

Minutes of Select Board Meeting 6/30/16

In attendance:

Tim Simpson, Joe Solinsky (Select Board), Brandon Mazur (clerk), George Colburn, Gail Weed, Hank Parker, Paul Brouha, Elizabeth Hubbard

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 by Joe.

Paul requested to be added to the agenda.

Tim moved to forego the review of the minutes of the June 2nd dog bite hearing and accept them as written. Joe seconded the motion and the minutes were accepted as written.

The question of whether or not Alissa D'Ambra has paid the two fines regarding the incident with her dog was raised. One fine was for an unregistered dog and the other was for having the dog off-leash off her property. She has paid one of the \$25 fines but owes the town the second \$25.

Joe moved to accept the minutes of the May 25th Select Board meeting as printed. Tim seconded and the minutes were accepted as written.

Tim moved to accept the minutes of the June 16th water board meeting as printed. Joe seconded and the minutes were accepted as written. To be added to those minutes is the possibility of an application for an extension on the town water project. The minutes were accepted with that addition.

Tim moved to accept the May 12th water board minutes as printed. Joe seconded and the minutes were accepted as written.

The meeting then moved onto a review of the Treasurer's Report. Tim moved to accept the Report. Joe seconded the motion and the Report was accepted.

Elizabeth updated the Select Board on potential recycling improvements. The system currently in use costs the district \$48,500. Implementing the proposed "more efficient" system would drive up the cost to \$70,500. That cost of \$70,500 could be mitigated if one person was laid off: as a result, there would then be a profit of \$7,000. The Recycling & Waste District agreed to not take any action at the time as they did not want to put a local person out of work. On August 4th there is a class on proper recycling techniques in Lyndonville. Elizabeth desires to attend. Elizabeth shared feedback about Sutton's recycling on Saturdays. Some members of the public have expressed that the attendant on duty is not as helpful as he could be in assisting with the removal of trash and recycling from vehicles. Elizabeth raised the concern that the town might be overpaying – or effectively paying double – for recycling services. Elizabeth asked the Select Board if they'd pay 8th graders to take in and process recycling as a way of raising money for their class trip. The Board expressed that this is something they'd support. Elizabeth also relayed to the Board that there are over one hundred fluorescent tube light bulbs in the storage trailer, preventing it from being removed. It's ambiguous whose responsibility it is to remove them. The Select Board will check on this.

A water loan resolution for \$19,000 was presented. The vote to sign it was passed and the resolution

was signed. George will attest it on July 1.

The meeting then moved onto Hank Parker's proposed new dog ordinance.

Hank made a statement preceding his proposed ordinance. He said

I appreciate the Select Board's consideration of my proposed dog ordinance for the Town of Sutton. Sue and I also greatly appreciate the concern and support shown by the Board after Sue's dog bite incident on May 10.

Sue and I are concerned about the potential impacts on public safety—of both residents and visitors—of uncontrolled dogs in the town. We're aware that the attack on Sue is not the only recent, serious incident involving dogs in the town. We worry that, without adequate controls, additional incidents will occur, perhaps even more serious. This could be very detrimental to Sutton.

After the hearing on June 2, I spoke with Joe Solinsky about the town's existing dog ordinance that dates from 1997. He agreed that it needed to be significantly strengthened. I offered to help the town prepare an updated dog ordinance. Joe strongly encouraged me to proceed.

My draft ordinance is based on the Vermont League of Cities and Towns Model Dog Ordinance. It also draws from existing ordinances in five other towns in Vermont, including Burke and Lyndon, and the Vermont Statutes. The ordinance attempts to present a reasonable, accountable, and readily understandable process for dog control in Sutton. It has seven goals:

- To help assure public safety;
- To help protect the town from liability for and adverse consequences of future dog incidents;
- To help assure accountability of dog owners for supervision and control of their pets;
- To help assure that the town animal control officer is as well trained and motivated as possible;
- To help assure that the town animal control officer has a clear understanding of his/her responsibilities, including required procedures relating to an incident, and that these responsibilities are met;
- To help assure that dogs in Sutton are treated as humanely as possible;
- To assure that there is a thorough, accessible record of all dog-related reports in the town clerk's office.

I would be very happy to work with the Select Board as they consider this ordinance and any proposed changes.

Thank you.

The Board then reviewed the draft of the new ordinance. Tim moved to table adoption of the ordinance until all members of the Board are present. Joe seconded and the motion was passed. Hank will send an electronic copy to Gail.

Paul noted that the Planning Commission has advertised for the position of Zoning Administrator in the newspaper.

Warrant and checks were signed.

A correspondence from Robert and Carol Green of North Carolina requesting permission to purchase a cemetery plot in Sutton Village Cemetery was read. Tim moved to grant permission. Joe seconded and the motion was passed.

Tim moved to adjourn the meeting. Joe seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

These minutes prepared by Brandon Mazur, secretary