

MINUTES
REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2011, 6:45 PM

The Board of Selectmen met at the Town Offices on Monday, June 27, 2011 at 7 pm for a Regular Selectboard meeting. Present were Chairman Bryon Quatrini, Jim Rust, Rod Lamotte, and Bill Mellow. Alan Ruggles was absent. Also present were: Town Manager Ralph Nelson, Linda Gary, Martin Fortin, Jon Beck, Diane Beck, Nancy Cohen, Frank Landry, Bruce Corrette, Bernie Timson, Brian Christman, Mike Fortier, Al Dunn, Taylor Reed of the Caledonian Record. Present at Clinton Avenue were Town Attorney Ed Zucarro, Sheri Turner, Dianne Holmes, Robert Holmes, Arnold Littel, Dianne Santy.

Public Comments – Martin Fortin asked to address the Board regarding the “Lady in the Park” fountain in Arnold Park. Town Manager Nelson stated that a spot on the July agenda had been reserved for a presentation regarding the fountain. Mr. Fortin gave a brief history of the fountain and asked for the Selectboard’s support for the plan to restore the fountain. Mr. Fortin introduced Linda Gary who stated that the renovation would cost \$52,500 plus \$1,800 if a crane was necessary to lift the fountain. Ms. Gary mentioned that the foundry in Boston that would be doing the work would take the fountain and begin work for \$15,000, but that the remaining \$37,500 would have to be raised and paid before the town would be able to receive the fountain back. At this time, the fountain fund had \$9,492.96. Ms. Gary mentioned several upcoming fund raising opportunities, including the Steve Dolgin water skiing camp. Mr. Fortin and Ms. Gary also introduced the concept of selling memorial bricks in Arnold Park as a fund raising tool (\$300 for individuals/families and \$1,000 for businesses) and asked to be considered for a special appropriation at the 2012 Town Meeting. Mr. Fortin also suggested a flag pole be erected in Arnold Park.

Clinton Avenue Alterations – On a motion by Jim Rust, seconded by Bill Mellow, the Board unanimously agreed to move the meeting to the corner of Clinton Avenue and Main Street to discuss proposed alterations to Clinton Avenue (see attached Public Notice) at 7:04. At Clinton Avenue, Town Attorney Ed Zucarro explained the proposed alterations to residents. Several residents in the area asked questions and viewed the plans. On a motion by Jim Rust and second by Rod Lamotte, the Board voted unanimously to move back to the Municipal Board Room at 7:24. Upon returning to the Board Room, Chairman Quatrini asked if there was further comment. On a motion by Jim Rust and a second by Rod Lamotte, the Board voted unanimously to approve the alterations to Clinton Avenue.

Minutes – Four sets of minutes were presented for approval: Regular Meeting, May 23, 2011. Mr. Rust offered the following modifications: In the Public Comments section, he added that Mr. Scott had mentioned work orders were kept in the office; In the Grant Application section, the words “Street” and “Avenue” were added to “Railroad” and “Eastern,” respectively; on the motion to go into Executive Session, Mr. Rust wanted it noted that he voted “no.” On a motion by Jim Rust and a second by Rod Lamotte, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of May 23, as amended.

Special Meeting, June 1, 2011. Mr. Rust mentioned that the word “Mary,” in the sixth paragraph should read “May.” On a motion by Jim Rust and a second by Rod Lamotte, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of June 1, as amended.

Regular Meeting, June 13, 2011. Mr. Rust made several suggestions. On a motion by Jim Rust and a second by Rod Lamotte, the Board voted unanimously to table the minutes of June 13 to the next Regular Meeting and asked the manager to prepare a draft with the proposed changes.

Special Meeting, June 23, 2011. On a motion by Jim Rust and a second by Rod Lamotte, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of June 23, as presented.

Warrants – On a motion by Jim Rust, seconded by Rod Lamotte, the Board voted unanimously to approve and signed the following warrants:

General Funds A/P:

Check	#66996 – 67046	\$ 117,353.94
	#67047 – 67053	\$ 1,051,052.70
	#67054 – 67086	\$ 59,439.62
	#67087	\$ 562.46
Grant Account:	#2302 – 2304	\$ 7,978.52

Liquor License – None

East Village Road Speed Limit – Mr. Nelson reported that Sherriff Bergeron had recently completed a speed survey of the recently paved portion of East Village Road. The survey was undertaken at the request of the East Village Neighborhood Association. Sherriff Bergeron concluded, “I would suggest a 25 mph on the new paved section, as it is narrow and unsafe for any faster speeds there.” On a motion by Jim Rust and a second by Rod Lamotte, the Board voted unanimously to have Mr. Nelson post a 25 mile-per-hour speed limit on East Village Road.

Delinquent Tax Policy – Mr. Nelson reported that the Delinquent Tax Policy had not been updated since August 14, 2000. He asked the Board for suggestions. Mr. Nelson said that a change to allow residents to pay monthly on more than a single year’s tax bill would be helpful – as long as the entire amount in arrears is paid by the issuance of the current year’s tax bill. He also stated that the current practice of only properties that are two or more years in arrears being eligible for Tax Sale should be documented. On a motion by Jim Rust, seconded by Rod Lamotte, the Board voted unanimously to have the Manager redraft the Delinquent Tax Policy to include these new items and to present the Board with the new document for final ratification at the July Regular Meeting.

Catering Permit Policy – At the request of Alan Ruggles, Mr. Nelson had prepared a list of catering permits for 2010 and 2011. A total of 38 permits were issued during those two years to a total of seven caterers. Resident Mike Fortier cited state statutes designating the Selectboard as the local Liquor Control Board, including 17 VSA 264. On a motion by Jim Rust, seconded by Bill Merrow, the Board voted unanimously to table this item since Mr. Ruggles, who had requested the information, was absent.

Manager’s Report – Mr. Nelson read a letter from Peggy Pearl of the History and Heritage Society, stating that they remain very interested in the former Armory building. The group is working hard at soliciting donations and working through the issues with the building. They asked the Board’s patience and continued support.

The Manager announced that Jay Davis of Northeast Kingdom Online was working with Department Heads to plan the website. The project remains on schedule.

Mr. Nelson announced that the Bike Path project was in the “staging” process and that Capitol Earth Moving was to begin Friday, July 1. The Mt. Vernon Street water main project was to begin Tuesday, June 28.

The Manager also announced that he was still waiting for word on FEMA reimbursements from the May 27 storm. The president has not yet declared Caledonia County a Federal Disaster Area.

Several residents had statements or questions for the Manager: Nancy Cohen stated that if agricultural land was damaged by the flood, property owners should consider the USDA for relief, in addition to FEMA. John Beck asked the status of the Portland Street Bridge. Mr. Nelson announced that the completion date had been extended seven weeks to allow Winterset to order the proper tread covers for

the stairway. Al Dunn asked about trimming trees over sidewalks. Mr. Nelson explained that in many cases, the trees were on private property. However, if they were a danger or created a traffic hazard, the Town would trim the trees. Mr. Rust detailed costs in the engineering study of the Railroad Street Enhancement Grant in response to question posed by Mike Fortier in the previous Regular Meeting. Mr. Rust explained, for example, that the \$3,000 cost of a grate, also included brick work, a new tree and a one-year guarantee. Nancy Cohen brought up the lack of a Purchase Order policy and the Manager stated that he is working on one for implementation later in the summer. Mr. Quatrini reiterated his desire to have a purchase order policy.

On a motion by Jim Rust, seconded by Bill Merrow, the Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 8:15 pm to discuss legal and personnel matters.

The Board returned from executive session at 8:35 pm and adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph E. Nelson, Jr.
Town Manager