

**TOWN OF RIPTON
SELECTBOARD MINUTES
07-09-2012**

Date	Meeting No.	Start	End	Next Meeting	Time
07-09-2012	2012-14	7:30 p.m.	9:30 p.m.	07-23-2012	7:30 p.m.
Attendees	Lauren Cox, Richard Collitt, Ronald Wimett, selectboard; Alison Joseph, board clerk; Sally Hoyler, town clerk attended 7:30-7:45				
Minutes	Approved and signed: Minutes of 06-25-2012.				
Orders	Approved and signed: Roads: \$31,023.90; General Fund: \$10,534.19.				
Approval Actions	Approved that the town clerk ask the town attorney to prepare a document authorizing re-release of property tax bill. Signed Vermont Community Foundation grant (VCF), \$2,500, as sponsor for Ripton Energy Assistance Program (REAP) woodshed project. Approved municipal tax rate: 0.3302; total tax rate: 1.9140 homestead, 1.7683 non-res.				
Officer Reports	Received and filed from: treasurer; delinquent tax collector, \$12,540.56 due; zoning administrator.				
Correspondence	Received and discussed: Letter of resignation from town moderator and justice of the peace, Joyce Dicianna, who moved out of Ripton.				
Discussion with Visitors					
Town clerk: confidentiality of tax bills	Legislation passed in 2012 requires that the property tax adjustment some residential taxfilers receive be private, though it appears on the property owner's tax bill. If a public official releases a residential tax bill to someone not authorized to receive it, that official may be fined and removed from office. Town clerk, Sally Hoyler, reported on discussion at today's meeting of Addison County town clerks about the new law, confidentiality and liability. Among concerns is providing information to escrow companies. The Lincoln town attorney prepared a form for the clerk to give property owners for permission to release a tax bill. Ms. Hoyler asked if she could ask the Ripton town attorney to review the law and make a form for Ripton, ideally to be mailed with tax bills to those with escrow accounts. The request to ask Ellen Fallon at Langrock, Sperry & Wool to draft a form was moved by L. Cox and approved. Ms. Hoyler left at the end of this discussion.				
Old Business					
Zoning Bylaw (Unified Development Bylaw)	At the 06-25-12 meeting, the selectboard recommended a change to Section 523 of the draft bylaw to clarify the timeframe of permits and to shorten the length of a permit period. That recommendation will be discussed by the planning commission on 07-10-12.				
Dogs	The board discussed including a reminder about licensing dogs and State laws regarding dogs in the tax bill mailing. A list of licensed, inoculated, and unlicensed dogs will be made after the tax notice insert and direct follow-up with dog owners.				
United Way Day of Caring	Town officials are considering projects for United Way volunteers; suggestions are welcome.				
Roads					
General	The first cut of roadside mowing is nearly done. Chandler Hill Rd. repair is started.				
Signs	New signs are installed on Natural Turnpike including the 4-way intersection at Chandler Hill Rd. and Peddlers Bridge Rd. Sign brackets and additional school zone signs are ordered from Giddings Manufacturing.				
Storm damage 05-29-11	A 2002 generator agreement between the town and school clarified that the generator is owned by the town, which will pursue a damage claim. Further gravel repair was done at 935 North Branch Rd; culvert work there is needed.				
New Business					
Tax rate	Budget and tax rate worksheets were reviewed. The municipal tax rate was set at 0.3302. The breakdown of the general fund and roads rates to be confirmed at the next meeting.				

Lauren Cox

Ronald Wimett

Richard Collitt