

SelectBoard Minutes - Wednesday February 13, 8 am

Attendance: John Ogden, Steve Hall, Michael Jeffrey, Andrea Ogden, Chrystal Cleary, Hal Wilkins

Call to order 8:15 am

1. The Selectboard approved pay orders, and signed the annual contract with CAI-Tech for the maintenance of the Town online Mapping program,
2. The person who cleans Town Hall (3-4 times a year - main room, kitchen and bathroom.) has relinquished our account, as she is moving to pursue a different kind of business. Suzy Harris does this type of work, so John will reach out to Suzy to discuss the opportunity.
3. Chrystal reports that she and Kimberly Eckhardt have been checking off the boxes to transition to Kimberly as signer on the People's and Stifel Accounts after Ms Eckhardt's election to the Treasurer post at Town Meeting. Some discussion of Town Meeting processes and elected offices: Michael Jeffery has asked for clarification on nominees, time and review of qualifications vs we will always have the possibility of a nominee from the floor. It is noted as well that Clerks and Treasurers report to the people and do not serve the Selectboard or any other officer.
4. Michael Jeffery asks about the Reserve Fund: the Town should have clarity, limits and purpose for that fund and not just sit on a bunch of taxpayer money. The Selectboard agrees and Mr Jeffery will make a proposal and will work with Andrea Ogden (whom the Board agrees to hire on an hourly basis as a financial consultant for this purpose as well as transitioning the new Treasurer for 3 months)
5. Framing of Artwork- the SB agrees to reimburse the Historical Society for half of the cost of framing two pieces of art (a Tom Dibble Sr gouache of "Lester Cody of the Landgrove Fire Department" and a Bobbie Comfort oil painting of all the houses of Landgrove that hang in the main room of Town Hall.
6. Computers and Network infrastructure at Town Hall: When the Town upgraded the internet service to 25MG, the router for the guest network was incompatible with the new service and no longer works. In addition, many systems for Town Computers (such as Rebit backup) are also obsolete and not functioning, and the machines themselves take a long time to start and run updates. With the transition in the Treasurer office, a new computer and software are required to replace former Treasurer Andrea Ogden's station as she was working on her personal machine with a personal license for QuickBooks, and the new Treasurer will require a Town license for Quickbooks and a modern machine to run it on. Dean Silloway of Silloway Networks came in last Thursday to review the current system and propose solutions to bring Town computers and networks up to date.

Discussion of the cost-benefit of switching from QuickBooks to NEMRC Treasurer module revealed that while QuickBooks is not technically approved for government accounting due to a lack of an account trail, the NEMRC module is much more expensive for our Town size. Peru also uses QuickBooks and there are about 60 small Towns in Vermont who do not use NEMRC. QuickBooks also allows for an easier transition from Andrea's established accounting set-up, and Kimberly is used to QuickBooks from previous jobs,

Mr Silloway observed that the Town's two current computers- the Lister Computer and the Clerk Computer, are ten years old and running Windows 7, which is being unsupported for

security and performance updates this coming January. These will need to be replaced with current machines, and backup and security systems would transition to the Cloud. A PC based system is required to run NEMRC which we use for our Grand List management and property tax billing, so there will be no Macs in the new fleet. The network servers are a Rube Goldberg contraption of wires and boxes some of which do not work anymore, so a simplification and upgrade are needed here as well.

Three computers are needed, and Clerk Chrystal has recommended that the Clerk computer be a laptop for portability due to the amount of daily work outside of office hours that is needed for Chrystal to perform from home (from writing minutes, agendas and reports, to responding to email actions from citizens, banks, the press and the state government, updating the Town Website, and web-based actions such as voter registration acceptance) which frees the Clerk for excellent customer attention during office hours as well as as the security of keeping personal and town data, password keychains and machines separate and safe.

Mr Silloway has worked up a proposal for replacing and simplifying Town Systems and increasing security systemwide, while restoring public access to the Internet on the Guest Network. A conference call is arranged for noon on Thursday the 14th to go over the proposal with Clerk Chrystal, SB John Ogden and Mr Silloway. After which the final proposal will be brought to the board to decide.

7. Zoning Administrator Hal Wilkins has spoken with several providers of telecom and internet services about getting Last Mile service to Landgrove residents. Essentially we are really only practically looking at Consolidated and Comcast, as most of the others serve business only, or do not reach this area specifically. Hal will invite Jeffrey Austin of Consolidated to come in and present to the SB.

8. Hal also reports that he has spoken with Mr Jones of Blue Door Farm (#24 Rte 11, once known as the MacCartney House or the Nordic Inn, but most recently serving as a residence before purchase by Mr Jones) regarding the complaint of Innkeeper Mr Tom Checchia regarding the use of the property as a short term rental and the permitting and taxation required for that use. Mr Jones was cordial and all of the tax and fire code/water codes actions are between him and the state, not the Town. The Property will need a Change of Use application as zoning is the only item the Town has any jurisdiction over. The Blue Door Farm property is within the Town's Commercial District, but it is individually permitted only for residential use at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05am.

submitted respectfully by
Chrystal Cleary