

**TOWN OF RIPTON  
SELECTBOARD MINUTES  
02-13-2012**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting No.</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b>Time</b>
02-13-2012	2012-04	7:30	9:15	02-27-12	7:30 p.m.
<b>Attendees</b>	Ronald Wimett, Richard Collitt, Selectboard (Lauren Cox was absent due to illness); Alison Joseph, Board clerk				
<b>Visitors</b>	Robert Wagner				
<b>Minutes</b>	Approved and signed minutes of 01-23-12 (approved on 01-30 but not signed), and 01-30-12.				
<b>Approval / Actions</b>	Approved 2012 liquor license for the Chipman Inn. Approved to hire Geoff Booth to clean the Community House at a rate to be determined. Approved school speed zone ordinance; effective date 04-13-12 if no petition received by 03-28-12. Approved Ripton School gift-in-kind request \$4,536. Signed Class II MUTCD Sign Program Grant #GR0170 for Lincoln Rd. 2011 signs. Signed certification of compliance for town road and bridge standards. Signed Efficiency Vermont Municipal Street Light Program Memorandum of Agreement.				
<b>Orders</b>	Reviewed and signed: Roads: \$8,485.00; General Fund: \$9,942.62.				
<b>Delinquent Taxes</b>	Total due as of 02-03-12 \$44,929.88. Owners of two properties were sent letters requesting payment by 05-15-12. If taxes are not paid, the matter will go to the town attorney for tax sale.				
<b>Discussion with visitors: Smart Meters and Town Meeting</b>	Robert Wagner attended to discuss an ordinance he proposes to ban smart meter installation in Ripton. His request to include a question about the ordinance came after the deadline for the Town Meeting Warning, and he was encouraged to raise the topic during Article 8: any other business. Smart meters replace existing electric meters and transmit a wireless signal to a utility company. Mr. Wagner opposes smart meter technology because of health and privacy concerns. The health concerns are due to constant, widely broadcast electromagnet- ic signals. The privacy concerns relate to the detailed information a utility company gathers, and the difficulty of keeping that information secure. He pointed out the ecological, energy saving argument in favor of the technology, and that for a monthly fee people may opt not to have one. The fee may make opting out not an option for those with low incomes. To help familiarize residents with smart meters and the plan for their installation in Ripton in 2012, Mr. Wagner will prepare handouts describing pros and cons of the technology for dis- tribution at town meeting. If considering adoption of an ordinance banning the meters, the selectboard will hear from those on both sides of the issue, and residents. There was discussion about town meeting procedures: specifically how to keep people from heading for refreshments during the closing Article: any other business; and the purpose of and procedure for the time given legislators, particularly for questions and answers. The town moderator will be informed of the concerns and suggestions offered. Mr. Wagner left the meeting at the end of discussion of these items.				
<b>Town Buildings</b>					
Town Office	Repairs to the former kitchen on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor of the town office building continue. A Vermont Correctional Industries (VCI) furniture catalog was received but there was no report on their office planning and services. The clerk will follow up for the 2103 budget. A request from the facilities coordinator, Bill Pierce, for Ron Wimett to look at the drainage at the northeast to southeast of the town office building was reported by the board clerk. Water from the slope behind the building and snow or rain that drains off the roof melts and refreezes near the entry ramp where the building acts as a dam. Mr. Wimett will talk with Mr. Pierce about it.				
Community House	A resident who was contacted about cleaning the Community House declined. Geoff Booth, Ripton school custodian, is interested in the work. If hired as an independent contractor, proof of insurance is required. The annual cost of insurance is approximately \$600 which exceeds likely earnings for the job. Therefore it was approved that he may be hired as an employee, as others have been, to clean the building on an as-needed basis. The facilities				

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	coordinator will be asked to help establish an hourly pay rate.
<b>ROADS</b>	
General	There is not much plowing, but there is still sanding because the sand blows off the ice on the roads. The amount of sand at the sand pile is fine.
Sign Inventory	The road commissioner expects to complete the sign inventory by mid-March.
Road grants	The Better Backroads grant application for replacement of a culvert near 398 Natural Turnpike is approved, though award letters are not yet mailed. A Class 2 road grant application will be submitted for a culvert near 3929 Lincoln Rd. This culvert is old, too short and the road edge near it has subsided. The road commissioner will check the condition of a culvert near 4358 Lincoln Rd. to determine whether or not to include it in the application. A Structures grant application will be submitted for membrane coating and asphalt approaches to town bridge #3, Bent Bridge, on the Lincoln Rd.
August 28, 2011 flood; Tropical storm Irene	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) applications are underway. Projects must meet a benefit:cost test that requires at least 3 damage events, costs, and impact. The projects being analyzed first are Dragon Brook Rd. (culvert), North Branch Rd. (culvert near old school house), and Peddlers Bridge Rd. (culvert east of town shed). These will be followed by Frost Rd., Chandler Hill Rd., and Barker Rd. The first round application deadline is 02-17-12. If not met, applications may be submitted for future rounds. There are no updates from FEMA about damage reimbursement.
<b>OLD BUSINESS</b>	
Town report	The printer received the town report in time to meet the deadline for mailing it 10 days ahead of town meeting. If mailed by that deadline, it is not required to be published in the newspaper. The report is available now on the town website. The Auditor's report was reviewed by the selectboard; there are no questions.
School speed zone	The sheriff provided a traffic study and recommendations for the proposed school speed zone. The ordinance was approved with his recommendations incorporated. It is for a 25 mph speed zone beginning 0.5 mile north of the Lincoln Rd. and Route 125 intersection, and extending 0.5 mile north. It is effective 04-13-12 unless a petition is received by at least 5% of the voters by 03-28-12. If a petition is received, a special meeting for a vote will be warned.
Pvt. rd. emergency work agreement	The revised cover letter and agreement are yet to be sent. Three agreements are filed.
PACE	Property Assessed Clean Energy: The town will vote on establishing a PACE District at town meeting. To encourage voters to learn about it, an information session at the Ilsley Library 02-15-12 will be publicized.
Town officers	The 01-23-12 minutes show that Joyce Dicianna is not running for another term as moderator. She is, and submitted a petition Jan 30 <sup>th</sup> five minutes before the deadline!
Steam Mill gravel pit	Warren King wrote a letter to the USFS on behalf of the Planning Commission and Zoning Board on 05-10-11. The selectboard was provided a copy of the 12-15-11 USFS response.
Street lights	A memorandum of understanding required for the Municipal Street Lighting Initiative was signed. We will be contacted by a coordinator from the program after it is received.
Sand Hill Bridge	Selectors Lauren Cox and Richard Collitt were among the Ripton residents who attended a 01-25-12 VTRANS public information meeting in Middlebury about the 2014 Sand Hill Bridge construction. The new bridge will be built via an accelerated bridge construction (ABC) model which involves closing Rt. 125 between Ripton and East Middlebury for 4-6 weeks. VTrans successfully completed several projects and gained much experience with the ABC method after the 2011 floods. Ripton may have input into the construction start date. The selectboard prefers construction to begin at the outset of the VTrans construction season, April 15 <sup>th</sup> , so that the road may be reopened for the summer. The road commissioner will stockpile materials in Ripton ahead of the bridge construction.

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Gift-in-kind	The Ripton School submitted a revised estimate for cross-country and downhill skiing. The total request for use of gift-in-kind funds for skiing is \$4,536. It was approved and it is expected it may be modified if conditions prevent skiing on any of the days scheduled.
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	
Trees and roads	Ginger Miller left a phone message about a dead limb near her driveway that may be a potential hazard to those in the road. The road commissioner will look at it. A pine tree previously reported to the road commissioner by Susan Hanson was also mentioned. It was looked at and is not in the town right-of-way. Brian Austin of the USFS called the town office to notify the selectboard that the USFS hopes to replace 2 culverts crossing Brandy Brook on Steam Mill Road. They have filed NEPA documentation, have no funding yet, but asked that the selectboard get back to them if they have any concerns. None were stated.
Bridge of Flowers	The board clerk reported that those who maintain the flowerboxes on the Route 125 Bridge of Flowers are looking for others to take over the task, if there is interest in keeping them. The clerk had suggested to Mia Allen, who provided the flowers and boxes for many years but did not start the tradition, that they could be discussed in “any other business” at town meeting. The flowers have been a nice and appreciated amenity, but the selectboard thought they should not become town business.
Investment Policy	The board reviewed and reaffirmed an investment policy approved in 02-25-08 but not received by the town clerk. The clerk’s signature and inclusion of the document with town policies will be requested.

Laureen Cox

Ronald Wimett

Richard Collitt