

Approved as written: _____

Approved as corrected: _____

VERNON SELECTBOARD
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017
REGULAR MEETING
6:30pm
DRAFT

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Christiane Howe, Chair
Sandra Harris, Vice Chair
Stephen Skibniowsky, Clerk
Josh Unruh
Emily Vergobbe

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Pong, Town Administrator
Michelle Millerick, Secretary
Barbara Moseley
Tim Arsenault, Town Clerk
Jean Carr
Jeff Dunklee
Stanley Sage
Fred Sage
David Walker, Highway Dept.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING:

Christiane Howe called the regular meeting to order at 6:30pm, welcomed those present and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Christiane Howe has 3 items to add to the agenda, reappoint the Tax Committee, close the Cemeteries, and add pending litigation that may result in Executive Session.

STEPHEN SKIBNIOWSKY MADE A MOTION TO ADD TO THE AGENDA UNDER OLD BUISNESS, THE REAPPOINTMENT OF THE TAX COMMITTEE, CLOSING OF THE CEMETERIES AND PENDING LITIGATION. EMILY VERGOBBE SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

CHAIRS REMARKS:

None

GUESTS:

None

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS (non-Agenda items):

None

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORT:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

SANDRA HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 5, 2016 AS CORRECTED FOR SPELLING. JOSH UNRUH SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

SANDRA HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES ON DECEMBER 19, 2016 AS CORRECTED WITH CORRECTED SPELLING, ACCEPTANCE OF WARRANTS FOR DECEMBER 19TH AND NOTE THAT TODD CAPEN WAS ASKED TO JOIN IN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION. JOSH UNRUH SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0 .

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Bills and Warrants

STEPHEN SKIBNIOWSKY MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE FOR SIGNATURES AND PAYMENTS FOR THE FOLLOWING BILLS AND WARRANTS FOR TUESDAY JANUARY 3, 2017.

13 –T Accounts Payable - \$24,551.54

51S Payroll - \$14,264.61

52S Payroll - \$11,530.85

SANDRA HARRIS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

a) **Articles for Annual Report/Town Meeting** - The Selectboard had a discussion on the pending 2017 Town Meeting Articles.

b) **Dates for Town Meeting** – Monday, March 6 and Wednesday, March 8, 2017, Australian ballot on March 7, 2017.

c) **Highway Department – Hours of Operation**

A discussion about changing the hours from 4 days to 5 David Walker said they have saved on overtime by staying on 4 days. Emily Vergobbe would like David Walker to write up a justification why they have the hours they do for the website and newsletter so people can understand the reasons why this department runs the way it does.

d) **School Rental Fee** – Fee for 2017-2018 will be \$221,270.00 an increase of \$3,485.00 (1.6% Federal COLA)

e) **Christiane Howe request to use the Town Office Building lower level.** – Sandy Harris, Vice Chair, took over the meeting as chair for this issue and called the motion to be voted on.

EMILY VERGOBBE MADE A MOTION TO ALLOW CHRISTIANE HOWE TO USE THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE TOWN OFFICE BUILDING ON FRIDAY.

**STEPHEN SKIBNIOWSKY SECONDED. MOTION CARED 4 – 1
ABSTENTION.**

OLD BUSINESS:

a) **Auditor Report – Final Acceptance** this will be put on the January 19, 2017 regular meeting.

b) **Tax Committee** – Bring back everyone who was on the previous tax committee, the Listers Carol Hammond, William Hammond and Jeremiah Sund, also Emily Vergobbe, Janet Rasmussen, Jeff Dunklee, Patty O'Donnell and Christiane Howe as an alternate.

SANDRA HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO REINSTATE THE TAX COMMITTEE AS IN THE PAST WHICH WOULD BE THE LISTERS, PATTY O'DONNELL, JANET RASMUSSEN, JEFF DUNKLEE, EMILY VERGOBBE AND CHRISTIANE HOWE AS AN ALTERNATIVE. STEPHEN SKIBNIOWSKY SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

c) **Close Cemeteries –**

SANDRA HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO CLOSE THE TOWN CEMETERIES AS OF THIS WEEK. EMILY VERGOBBE SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Michelle Pong asked the board if they would like her to reach out and advertise for the WRC position.

Michelle Pong will attend the Blank Gum Swamp testimony on January 12, 2017.

Junk Yard Ordinance there is an option to withdraw that or leave and let it go to the Town Meeting.

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE:

a) **Regular Meeting** - Thursday, January 19, 2017

b) **Regular Meeting** – Monday, February 06, 2017

SANDRA HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:15PM WITH MICHELLE PONG, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, TO FIND THAT PREMATURE GENERAL PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE OF THE PENDING LITIGATION WILL CLEARLY PLACE VERNON AT A SUBSTANTIAL DISADVANTAGE BY [disclosing its negotiation strategy.]” EMILY VERGOBBE SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

SANDRA HARRIS MADE A MOTION THAT WE ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH MICHELLE PONG, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO DISCUSS THE PENDING LITIGATION UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 1, SECTION 313(a)(1) OF THE VERMONT STATUTES. EMILY VERGOBBE SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ADJOURNED AT 8:30PM.

No action was taken.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY):

None

ADJOURNMENT:

SANDRA HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:40PM. JOSH UNRUH SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by
Michelle Millerick
Michelle Millerick, Secretary