

Minutes of the Bridport Selectboard Meeting - APPROVED

October 11, 2016 at the Bridport Town Clerks office

Members present: Leonard Barrett, Chair, Sue Walker, Jerry Forbes, Joan Huestis, recording clerk. Earl Audet was absent.

Others present Irene Zaccor, Bridport town treasurer, Susan Woloohojian, David Bronson, H. Kent Wright III, Edward Payne, Zoning Administrator and Dusty Huestis from the DPW.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Leonard Barrett at 6 PM.

Road Report

Dusty Huestis said Joan Huestis was doing a good job as clerk for the DPW.

The roadside mowing is at a stand-still because of a shortage of employees.

The state highway department has been trying to unplug a culvert at the corner of Market Road and VT Route 125 with little success. The State will provide product and work crew to restructure the road ditch in front of Clarence Deering's residence if the select board, the DPW, and Clarence Deering are in agreement with the restructure. Clarence is responsible for the price of the culvert. Joan Huestis, Sue Walker and Earl Audet will represent the select board at a meeting on Wednesday morning 10/12/16 at 7:10 on sight to review what the state wants to do. The decision will be made at the time to agree or disagree with what the state wants to do.

Town Line Road and East Street are finished with the exception of reshaping the ditch on the north side of Town Line Road.

The question was posed of possibly hiring some part time help to mow the road sides.

Approval of Selectboard minutes

Motion was made by Jerry Forbes and seconded by Sue Walker to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2016 Select board meeting. There was no discussion. Motion passed all in favor.

Motion was made by Sue Walker and seconded by Joan Huestis to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2016 and the minutes of the September 26, 2016 Selectboard meetings. Discussion followed in regard to these meetings being about the resignation of the DPW foreman Mike Sunderland. Motion passed all in favor.

Public Comment

Ed Payne, Zoning Administrator, brought two instances of violations to our attention.

The first being Peters of Ward Drive not waiting for permit and approval from the Board of Adjustment and additionally violating property boundaries.

The second being a new residence on Lake Street that has failed to get proper permits for a building and is violating septic and gray water regulation. The select board advised the Zoning Administrator to seek legal advice from Carl Neuse of Neuse, Duprey and Putnam, Attorneys-at-law or from the State of Vermont.

H. Kent Wright III reported that the Bridport Seniors group will be meeting at the Community Hall on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10-4 for meals and fellowship.

David Bronson, Chair of the Cemetery Committee, reported that the 7 stones that have been replaced are in storage in the Hearse House. David also said he had contacted Kuhn Memorials, Clegg Memorials, and Leo Gorton about installing those stones and up-righting several large stones in the Central Cemetery. The prices were either extremely high or there was disinterest in the form of no response. David was hoping to get some outside help either from the DPW or other persons hired by the town to help with the repairs and do them ourselves. There is still about ½ of the money available from what the town had appropriated to fix stones in the cemetery.

Treasurer's Report

Irene Zaccor, Treasurer, reported there was a balance on hand in the bank of \$168,780.55. The next payment is due soon for the Mack Truck. Irene also reported delinquent taxes are down to \$40,060.00.

Irene also asked to have pay rates for employees be set at the same amount. There are several different rates, some set by the state and some by the select board. Motion was made by Joan Huestis and seconded by Sue Walker that all non-regular employee rates be set at \$10.00 (BCA, Planning Commission, poll workers, etc.). Discussion followed about the different rates. Motion passed all in favor.

Also, Cora Ethier will retire from cleaning the town clerks office when the snow flies. She was very appreciative of the gift card she was given to her by the town. The treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Old Business

Utility Pole that *Mobilite* would like to place on Market Road is still unresolved. The select board is still waiting for a response from our lawyer Jim Foley and from the landowner nearby.

There was no action on the health of the trees in the cemetery and the park. There are several that are unhealthy.

New Business

Motion was made by Sue Walker and seconded by Jerry Forbes to hire Joan Huestis as clerk for the DPW as a paid position. Discussion followed. It is not a conflict of interest according to the Secretary of State's office to have a select board member be a paid employee of the town. Pay rate is set at \$20.00 per hour. Motion passed 3 in favor, 1 abstained.

The motion was made by Joan Huestis and seconded by Sue Walker to hire Dan Thomas at \$20.00 per hour to mow road sides to help the DPW until the review of the applicants for the position available at the DPW. Discussion followed. Motion passed all in favor.

Motion was made by Joan Huestis seconded by Sue Walker to hire to hire two temporary employees to help David Bronson in the repair of stones in the Bridport Central Cemetery. Discussion followed. Motion passed all in favor.

Motion was made by Leonard Barrett and seconded by Jerry Forbes to relieve Russell Sherman of the penalty charged by the State of Vermont on his tax bill for Homestead Declaration. Discussion followed as to the reason for the charge. Sherman was late filing his Homestead Declaration in April therefore the state implemented the penalty. Motion passed all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Joan Huestis, Recording Clerk

Addendum to the minutes

Joan Huestis, Sue Walker, and Earl Audet representing the select board, Dusty Huestis representing the DPW for Bridport town, Chris Bearor, representing the VT State Highway department and Clarence Deering, property owner were all present on Market Road and VT Route 125 junction to decide the outcome of reconstruction of the ditch to divert water from the culvert on Market Road that is plugged to the new culvert farther east on 125. After much discussion with all parties, the conclusion was drawn to allow the State Highway department to reconstruct the ditch. Clarence Deering is responsible for the \$300.00 culvert and the state will do all the work and provide all other materials and labor. The new construction will go across the front lawn of Clarence Deering. The ditch is to be grass and sloped so that it is able to be mowed with a lawn mower. The culvert that is plugged on Market Road will be removed by the Bridport DPW. The work will be done this coming Monday 10/17/16.

Joan Huestis, Recording Clerk