

**Minutes of Selectboard Meeting  
October 18, 2017**

**Present at Meeting:**

Bert Potter, Selectman; Aaron Korzun, Selectman; Steven Nicholson; Selectman, Sharon Winnicki, Chair - Board of Listers; Richard Biziak, Auditor, Sandy Bragg, Auditor; Linda McGuire, Treasurer; Mark Goodwin, Clerk

Members of the Public: Mary Cohen, Executive Director Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce  
Lyle Jepson, Executive Director Rutland Economic Development Corp.

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Selectman Potter

**Approval of Agenda:**

Aaron moved and Steven seconded to approve the agenda. Modifications: Work in ROW Permit request, Listers Grand List update notification, Reserve Funds interest reconciliation. Approved with modifications

**Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce and Rutland Economic Development Presentation:**

Mary Cohen and Lyle Jepson presented information pertaining to a current initiative in the Rutland Region lead by the RRCC and REDC in conjunction with other area partners that include public and private institutions, colleges and universities, governmental agencies and municipalities that addresses the demographic trends impacting workforce development and social / economic vibrancy of the Rutland area. The presentation outlined a demographic that is aging and not being revitalized by a significant growth in population age 55 and below. It was pointed out that this is a trend for all of New England but particularly in Vermont and Rutland County is the “oldest” county in the state.

An initiative to address this decline in the younger population that impacts the work force, economic potential and impact on governmental services has been instigated. A significant campaign has been started and continues to develop that takes a long-term approach to reverse the trend. A three-way approach addressing Regional Marketing, Quality of Life and Tourism. A separate but parallel centered around “Outdoor Adventure” has also been instigated with Killington and the Killington Valley initiative.

In order to accomplish that objective RRCC and REDC are requesting from each municipality in the county a contribution, either based on population or other contributing factor, such as direct budgetary support or by placing an article on the Annual Meeting warning for the citizens of the particular municipality to vote upon. RRCC and REDC indicated more than once that this was not a “pay-to-play” situation, but merely looking for contributions that will ultimately benefit all of Rutland County. Some towns in the county have already made contributions in these ways. RRCC and REDC have visited 22 of the 27 Municipalities that are within Rutland County so far.

The Selectboard indicated the procedure for inclusion on the Annual Meeting Warning and will formally act on the request when specifics are received from the organization(s).

**2017 Professional Audit:**

Steven, in anticipation of having to discharge the current Mascoma \$250k line of credit utilized for expenses associated with Tropical Storm Irene repairs and not yet being fully reimbursed by FEMA,

requested that the Treasurer inquire if an extension of the current term of the Line of Credit can be extended with Mascoma Bank. If an extension cannot be approved and a new line of credit opened, it is assumed that a Single Audit will need to take place as part of the required documentation submitted to a lending institution. The Board of Auditors have already obtained a model contract that can be utilized to retain a qualified CPA to conduct the requisite audit. Through discussion with participants it was decided that the Treasurer along with a member of the Board of Auditors and a member of the Selectboard modify the model template obtained from VLCT in order to have a Request for Proposal (RFP) ready to be sent to a determined number of potential firms in order to obtain the lowest possible expense for the specified required task, if the inquiry regarding the current Line of Credit warrants.

A follow up and specific action will be addressed at the next Selectboard meeting.

While on the subject of audit, the Treasurer inquired when an audit of the Grand List might be accomplished. Rich Biziak indicated that it is expected to be accomplished in December.

Linda reported that there was a higher rate of delinquencies this year than in years past in meeting the property tax payment deadline. She made note of the fact that the phenomena seemed to impact those properties that had a greater level of assessment. Linda reported that in response to the numerous phone calls she received about the increase, she explained that assessments have not changed, but the tax rate did rise and the higher rate impacted those properties with higher assessments in respect to taxes owed.

The Selectboard acknowledged the recovery of the interest from monies approved and borrowed from the Reserve Funds throughout the course of the year to meet general expense obligations. The interest amounted to \$254.68.

#### **2018 Green Up Day Coordinator**

Upon receipt of the nomination from the Chair of the Conservation Commission, Bert moved and Steven seconded to appoint Connie Youngstrom 2018 Green Up Day Coordinator. Approved.

#### **Excess Weight Permit:**

Bert moved and Steven seconded to approve an excess weight permit for Riggs Distler & Co. Inc. All documentation was in order. Approved.

#### **Work in the Right of Way:**

Bert moved and Aaron seconded to approve a Work in ROW permit request from the Cuttingsville Water District in order to repair a leaky valve under the road in the vicinity of Town Hill Rd and Shunpike Rd. Approved, with the stipulation that specifications outlined by the Road Commissioner be followed.

#### **Listers Report:**

Sharon reported that the Current Use files for 2017 are still being received from the VT Dept. of Taxes., the Listers are currently making site visits in respect to building permits that were obtained during the current year for inclusion on the 2018 Grand List and a \$6,000 change to the Grand List Value of a property that was under grievance appeal in 2017 in which an error of a particular construction component was discovered and necessitated in change in value.

#### **State Auditor inquiry:**

The Town had received a letter from the Vermont State Auditor regarding inspection reports received in 2015 from the VT DOT and if the repairs outlined in the report had been accomplished.

These appear to be general inquires and follow up from the State Auditor about procedures utilized by VT DOT in respect to maintain safe and efficient infrastructure. The recommended repairs, consisting of scour repair to Bridge # 7 over the Cold River Rd located just east of Keiffer Rd on the Cold River Rd. was accomplished.

**New Business:**

Bert reported that he had received an anonymous letter from a townspeople regarding concerns about the upcoming plowing season. Bert indicated that he shared the particular concern with the Road Commissioner.

**Open to the Public:**

No members of the public present at this time.

**Minutes:**

Bert moved and Aaron seconded to approve the Minutes of October 4, 2017. Approved

**Orders**

Bert moved and Steven seconded to approve:

Road Commissioner Orders # 10A of October 18, 2017 for \$6,109.63 and Selectboard Orders # 10A of October 18, 2017 for \$5,766.24. Approved

Meeting was duly adjourned at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Goodwin, Town Clerk

*These minutes are unofficial until approved by the Selectboard at the next regularly scheduled meeting.*