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## Regular Selectboard Meeting

July 11, 2022

Unapproved Minutes

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeff Cathcart, Diane O’Classen, and Thomasina Magoon

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Vickee Whiting, James Hayes, Marci Hayes, Dave Sabatini, and Aaron Todd

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**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** Meeting called to order by Jeff Cathcart. 7:02pm  
Jeff Cathcart stated the meetings are for the Selectboard, not for the people who are attending the public meeting to participate in throughout. He stated it gets very difficult when there are interruptions during the entire board meeting. He will not listen to concerns or questions until the appropriate time, under Citizens Concerns.

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**CHANGES TO AGENDA** N/A

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**MEETING MINUTES MOTION** Diane O’Classen motions to accept the minutes as written with no changes. Thomasina 2nd. 1 min

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**NEW BUSINESS** 2 min

Assistant Treasurer hourly rate Vickee stated on July 1 2022, the Listers and Auditors (excluding the chair) that have been employed 5+ years, received an increase in pay. Vickee stated that she feels that the Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Town Clerk should also be considered for a pay raise if they have worked in that position for 5+ years. Vickee requested this be considered in the November budget meeting. Jeff Cathcart would like Marci to start a spread sheet for the budget meeting of items that they need to discuss. This discussion would be for assistants for 5+ years or over for a pay increase from \$15 to



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\$16 an hour.

Agenda and  
Minutes for the  
Board

Jeff stated this was discussed with his address at the beginning of the meeting.

1 min

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**OLD BUSINESS**

1 hr  
4min

Setting Town and  
Road Tax Rate for  
the 2022-2023  
fiscal year.

Vickee stated that Susanne is not present tonight, she will be doing the Tax discussion. Vickee stated the Grand List is \$270,780.00. The Town tax rate is .4106 This is an increase, the budget went up for the Town from last year.

Road Tax rate is .5667, this came down from last fiscal year.

Education tax rate from State non-homestead is 1.5844 last year it was 1.7263. Education tax rate for homestead is 1.3810, last year it was 1.4361.

Vickee stated that Kevin (previous Treasurer) always did the combined rate, this is reflected on the hardcopy that Vickee gave to the board. Dave Sabatini inquired about what Kevin did. Jeff Cathcart stated that any questions or comments will be heard during citizens' concerns. Jeff Cathcart inquired about the total combined rates. Vickee stated for non homestead the combined rate is 2.5617 and for homestead the combined rate is 2.3583

Thomasina motions to accept the tax rate as presented by Vickee. Diane O'Classen 2nd. Vickee asked the abstract to be signed by the board.



**MOTION FOR TAX  
RATE**

**July 23rd Tax Sale**

Correction on the tax sale date, it is actually on July 30th (NOT 23rd, this was a typo). Vickee stated the tax sale for 10am on July 30th has been canceled. She continued to report that on June 7, 2022 a bill was signed by the Governor. This states there is a Vermont Homeowner Assistant program, the delinquent homeowner was sent a notice today. According to the new bill the homeowner has 60 days to apply for assistance. If awarded the State will pay the delinquent's taxes and all fees and fines associated. Vickee Whiting will relate back after the 60 days. If the owner has not applied for assistance and payment was not received by the State then Vickee must repeat the process of the tax sale. Vickee spoke with VLCT and this is how they advised to proceed with the situation.

**Loan of \$30,000.00  
from Roads to  
Town**

Jeff Stated that Thomasina called VLCT regarding the transfer of \$30,000.00 from the Road Account to the Town Account. Jeff Cathcart stated that when the Town Report is written it needs to be clear with what the Town did. Diane O'Classen clarified that it will be paid back, the Town Account will repay the Road Account. Thomasina stated that it is now something that Towns can do, whereas previously it was not allowed, however as a practice and in good faith transfers such as this should be paid back to the account from which it was drawn from. Vickee recommended the reimbursement be done after the November 15th taxes comes in.

**Garbage Collection**

Jeff Cathcart reported that the Town truck is no longer working, it will not go forward, only reverse. Jim's truck is out of commission as well and is being worked on. Jim's truck has been used for the garbage run for the past three weeks. Jeff Cathcart stated his thought was to park both Town dump trucks at the Town Garage and have a drop off this week due to the emergency. This would only be a temporary situation. Thomasina stated that she spoke to Marci as well and is aware of the situation. Thomasina would like to pick up trash this week, she feels that it is too



short notice and would like to give people until next week before the drop off. Jeff Cathcart inquired with Dave Sabatini if he is still charging \$50 an hour for use of his truck. Dave Sabatini stated that he charges \$65 an hour. Marci stated that she spoke with Tracy Wyman and Goshen residents can drop off at the dump in Brandon. He would charge the same as Brandon residents if Goshen was to switch waste districts, if not there is a minimal increase in cost. Goshen is a part of Addison County Waste District so if Goshen takes their trash to another district there is an added \$35 per ton per month charge to the Town of Goshen. Other options are; drop off ourselves in Town, have drop off contracted out with another hauler, and buy an adequate garbage truck to do the curbside collection. Marci stated that the transfer station mentioned R&L Rubbish and Ackers are haulers that provide service for 90% of the drop off sites in Addison County. Jeff Cathcart inquired with Vickee regarding how much is in the equipment replacement fund. Vickee stated that there is \$5,500.00 left in the fund. Thomasina inquired about what the Town should do. Diane O'Classen stated that she would like to keep drop off in Town as opposed to having it out of Town. Jim Hayes stated that the way the garbage is done now is not effective and he feels it costs more than other options that are worth exploring. Vickee stated that the Chittenden Treasurer told her that Chittenden offers a weekday evening and Saturday Morning for drop off hours. Marci stated for now she would like the drop off on Wednesday, the regular garbage day. Thomasina expressed concern with those that are leaving early for work and can not bring their garbage down. Marci stated that there have already been volunteers to pick up neighbors' garbage if they can not make those hours. Thomasina inquired about leaving a dumpster and having open hours from 6 or 7 in the morning through later in the day. Jim stated that a dump site must be supervised. Marci said that if a dumpster or trailer is parked down without people to monitor, too much would be left and people would abuse it being there. This was a problem when the truck and trailer was parked at the Town Garage, it was routinely half full before the run. Marci also stated that having the hours of drop off need to correspond with when the transfer station



is open so that trash isn't sitting in Town for too long of a time, this creates vermin issues as well as odor especially in summer months. Jim said he has already received complaints about both weekday hours as well as those that would not make it down for weekend hours. Thomasina inquired if there would still need to be two people to operate the drop off. Jeff Cathcart said yes. Vickee said for safety purposes two people should be there. Marci also said two would be good, especially if one person is handling money then the other can assist with people. Jeff Cathcart said it is also beneficial if one can not get there until a little later, the other can open up. Diane O'Classen inquired about if people would still need to buy the tickets if they have more than one bag. Marci said with the drop off, people can pay with cash on site. Jeff Cathcart inquired if Green Mountain Garage can do a cost spreadsheet on the maintenance that it cost on the garbage truck. Jeff Cathcart inquired with the board on what to do. Thomasina would like signs to go up stating that drop off will start next Wednesday. Recycling and garbage pick up will continue one more week. Thomasina would like to see what other people would cost, she would like to have a written estimate from other haulers. Dave will do garbage this week with his truck and haul the Town trailer. He will pick up recycling, garbage, and compost. He inquired about Blueberry Hill and Camp Thorpe. Jim said Camp Thorpe has been leaving a trailer of recycling only and only during camp operation hours (one month of the year). Marci said to take 4 bins and 4 bags from Blueberry Hill. This is three more bags than everyone else is allowed but the Board made this decision a year or so ago, Marci would like to revisit this, she would like to see everyone treated the same and no one allowed beyond what others are allowed, it needs to be fair for everyone. Marci offered to help Dave Sabatini this Wednesday if he would like. Thomasina would like this on the agenda a month out. Jim said that there is a routine with picking up garbage. He and Marci will talk with Dave on Wednesday morning about the details of the run. Marci will print out a flier about the change and give them to Dave to drop off everywhere that he picks up trash to notify citizens of the change. Jeff Cathcart inquired about how this would be factored with the



taxes, as people are paying for waste. Vickee said that the line item would change to who the contractor is. Thomasina will also add information and a notice on the website.

**ROADS**

11 min

Melvin Coddling,  
Roadside Mowing  
*MOTION FOR  
ROADSIDE  
MOWING*

Mel asked to have a \$200 raise to do the roadside mowing due to the increase of fuel cost. Jeff Cathcart makes a motion to have Melvin Coddling do the roadside mowing with a \$200 increase from last year's price. Diane O'Classen 2nd. Jim stated that it would be for roadside mowing only as he believes Mel no longer has the boom cutter, for the brush. Jeff Cathcart said the Town does not own the equipment that most other towns own, so many of these services need to be contracted out. Furthermore Jeff stated that all town employees and those on the road crew are part time only, there is not a full time road crew. The people could choose to have a full time road crew but the Town would need to have an increase in cost to pay for the benefits that are mandatory when a job becomes full time such as overtime, health insurance, paid vacation and sick time.

Hathaway Culvert  
& Culvert  
plan/timeline

Jeff Cathcart said that the Hathaway Culvert is being worked on by himself, Jim and Marci. He hauled stone for the armoring. Marci and Jim set the large stones down near the culvert today, it is half done. Jeff said that the Town loader blew a tire while in operation, Jim said this will be about \$1300 for tire and labor. Vickee reported that budgeted for parts, is \$10,000.

Thomasina inquired about guardrails, who decides on putting the guardrails. Jeff stated that there are no guardrail grants available. Jim stated that he has installed sections of guardrail previously in Town. He said that they need to be set in and the guardrail needs to overlap a certain way for safety. Jim stated that the Town has the posts and guardrail for the Hathaway project. Jim said the road crew can do the guardrail installation. Thomasian inquired about installing guardrails in other locations around Town, she is concerned



with the curve at the bottom of the hill on Flora White Rd, this area has a considerable drop off. Jeff stated that LaFrance is the local guardrail people, they are out of Essex. Marci said that Howard Stickney put in the guardrails on Goshen Ripton Rd near Broken Wire Drive. Thomasina inquired about using the money transferred from last fiscal year for a project like putting guardrails where needed. Thomasina inquired about other areas that need attention. Jeff Cathcart said that Carlisle Hill could use a guardrail section. Jim said that the trees prevent vehicles from going down the bank on Carlisle, he would prioritize the Flora White area as there is nothing to stop the vehicle from going over. Jim also stated that there is a guardrail that needs to be repaired. It is too low and when plowing if they are not careful the plow will go up and over the guardrail, this is in North Goshen.

Paving Bids

Jeff Cathcart stated that he sent out the copy of the bid specs to Marci. He would like her to put an ad in the paper for an invitation to bid, Jeff will give her more information tomorrow in the Office. Thomasina inquired if the bid should be accessible online. Jeff Cathcart stated that would be fine, he will have hard copies for people to pick up at the office and he can also email them per request.

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**CITIZENS CONCERNS** Dave Sabatini inquired about the money moved of \$30,000 if it will defray the taxes, Vickee said no. Dave asked about the garbage labor fees, if that is separate from tipping fees, and from Maintenance cost. Vickee said that Addison County Solid Waste (ACSW) has its own line item, Vickee said there is payroll, then from ACSW a monthly bill received. These two expenses are separate, they are not combined. Thomasina said that Susanne is working on this figure, the cost of doing the garbage. Jim said he has spoken with Susanne and she is working on it. Dave inquired about maintenance, if pay is received for maintenance. Dave inquired with Jim if the trailer has been greased and air pressure is adequate, if this is something that he needs to have done. Marci stated that the trailer is at Jim's house and they will take care of it and have it ready for him to pick up. 29 min



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Jeff Cathcart handed the gavel to Diane O'Classen. Jeff Cathcart made it known that he is now speaking not as a board member but under Citizen Concerns. Jeff Cathcart stated that the Town Hill Rd paving project from route 73 to the Town Hall bridge, from beginning to end is potentially available at no cost to the Town, the entire paving project could be fully covered by a grant from the Federal Service. Jeff Cathcart does not want to see opposition to the US Forest Service. The residents lately have been very vocal and critical of the Forest Service due to the Silver Lake Hut proposal, Jeff Cathcart expresses his concern and hopes that no citizen of Goshen would tamper or hinder with the grant process in any way because of its connection with the Forest Service. Jeff Cathcart stated that this FLAP grant is a considerable amount of money. Town Hill is an access road, US forest service road Route 32. Jeff Cathcart would like to see the grant come to this town. Vickee commented that the hut is in Leicester, not even in Goshen and does not see where it should be a matter for Goshen. Jeff is concerned and does not want the Forest Service to get a bad impression towards Goshen because of a few of the citizens that may be unhappy with them. Jeff Cathcart will be sad and upset if the Town was denied the grant. Dave Sabatini said that the Town should look at all the work that Forest Service does. Thomasina commented that the Forest Service is a service to the people, it is the taxpayers that pay for the service. Marci inquired about the pull off area, she stated that the Forest Service hired Goshen to install a few pull off areas for roadside parking and access to Moosalamoo Recreation area, this is an area that is not maintained by the Town but was agreed to be by the Forest Service or Moosalamoo. She inquired about the large tree that has been down since mid winter, it is sticking out in the pull off area and is taking up a parking space and could potentially be a problem, she inquired who is doing the work regarding this.

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**ANY OTHER BUSINESS** Jeff Cathcart (now acting back as Board member) stated that a letter was received from Dave Todd detailing work done on South Hill Road. Jeff Cathcart would like Marci to send a



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thank you letter, and also a load of  $\frac{3}{4}$  minus up there. Dave Sabatini inquired if a small truck should be used to bring gravel to South Hill, he offered his services. Jim Hayes said that a small truck should deliver there as it is more difficult with the large trucks. When his truck is fixed he will bring a load or two up there for Dave Todd, unless Dave Sabatini would like to. Thomasina stated that she would rather have Jim Hayes deliver with his truck as he is the more affordable choice.

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**EXECUTIVE  
SESSION IF NEEDED**

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**MOTION TO  
ADJOURN**

Motion to Adjourn made by Diane O'Classen  
Thomasina 2nd.

8:44pm

*Respectfully submitted by Marci Hayes*