

TOWN OF RIPTON SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Date:	Meeting No.	Start:	End:	Next Meeting	Next Time
12-27-05	2005-24	7:40	10:10	1-9-06	7:30p.m.
Attendees:	William Ford, Laureen Cox, Selectboard, and Sally Hoyler, Clerk. Selector Ron Wimett is absent for medical reasons.				
Visitors:	Tim Hanson to discuss loan options for the fire station construction expenses				
Minutes:	Minutes of 12-12-05 were amended, to be signed next meeting.				
Approval Actions:	<p>Voted to include an item on the warning for Town Meeting for a Town vote on 10-year term financing of the fire station construction expenses.</p> <p>Voted to request cash payment from the College to the Town for the credit of \$9,996.78 in the Gift-in-Kind accounting for the tax year 2005.</p> <p>Renewed service contract with Brookfield Service for the school generator for 2006.</p>				
Orders:	Orders for 12-27-05 were reviewed and signed. Total for Roads: \$7,167.50, for General Fund: \$261,648.22, and for the Fire Station: \$3,092.03. An order for 12-31-05 for final 05 payroll taxes, was reviewed and signed for \$343.25.				
Reports:	Delinquent Tax Collector Report: As of 12/15/05, total 2003 delinquent taxes due, including interest and fees, are \$3,647.35. Total 2004 delinquent taxes due, including interest and fees, are \$7,033.46. Total 2005 delinquent taxes due, including interest and fees, are \$22,193.66.				
Road Commissioner Report discontinued until spring.					

Item Number	Subject	Start Date	End Date	Action
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Fire Station

Item Number	Subject	Start Date	End Date	Action
04-07-Fire-a	Fire Station	04-12-04	Ongoing	TH & Bd
<p>The Town has not yet received the FEMA payment; it is expected to be \$100,000.00. Final bills for the fire station have been received; after applying the FEMA payment, the Town will be required to borrow about \$172,000.00 to pay off the construction loan. Tim Hanson presented two loan repayment schedule, one for 10 years and one for 15 years, both assuming 5% interest rate (reports frilled with these minutes). The Board unanimously voted to include an item on the warning for Town Meeting for a Town vote on 10-year term financing of the fire station construction expenses. (Final warning must be complete by January 26.) The Board requested that Mr. Hanson get rates from three different banks.</p>				

Roads

Item Number	Subject	Start Date	End Date	Action
05-07-Roads-c	Summer Roadwork	04-11-05	Ongoing	RW& Bd
<p>Payment from the state for the VTrans for the Class 2 road grant is expected by early January 2006.</p> <p>No further summer maintenance work (ditching and tree-cutting) has</p>				

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been done. The Board agreed that summer work is complete for the year, and that the Road Commissioner Report can be discontinued until spring.

Zoning

04-19-Zone-a	Gover Zoning Violation	09-27-04	Ongoing	SH
Pending verification from Ed Hanson that the property is in compliance. The Clerk will send another reminder to Mr. Hanson.				

	Amendments to Zoning Bylaws	12-12-05	Ongoing	
Pending Selectboard hearing of February 13, 2006.				

Community House

05-05-EAID	EAID Grant	03-14-05	Ongoing	SH
Final report has been submitted; payment is expected around January 6, 2006.				

	Community House Floor Panel	11-14-05		
Mr. Ford has agreed to a modified plan for a hatch door design presented to him this past week by Tim Price. A locking grate "gate" will be installed just beneath the existing door.				

	Community House Rentals	12-12-05		
About the new policy to disallow rentals of Community House during January and February: The January Coffee House had already been scheduled and advertised to take place at the Community House on January 7, 2006. In a phone call at this meeting with Richard Ruane, Coffee House director, it was discussed that Mr. Ruane requires 30 days notice to relocate an event, so the Board accepted the January use, though informed Mr. Ruane that they cannot guarantee that the heating system will work reliably. The Board agreed that Mr. Ruane may test the heating system the day before the event. The Board requested that the February Coffee House be relocated, and that the Clerk write a letter to Mr. Ruane to confirm.				

Miscellaneous

	Recycling Trailer	10-10-05		
The trailer is advertised, though there have been no inquiries.				

	Emergency Management Coordinator	12-12-05		
The position has not yet been filled; the Board discussed other possible candidates.				

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	Middlebury College Gift-in-Kind	12-12-05		
<p>After reviewing the Town-College Gift-in-Kind agreement, the Board unanimously voted to request payment from the College to the Town for the credit of \$9,996.78 from the tax year 2005.</p>				

	Selectboard Administration Assistant	11-14-05		
<p>No responses to the ad have been received.</p>				

New Business

	Plowing on Class 4 Roads	12-27-05		
<p>The Board received information that a Ripton resident has been snowplowing the end of Wagon Wheel Road, which is Class 4, and expressed the need to have clarification of laws governing this situation and what the Town's liability might be.</p>				

	Budget	12-27-05		
<p>The Clerk reported a shortfall in funds at the turn of the year. This is in part due to overspending in the Roads budget for snowplowing, sanding, and storm damage especially for the late October storm. Also, the grant monies for two grants, the Class 2 Road grant and the EAID grant are not expected to arrive in 2005, but expected by early January. The Board agreed that the Town should borrow from the school in order to pay bills.</p> <p>The Board will begin working on the 2006 budget at next meeting.</p>				

	Town Report	12-27-05		
<p>The Clerk noted that the Town books will be audited January 11, 2006 by Angelano and Co. Work on Town Report has begun; scheduled mailing date is no later than February 22, 2006.</p>				

William Ford

Lauren Cox

Ronald Wimett