

**TOWN OF RIPTON
SELECTBOARD MINUTES
July 23, 2012**

Date	Meeting No.	Start	End	Next Meeting	Time
07-23-2012	2012-15	7:30 p.m.	9:30 p.m.	08-13-2012	7:30 p.m.
Attendees	Laureen Cox, Richard Collitt, Ronald Wimett, selectboard; Alison Joseph, board clerk.				
Minutes	Approved and signed: Minutes of 07-09-2012.				
Orders	Approved and signed: Roads: \$6,457.50; General Fund: \$10,502.00.				
Approval Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorized one board member, Richard Collitt, to approve road orders on 08-13-12. • Approved municipal tax rate breakdown: general fund rate 0.2739 (includes a 0.007 locally voted exemption rate), roads rate 0.0563, total 0.3302. (Total tax rate with education rates included as approved 07-09-12: 1.9140 homestead, 1.7683 non-residential.) • Approved that the Community House may be used without rental fee for community-wide events after approval of the event by the selectboard (to clarify procedures regarding the rental waiver decision of 04-23-2012). • Approved that the town insurance may be used to meet the insurance requirement of the rental contract for a community-wide event after approval by the selectboard. • Signed Act 250 Municipal Impact Questionnaire for Middlebury College, Rikert Ski Touring Center, Snowmaking Pipeline Preliminary Layout. • Signed planning grant application for Addison County Regional Planning Commission, Transportation Advisory Committee, study of Baker Bridge, bridge #2, Lincoln Rd. 				
Correspondence	VTrans 2012 Bike and Pedestrian Program grant application, not applying; cover letter from Ed Sullivan and Addison County Community Advisory Board quarterly report, filed.				
Old Business					
Clerk/treasurer: confidentiality of tax bills	At the previous meeting the town clerk/treasurer proposed and the board approved that town attorney, Ellen Fallon, prepare a form for the treasurer to obtain property owner permission for release of tax information. This is in response to 2012 legislation requiring confidentiality of the property tax adjustment shown on some residential tax bills, and penalties for those who release it to unauthorized parties. The form is ready for mailing with tax bills to property owners whose escrow companies request tax due information.				
Zoning Bylaw (Unified Development Bylaw)	At their 07-10-12 meeting, the planning commission agreed with the selectboard's 06-25-12 recommendations for Section 523 of the draft bylaw (to clarify the timeframe for and duration of permits.) A revised page will be submitted to the selectboard.				
Dogs	A reminder about laws regarding dogs was reviewed and will be mailed with tax bills.				
United Way Day of Caring	A request will be submitted for weeding the town office area, including the playground. Other suggestions included clearing for the REAP woodshed.				
Tax rate	Budget and tax rate worksheets were reviewed to confirm the breakdown of the general fund and roads rates (see Approval Actions).				
Roads					
General	The first pass of roadside mowing is done. Chloride was applied to gravel roads. Ditching and maintenance are underway.				
Signs	<p>When sign brackets and additional school zone signs are received from Giddings Manufacturing, the school zone will be posted.</p> <p>An informal inquiry was made about "slow, children" signs for Maiden Lane. It was reported that such signs have previously been installed when residents have paid for them. There have been appreciative comments about the new road signs on Natural Turnpike.</p>				
Storm damage 05-29-12 FEMA 4066-DR-VT	<p>The culvert west of 3550 North Branch Rd. was replaced. Additional gravel repair was done at 935 North Branch Rd.; culvert work there is needed.</p> <p>An insurance claim for the generator damage from the storm will be submitted, per a discussion with VLCT.</p> <p>Our FEMA project specialist is Bob Burt, who is scheduled to review the 05-29-12 event project worksheets in Ripton on July 11th.</p>				
Tropical Storm Irene FEMA 4022-DR-VT	The 10 project worksheets and payment amounts for Tropical Storm Irene were reviewed and will not be challenged. Care will be taken to not duplicate reimbursement with the 05-29-12 event by reviewing the Irene worksheets with Mr. Burt.				

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New Business	
Community House rental	<p>The board previously approved (04-23-12) to waive the Community House rental fee for events open to all, such as the community potlucks proposed by Susan Hanson. In response to a question about insurance, L. Cox moved and all approved that requests to use the Community House rent-free for a community-wide event be reviewed by the selectboard who will determine eligibility for use and insurance. It was further moved by Ms. Cox and approved that the community potlucks proposed by Susan Hanson be covered under the town insurance.</p> <p>There was discussion about the decline in rental use of the Community House with several possible factors mentioned including the contract, insurance requirement, popularity of other locations such as Burnham Hall, and the economy.</p>
Selectboard clerk pay rate and hours	<p>The topic of wages and hours was raised, and suggested as an agenda item for broader discussion of office organization and policies at a future meeting including the town clerk/treasurer.</p>

Laureen Cox

Ronald Wimett

Richard Collitt