

RECEIVED

DATE

January 10, 2012

Town of Huntington
Selectboard Meeting
January 2, 2012
Town Office, Downstairs

MINUTES

Selectboard Members Present: Jim Christiansen, Chair; Ed Booth, Roman Livak, Dori Barton, Dan Rissacher
Staff Present: Hank Lambert, Interim Town Administrator
Others Present: Heidi Racht, Town Clerk; Dan Stoddard, Town Treasurer; Yogi Alger, Road Foreman; Ruth Blodgett, Times Ink!; Gordon Miller; Amy Dohner; Terry Boyle.

Call to Order Jim Christiansen called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Minutes Livak moved and Booth seconded to accept the minutes of December 15, 2011 and December 19, 2011 as amended. Approved unanimously.

Warrants The Selectboard signed four warrants.

Yogi Alger, Road Foreman

Blasting of large rock at the quarry on Main Road is completed. Main Road slide repair was completed by G.W. Tatro Construction. Randy Snelling, VTrans, sent a letter dated December 21, 2011 allowing work to continue, making an exception to the December 12 deadline. Damage was from the May floods, and repair could not proceed until sufficient rock was available. FHWA and VTrans will provide funding for the repair work. Alger will contact Randy Snelling to inspect the work.

Road signs for the East Street paving project are in hand and Alger will try to install them soon depending on the frost depth.

Spring Road Maintenance Plan: Lambert and Alger will meet soon to outline a plan. Christiansen will submit his suggestions and Booth will participate in the meetings.

Bridge #30 Alger will schedule a meeting at Bridge #30 on Camels Hump Road with Tim Parent to assess the condition and cost of repair to the bridge deck. Alger will firm up his estimates of \$5,000 for hemlock and \$30,000 for pressure treated material.

Truck Alger reported truck breakdowns, especially the 2005, are costing money in terms of repairs and downtime.

MRI Alger reported that he is scheduled for an MRI on his right arm / shoulder, Thursday a.m., January 5.

Public Comment

Town Hall Fire Hazard Aaron Worthley of the Town Hall Committee reported on a fire hazard in the building detected last summer. A florescent ceiling-mounted light fixture was smoking and sparking. The Committee cut electrical power and obtained a repair estimate of \$636 from Randall Richland of Ten Talents. The Committee wants to make the repair and do what it can to get the building in order before the summer use. Exit signs are not functioning. Since this amount exceeds the budget for repairs and maintenance, the Committee is requesting permission to make the repair. The Committee offered to do lawn maintenance in 2012 to free up \$150. (See further discussion under "Administration" below.)

Senior Housing Project Gordon Miller representing Huntington Living Community Housing is seeking permission to use the Town's non-profit status in order to accept a \$15,000 grant from Vermont Housing Conservation to conduct a feasibility study. The Town would act as applicant. The group is seeking non-profit status but the process may take 6 months.

The study would consider viability of 8 to 10 units considering three properties: the old post office building (Nils Smith); the Knox Cummins property, and the Peter Marsh property.

Barton asked for clarification of the administrative burden on the Town staff, particularly the Town Treasurer and Town Administrator. Miller stated that those questions could be better answered once the group is structured at their January 11 meeting and a more detailed plan is devised.

The Board expressed no objection to the request but would first like to see a structure (officers, mission statement, clear intent, etc.) before formally making a decision. It was suggested that the group meet with the Selectboard at a February Selectboard meeting.

Administration

Choice Care Card Christiansen raised the issue of raising the amount allowed to be contributed by payroll deduction to Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) from \$2000.00 to \$3000.00. This change will allow Town employees to add more to their individual FSA during the course of a calendar year as a benefit.

Livak moved and Booth seconded that the Town increase the Flexible Savings Account limit from \$2,000 to \$3,000. Approved unanimously.

Town Administrator Job Description The job description was sent to Abby Friedman of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. Friedman will get back to us soon regarding a time line and the next step. Rissacher volunteered to chair the Hiring Committee.

Town Hall Repair Discussion continued on the repair of the Town Hall, particularly the electrical items. Livak raised the unanswered question of whether the Town should either sell or rehabilitate the Town Hall as posed in the Capital Plan. He suggested warning an article to determine the Town's intent. Barton suggested that the Town's intent to retain the Town Hall is demonstrated by the Town Hall Committee's work to rehabilitate the building, and a recent survey showing 80% of respondents in favor of retaining the Town Hall. Barton suggested the real question at this time is making the building safe for summer use.

Livak moved and Rissacher seconded that \$636 for Town Hall electrical repair be taken from the Town Hall Insurance Fund. During discussion of the motion, Rissacher said the main intent of that fund is to leverage possible grants; that electrical repair is a maintenance issue.

After further discussion, Livak moved and Rissacher seconded to amend the original motion to a sum not to exceed \$500 from the Town Hall Insurance Fund to repair the electrical issue. Barton abstained, and the motion to amend the motion was approved.

Christiansen called the question. Rissacher and Livak voted yea; Booth and Christiansen voted no; Barton abstained and the motion failed.

Christiansen moved and Booth seconded to pay up to \$500 for electrical repair of the Town Hall from the general fund. During discussion, Christiansen stated that at this time the Town should work to assure the safety of the building. Booth, Rissacher and Christiansen voted yea; Livak voted no; Barton abstained and the motion passed.

Following a discussion with Boyle and Dohner of Town Hall repairs and estimates provided to the Town Hall Committee by Architect Tom Keith, Rissacher suggested that the Selectboard should see a comprehensive plan with clearer estimates of costs for repairs and rehabilitation.

Budget Discussion ensued on the 2012-2013 budget in preparation for the Selectboard's final review and approval at its next meeting.

Next Meeting The Selectboard agreed to warn a meeting for January 9 at 7 p.m. to discuss all Town Meeting items, agenda, articles and to finalize the budget.

Adjournment At 9:47 p.m., Livak moved and Barton seconded to adjourn. Approved unanimously.

Dates

Unapproved minutes sent to Selectboard: January 4, 2012

Minutes Approved: *January 9, 2012*

Approved minutes sent to Town Clerk for Record: *January 10, 2012*