way to get a handle of the flooding. Work with the state on this since they own the land at the bottom of the road

- Reservoir Rd – straighten out the corner by Ladd Road to improve line of sight. Work with Barre City to buy a piece of land to accommodate a relocation of the road
- Maintain the culvert replacement program we have started

Ron will look into pricing for a new bucket for the excavator. With all the ditching we have been doing, we need a new bucket. He wants to build it into the budget for next year.

Kathie told the board that CVRP is conducting a ditch inventory that will be completed before winter. We can use it as a jumping off place for prioritizing ditch work.

Kathie told the board that Mary Claflin, our delinquent tax collector, wants to postpone tax sales until after the first of the year. She has worked the list down to just two sales, from the five she recommended last month. She has gotten several people on payment plans. She wants to wait until after the November installment to make sure folks stick to their payment plans. On a motion made by George and seconded by Dustin, the board voted to accept the recommendation of the delinquent tax collector to postpone a tax sale until after January. We will warn it for the February meeting, with an eye towards a spring sale.

The board reviewed the budget and accounts payable. Kathie explained that we will be over budget on equipment repairs. The 2013 Freightliner is in the shop now. We are also over budget on cold patch, since we had such a rough spring with road washouts.

Next month, we will begin meeting twice a month to work on the 2015 proposed budget.

The meeting schedule the rest of the year was set as follows:

Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 6pm – Note: the regular monthly select board meeting is the second Monday of the month. Since that day falls on Veteran's Day, we are moving it to Wednesday.

Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm to discuss the budget

Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm – regular Select Board meeting

Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm to discuss the budget

With no further business to discuss, the board adjourned at 7:25 pm

Attest:

Lee Youngman, Assistant Town Clerk