

**TOWN OF RIPTON  
SELECTBOARD MINUTES  
11-14-11**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Meeting No.</b>	<b>Start:</b>	<b>End:</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b>Next Time</b>
11-14-11	2011-25	7:30	10:15	11-28-11	7:30 p.m.
<b>Attendees:</b>	Laureen Cox, Ronald Wimett, Richard Collitt, Selectboard; Alison Joseph, Board Clerk				
<b>Visitors:</b>	Erik Eriksen, Warren King, Steve Zwicky				
<b>Minutes:</b>	Approved and signed minutes of 10-24-11				
<b>Approval / Actions:</b>	<p>Reviewed All-Hazards Mitigation Plan, approved that comments to the Regional Planning Commission be made by Alison Joseph and Warren King.</p> <p>Considered Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program for further review and possible public informational meeting, prior to completion of the 2012 Town Meeting Warning.</p> <p>Approved tropical storm Irene post-disaster assessment to be done in winter 2012.</p> <p>Signed letter of intent for Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP/NRCRS) grant funds.</p> <p>Approved seeking Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (FEMA/HMGP) funds for Peddlers Bridge Rd., Dragon Brook Rd., Lincoln Rd., and engineering assistance through UVM.</p> <p>Approved letter and emergency protective measure agreement for property owners on private roads.</p> <p>Approved that the Town own a storage building proposed by REAP for location on School land, if the School does not wish to own it.</p> <p>Approved that the amendment to the Speed Ordinance for addition of a School Zone be sent to the Town's attorney for review.</p> <p>Approved that Joyce Henderson open and reconcile bank statements with hourly compensation from assistant clerk/treasurer funds.</p> <p>Approved that Angolano &amp; Co., CPAs be hired for a cash flow analysis of 2010-2011.</p> <p>Approved Cartographic Associates contract for tax mapping, \$950.00.</p>				
<b>Orders:</b>	Reviewed and signed: Roads: \$43,757.89; General Fund: \$20,654.58				
<b>Reports:</b>	<p>Delinquent tax collector: Total due for 2008-2010 as of 11-03-11 is \$18,242.78</p> <p>Treasurer: Budget report and memos reviewed.</p> <p>Listers: The State approved the 2011 reappraisal.</p> <p>Zoning Administrator: No hearings, applications, or completions for Oct. 2011.</p> <p>VSP Community Advisory Board: Report as of Aug. 1. Traffic stops on Rt. 125 helped this summer, and for April-July crime was considered low.</p> <p>Emergency Mgt. Coordinator: Will Mathis of Goshen will assist with computer work.</p>				
<b>Roads report:</b>	<p><b>Tropical storm Irene - August 28, 2011 flood</b></p> <p>Chris Brunelle, ANR, issued permits for three projects all of which were completed by Champlain Construction: the Goshen Rd. bridge bank armor; debris clearing below the village; and village riprap repair. Questions were asked about the size and source of rock at the Goshen Rd. bridge. There is large rock below the smaller rock that shows at the surface. Champlain Construction purchased the rock. The tree debris cleared below the village was delivered to the town shed area for REAP. Input about the riprap repair project scope of work and easements were received from Sally Hoyler, Bruce Malhotra, and Carol McKnight.</p> <p>A permit request for work in the river along the Lincoln Rd. was denied. Chris Brunelle proposed that a low-lying stretch of the road be elevated as a possible mitigation measure. He was asked about, but could not authorize removal of a beaver dam.</p> <p>Bob Kort, NRCS, did not approve the debris removal below the village (Scribner site) for the NRCS program, but believes another site may be eligible. A letter of intent for application to the program was signed.</p> <p>Bills were sent to Old Town Rd. residents for emergency protective measure repairs. Dea-</p>				

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	<p>con Hill Rd. and Scott Rd. residents were notified of estimated bill amounts, and that application for FEMA Private Assistance grants may be made through Nov. 15<sup>th</sup></p> <p>The washouts on the class 4 section of Wagon Wheel Rd. were repaired. A culvert was added east of an existing culvert to ease drainage, as suggested at a FEMA site inspection. Two damaged culverts were replaced with culverts of equal size because the original size successfully handled water flow during severe storms.</p>	
<b>Roads (cont.)</b>	Culverts/Bridges	A Better Backroads grant was submitted for replacement of a culvert on Natural Turnpike.
	General	Hauling winter sand is done.
	Class 2 Rd grant	Work, including road striping, is complete.
	Road signs	
	Major Projects	Bridge 16 Natural Turnpike: A construction completion inspection is scheduled for 11-15-11.
	School speed zone	Draft language will be sent to the Town's attorney for review.
<b>Town Clerk</b>	<p><b>Records management policy:</b> A draft policy was submitted 10-24-11 and will be discussed with the board and key town officials 11-28-11.</p> <p><b>Petitions for the town meeting ballot:</b> Some petitions are complete. Opinions from other clerks about petition requirements other than annual have not yet been solicited.</p>	
<b>Town buildings</b>	Chris Smith will brush hog behind the buildings. REAP cleaned the town shed area, in time for trees from river debris removal to be delivered. Work in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor storage area at the town office is progressing.	
<b>Correspondence:</b>	Funding requests and/or info from Humane Society, ACT, VT Trails and Greenways, filed for budget prep.	
<b>Old business:</b>	<p><b>Enforcement:</b> The sheriff believes the Daignault property is in compliance and will report at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Middlebury College, School gift-in-kind:</b> The School has been notified to make requisition requests, particularly for ski programs by 12/31/11, and to include the use of the gift-in-kind funds in its budget. The College was asked to send quarterly reports on gift-in-kind use. The College overpaid its taxes; a refund was approved in the Orders, and a check from the College returned.</p> <p><b>Private road emergency work agreement:</b> The cover letter and agreement were approved, and will be mailed to all private road property owners.</p> <p><b>REAP shed:</b> The School approved that REAP locate a storage building on their land, near the fire station. REAP does not wish to own the building. If the School does not wish to own the building, the Town will be owner.</p>	

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<b>New business:</b>	<p><b>ACSWMD and Recycling:</b> Steve Zwicky, Ripton’s representative to ACSWMD, asked if any concerns about the transfer station have been heard and gave an update on services. In 2012 the transfer station will accept single stream recycling. Discussion continued that the Town’s 2011 recycling costs are over-budget with our current hauler and disposal service, Casella Waste Management. The Board has not heard any concerns about the transfer station, and truly appreciates Mr. Zwicky’s service.</p> <p><b>All-Hazards Mitigation Plan:</b> An updated plan was received from Tim Bouton, ACRPC. The plan is required for the HMGP grant program. The Board noted the following: that the plan needs updating through Tropical Storm Irene and the 2010 census; that flooding should be emphasized as the most likely hazard; that the list of projects needs correction; and that the Town buildings should be more specifically mentioned. Also discussed were: a post-Irene assessment meeting to be scheduled in winter 2012; an emergency planning meeting with Bread Loaf, Silver Towers, USFS staff, and town officials; creation of a community resource list; and upgrading of a fire road at the Oak Ridge trail/Old Town Rd. for emergency access. Warren King distributed a recently written report by Vermont river scientists, including Roy Schiff who designed our village mitigation project, “To Dig or Not to Dig.”</p> <p><b>PACE:</b> Warren King, Town Energy Coordinator, provided an overview of Property Assessed Clean Energy, PACE, a national program that provides loans via property liens for energy improvements. In Vermont, the loans are available to homeowners and administered through Efficiency Vermont. However, a town must vote to participate as a PACE district, typically through an item on the town meeting warning. Towns serve as a pass-through for loan payment because payment is made through a line on the property tax bill, with the PACE amount due sent to Efficiency Vermont. There is no fee to a town for participation. There are several requirements for homeowner eligibility and the size of the loan. Peter Adamczyk of Efficiency Vermont will be asked to do a public presentation about the program here.</p> <p><b>Financial practices:</b> The Selectboard discussed its role in instituting financial safeguards, recommendations from the State Auditor, and number of signers on accounts. The Board agreed with the Treasurer’s proposal that someone other than an account signer reconcile bank statements, and approved that Joyce Henderson do so. It was agreed to require only one signer on a check, because all checks are reviewed by a minimum of 2 Board members. The Board also discussed this year’s budget versus last year’s and approved that the auditors, Angolano &amp; Co. be asked to do a cash flow analysis for 2010-2011 in addition to the 2011 audit.</p>
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Laureen Cox

Ronald Wimett

Richard Collitt