

Town of Whiting Select Board Meeting
Unapproved Minutes
Date: Thursday December 29, 2022 @ 9:00am
The Whiting Town Office

Attendance:

~~SB~~ Bob Wood, Marcia King, Steve Quenneville

~~Town Clerk~~ Heather Bouchard

~~Visitors~~ Stacey Freeguard, Eli and Jen Erwin

~~Meeting opened at~~ 9:00am

Any additions or deletions from agenda: Board unanimously approved that the truck box be paid for out of the 2022 budget.

Stacey showed the board an Errors & Omissions form for one property. She also wanted to let the board know that because of the CLA & CLD numbers she just received, the town will be required to do a reappraisal in the next couple of years. The CLA was at 84% and when it falls below 85% the state requires a new town appraisal.

Jen had a request to make a change in the Nov. minutes. She wanted to change: In July the Board and Jen discussed a limb that was hanging, to, In July Bob and Jen discussed a limb that was hanging. Everyone agreed to this.

Stacey wanted to add to the November minutes: Heather had offered to have a Special Meeting for the Erwin's with the Selectboard before the November meeting. Everyone agreed to this.

Public Comment/Unscheduled Appearances (limited to 15 minutes TOTAL) Eli and Jen wanted to discuss the tree removal on West RD.

Eli and Jen feel the removal of the trees made a scar on their property.

Jen talked about the VT Tree Law and the process for removing regular trees in the town right of way. She stated that this process is for the benefit of the town.

Jen gave the board a handout on this information.

Eli read some of this document to the board.

Jen pointed out that the VT Department of Forestry has Delwin Fielder listed as the Town Tree Warden.

The board responded that they did not appoint him. They have not been able to find someone that wanted the position.

Eli and Jen would like to get a Tree Warden appointed and work with them to adopt a tree policy.

Jen would like this to be discussed at town meeting.

Jen brought up the Open Meeting Law. She does not feel the board should have voted on the removal of the trees the same night they looked at the quote because it was not on the posted agenda.

Heather responded that the board has the right to add things to the agenda at the beginning of the meeting and they had just received the quote that day.

Eli said they had a certified arborist come look at the trees after they were cut, and he said two of them were dead.

Eli feels the property value has gone down because of the trees being removed and would like their taxes adjusted.

Stacey said the town listers do not appraise on landscaping. This means the tree removal would not change their property assessment. She told them they are welcome to come to grievance.

Eli asked about the plan for the wood.

Steve said it was theirs unless they did not want to deal with it, then the town could take care of it. Eli and Jen both said they have had a lot of people interested in it. They would like to offer it to Mike Bertrand first. Marcia said she did not think Mike wanted it but she would check with him.

If Mike doesn't want it Eli and Jen will talk to the other people that are interested in the wood.

Eli asked what the plan was to have the stumps removed. Steve responded that the town would hire someone to take them out. Eli asked if the town could hire McCullough Brothers or another professional tree stump removal service. Bob said yes that the board would try to get McCullough Brothers and if they were booked, they would hire another professional service.

Bob and Eli had a discussion and Bob got mad and left.

Minutes Approved from meeting dated: November 28, 2022

Old Business: Website: Jen & Eli Erwin are still researching options. Jen asked Heather to call VLCT to see if they can help with this.

New Business: Discuss what needs to be completed for year end. All business has been completed for 2022.

Start talking about the 2023 budget. Handed out paperwork for the board to start looking at.

Executive Session:

Review of mail/email received:

Orders Approved: Yes

Next scheduled meeting:

January 23, 2022

Meeting Closed at-10:37am