



Town of Thetford Vermont

3910 Vermont Route 113 • P.O. Box 126 • Thetford Center, VT 05075
802-785-2922 • thetfordvermont.us

Selectboard Special Meeting Minutes Thetford Town Offices (w/Virtual Attendance Option) Monday, January 9th, 2023 7:00 PM

Selectboard members present: Sharon Harkay (Chair), Li Shen (Vice-Chair), Mary Bryant, David Goodrich, Steve Tofel

Others present: Town Manager Bryan Gazda (via Zoom), Planning Commission Chair David Forbes (via Zoom), Selectboard Assistant Martie Betts

Participating community members: Melissa Krzal

Sharon Harkay called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

1. Agenda Review

The Selectboard agreed to the addition of executive session after minutes and warrants to discuss Attorney/Client matters.

2. Notes from the Selectboard Chair

This is the final week for people to respond to the survey on the American Rescue Plan Act Funds. The deadline is January 15th.

The Selectboard is also looking for nominations for the Civic Pride Award, and the deadline is January 31st.

Sharon is meeting tomorrow with the chair of the Thetford Elementary School Board to discuss Town Meeting. It was agreed that the school will have their Annual Meeting at 9:00 AM and they anticipate being done in an hour.

The Town Attorney has returned information to Sharon which is what will be discussed in the executive session.

Steve Tofel asked if a possible executive session could be added to every agenda just in case this situation comes up again.

3. Town Manager Report

1. Union Village Bridge Repairs

Bryan said he has an additional two items, but with the Union Village Bridge he was informed by Daniel's Construction about 2 weeks ago that they are ready to do the repairs. They are scheduled to do the repair from the 16th through the 18th. There will be a notice going out to residents in the area. It is a school bus route, so DPW Foreman Dale Lewis has coordinated with schools. It will be open at night. The cost is approximately \$12,000.00 but insurance will cover most of that.

2. New Regional Energy Coordinator

Bryan received an email that Jeff Grout has been appointed as the new regional energy coordinator but the only details are that he is from Randolph and his background is in the energy field. He will start in early February.

3. Underground Utilities



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On Friday Dale and I met with Mike McCabe and Kevin Matt from Green Mountain Power regarding the underground utilities at 945 Picknell Road. It should be an easy project to drop the underground utilities in.

4. Public Comment

Melissa Krzal said she listened to the recording of the last Selectboard meeting and shared her concerns that the tone became disrespectful and sounded like bullying. Melissa said she felt the behavior was inappropriate for a Selectboard meeting.

5. Planning Commission Reporting Form for Municipal By-Law Amendments

David Forbes, Chair of the Planning Commission, explained the proposed by-law amendments. There was discussion about whether the Town Attorney needed to review it before Selectboard approval.

There was discussion about possible legal challenges to restricting certain types of businesses in town.

Motion by Li Shen to accept the Planning Commission Reporting Form for Municipal By-Law Amendments and the attached amended sections of the Zoning Ordinance, with one addition of “business” in the definition of accessory dwelling unit after single-family dwelling. VOTE by Roll Call; Mary Bryant – in favor, Steve Tofel – in favor, Sharon Harkay – in favor, Li Shen – in favor, David Goodrich – in favor. **Motion passed.**

Motion by Steve Tofel that we seek advice from the Town Attorney regarding the formulaic inclusion in the bylaw. VOTE by Roll Call: Mary Bryant – in favor, Steve Tofel – in favor, Sharon Harkay – in favor, Li Shen - in favor, David Goodrich – in favor. **Motion passed.**

Motion by Li Shen that we hold a public hearing for the Interim Municipal By-Laws Amendment as part of the regular Selectboard meeting on February 6th. VOTE; All in favor (5-0-0) **Motion passed.**

6. Review of First Draft Warning for Town Meeting

The Selectboard reviewed the Draft Warning for Town Meeting. They discussed adding the article for reducing the number of members on the Tri-Town Commission and the appropriation request from Orange County Parent Child Center. The language for the exemption of the Fire Department property was discussed.

The Selectboard will vote on the warning at the next Selectboard meeting.

7. Warrants and Minutes

49.1	\$23649.87
25.2	\$2367.50
46.3	\$77928.66
25.4	\$21205.17
25A.4	\$5916.15
26.4	\$25240.17
26A.4	10982.95



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Motion by Sharon Harkay to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of December 19, 2022, as amended. VOTE; All in favor. (5-0-0) **Motion passed.**

Motion by Mary Bryant to accept the warrants as signed. VOTE; All in favor. (5-0-0) **Motion passed.**

8. Addition to agenda - Executive Session to Discuss Confidential Attorney-Client Communications per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)

Motion by Sharon Harkay to suspend the regular Selectboard meeting at 8:23 PM and go into Executive Session to discuss attorney opinions on three different issues and to invite the Town Manager. VOTE; All in favor. (5-0-0) **Motion passed.**

Motion by Sharon Harkay to leave Executive Session at 9:08 PM and resume the regular Selectboard meeting. VOTE; All in Favor. (5-0-0) **Motion passed.**

Bryan Gazda will get estimates for services, to compare for Jackson Brook Road.

Bryan Gazda will contact the DPW union representative regarding the potential re-opening of contract negotiations.

The Selectboard will ask the Town attorney to flesh out the draft of the Agricultural Tax Stabilization Policy.

9. Adjourn

Motion by Steve to adjourn the Selectboard meeting at 9:10 PM. VOTE; All in favor. (5-0-0) **Motion passed.**