

## TOWN OF RIPTON SELECTBOARD MINUTES

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Meeting No.</b>	<b>Start:</b>	<b>End:</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b>Next Time</b>
8-11-08	2008-15	7:30	11:45	08-25-08	7:30 p.m.
<b>Attendees:</b>	William Ford, Laureen Cox, and Ronald Wimett, Selectboard ; Debra Karpak, Clerk to the Selectboard and Peter Karpak, Associate Clerk to the Selectboard				
<b>Visitors:</b>	National Forest Service: Chris Hanrahan, Rob Hoeschler; Addison County Regional Planning Commission: Tim Bouton; Legislators: Claire Ayer; Harold Giard; Office of Patrick Leahy: Ethan Ready Billings Farm Road: Spokesperson: Charles Billings; Alison Joseph; Residents: Dean Rheame, Justine Billings, Kathy Angier, Max Billings, Todd and Elizabeth Seguin, Ruth Nolan, Joseph Durante; Melvin Coddington Neshoebe Road: Chris Smith				
<b>Minutes:</b>					
<b>Approval / Actions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voted unanimously to resolve to borrow the sum of \$500,000 to be used for the emergency road repairs in anticipation of FEMA funding. Moved W. Ford, second L. Cox.</li> <li>• The Board stated that they would be willing to have residents on Billings Farm Road pay their share of repairs resulting from the Storm of 6-14-08 on a repayment schedule mutually agreed upon.</li> <li>• Voted unanimously that a letter be sent to the Acting District Ranger of the National Forest Service requesting that they develop a gravel pit that the Town can also access on the FR130 site. (<i>see below</i>)</li> <li>• Chair W. Ford signed the Vermont Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund State Share whereby the State reimburses 15% of the project costs for the Storm Damage of 06-14-08 vs. 12.5%</li> <li>• Approved the installation of 2 road signs indicating curves on national Forest Road 59 in response to a letter from a resident.</li> </ul>				
<b>Orders:</b>	Orders for 08-11-08 were reviewed and signed: Total for Roads: \$239,540.94 for this period. General Fund: \$58,840.34.				
<b>Reports:</b>					
<b>Delinquent Taxes</b>	As 08-05-08 the total delinquent taxes for 2005, 2006, 2007 due, including interest and fees, is \$28,315.05. Total 2005 delinquent taxes due, including interest and fees, are \$1,558.66. Total 2006 delinquent taxes due, including interest and fees, are \$6,054.90. Total 2007 delinquent taxes due, including interest and fees, are \$20,701.49.				
<b>Road Commissioner Report</b>	Culverts/Bridges	<i>One culvert replaced on each of the following:</i> Natural Turnpike, Robbins Cross, North Branch <i>Five replaced and two pending on::</i> Dugway			
	Gravel/Resurfacing	Completed for 2008.			
	Major Roads Reconstruction Projects	This section has become flooded roads reconstruction projects for this year.			

<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
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### Roads

08-03-RDWLIM	<b>Weight Limits</b>	02-11-08	08-11-08	DK
	Town bridges exceed the road-carry capacity; no bridges need posting.			

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08-03-RD125NT	<b>Intersection RT 125 &amp; Natural Turnpike</b>	02-11-08	Ongoing	DK/RW
<p>Ronald Wimett will contact local/state VTrans personnel to discuss a partnership in increasing visibility at the intersection of RT 125 and Natural Turnpike.</p>				

08-11-STMD	<b>Storm Damage 06-14-08</b>	06-14-08	Ongoing	BD
<p>On 07-21-08 the Board met at the Ruane/Chesman residence to look at property damage resulting from the Storm of 6-14-08. The Board suggested some possible solutions one of which is for the owners to have a maple tree removed from the front yard, which will aid in improved drainage. The owners will respond to the suggestions. The Board Clerk will follow-up prior to meeting of 08-25-08.</p> <p><u>Billings Farm Road Residents:</u></p> <p>A request was brought forward by residents of Billings Farm Road. FEMA is only applicable to private residents if there is no access by Emergency Vehicles. FEMA will only reimburse 75% to a level that will allow for emergency vehicle access, not to restore to pre-existing condition nor to improve to a standard and the reimbursement is contingent upon the Town being the agent and performing the repairs.</p> <p>The request of the residents as stated by Charles Billings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) The Town agrees to do the emergency repair</li> <li>(2) That repairs be completed by September 11 so as to allow access for fuel deliveries in preparation for winter.</li> <li>(3) Due to the financial aspects of FEMA, residents are asked to take on a financial burden to offset both the portion that FEMA will not pay, as well as repairs that will repair the area to a more permanent nature. Some residents are asking for an extension in reimbursing the Town for the difference between the cost to the Town minus FEMA reimbursement.</li> </ol> <p>Discussion took place in brainstorming other ideas to defray the costs of the residents. Claire Ayer and Willem Jewett have been pursuing information on grants, state/local aid, etc. The residents are planning a fundraiser. This portion of the meeting closed.</p> <p><u>Fiscal Responsibility</u></p> <p>The Board agreed that there should be a procedure to assure proper billing and payments will be made on invoices as follows:</p>				

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- (1) Invoices will be reviewed and initialed by both Ron Wimett, Road Commissioner and Peter Karpak, Associate Board Clerk.
- (2) R. Wimett will confirm tonnage. P. Karpak will do a random double check calculations by contractors
- (3) The Town Treasurer will continue to expense checks, Board Clerk or Associate Board Clerk will review checks matched against invoices and inform Treasurer if there is discrepancy.
- (4) Town Treasurer will continue to provide an updated expense report exclusive to the invoices for the Storm of 06-14-08.

The Associate Board Clerk will produce an updated budget report for each meeting. It will include loan amount borrowed, amount spent, estimates, and expenses broken out by contractor by project.

08-11-STMDA	<b>National Forest Service Gravel Pit</b>	08-11-08	Ongoing	BD
<p>Discussion occurred between the Town and the National Forest Service's as a result of a need for a strategically located gravel pit site; due to the recent storm damage, need has increased.</p> <p>The reasons include:</p> <p><i>Environmental</i>—numerous loads are needed and the only recourse is transporting from a distance which causes too much use of fuel; trucks traveling a longer distance with adverse affect to the environment; and more trips causing more wear and tear on Town roads</p> <p><i>Economic</i>—cost of gravel and cost of fuel</p> <p><i>Logistical</i>—recent storm damage has caused roads to be closed which has limited transporting gravel, which in turn delays road repair and access.</p> <p>The discussion included the possibility of this project being part of a Stewardship Contract whereby the Forest Service may channel funding to the project as well as reclamation of the site once the gravel pit runs out.</p> <p><i>(see Approval/Action above)</i></p>				

08-15-STORM8	<b>Storm of 08-06-08</b>	08-11-08	Ongoing	BD
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The Storm of 08-06-08 did damage several Town roads and private roads. Chris Smith was seeking direction in terms of private road repair, emergency access, and FEMA guidelines. He was informed that the same criteria is used for this storm as in the previous storm in June, i.e. in the event that the Storm of 08-06-08 is declared a disaster, the work is done either by the Town or an agent of the Town and if there is no way for emergency vehicles to reach a residence, repairs can be made to the point where vehicles can access the residence, not necessarily to a permanent state.

### Town Buildings

08-03-TBLDCA	<b>Town Buildings Caretaker</b>	02-11-08	Ongoing	BD/PK
Due to lack of a number of candidates, the Board Clerk will post in the Addison Independent.				

### Miscellaneous

08-09-FACRN	<b>Facility Rental</b>	05-12-08	Ongoing	DK
The report of the Board Clerk re: Vermont League of Cities and Towns regarding Model Facility Rental Agreements and Model Facility Use Policy and how it aligns with the Town's rental policy of the Community House was postponed to the meeting of 08-25-08				

08-09-LIAINS	<b>Liability Insurance</b>	05-12-08	Ongoing	DK
The Board recently received information from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns regarding Tenant User Liability Insurance. The Board Clerk will look at this information as it aligns with present practice and will report to the Board so that there is input to assure that the best interest of the Town is taken into consideration. A report was postponed to the meeting of 08-25-08				

William Ford

Lauren Cox

Ronald Wimett