**MIINUTES**

**SELECT BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday, September 5, 2019 @ Town Hall 3:30 PM**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM

Present: Selectboard: Chair Joe Pollio, Cathy Siano-Goodwin, Al Sands (by phone) and Stan Mack.

Others present: Dottie Cannon, Liisa Kissel, Joan Lake, Galen Pinkham, Wendy Martin, Charlie hooker, Carol Lind, Suzanne Welch, Anna Vesely, Ron Pilette, Mary Feder, Chris Wallace, and Bill Kearns – Town Administrator.

1. Adopt Agenda. Motion made by Stan Mack, second by Al Sands to adopt the agenda as presented. Passed unanimously. (4-0)
2. Vacancy on the Selectboard. The Chair stated there was vacancy on the Selectboard and as required by law the Selectboard is mandated to fill the vacancy forthwith (24 VSA 961 et seq). That is the purpose of the meeting. The appointed person would serve until the next election.

MOTION by Al Sands, second by Stan Mack, to appoint Chris Wallace to fill the vacancy in the three year term position on the Selectboard created by the resignation of Josh Hearne which was effective at 1753 on September 9, 2019 by text message he sent to the Board and to fill the position until the next election.

The Chair asked for any discussion. Ron Pilette asked if he could be heard and stated he would like to present himself for the position and remarked that perhaps if Al Sands withdrew his motion, he (Ron) could speak. Al Sands stated he would not withdraw the motion, but noted the Board is in discussion on the motion and the remarks could be heard as discussion.

Ron Pilette than began his discussion with a comment on the controversy over commercial wind and his position on it. Then he discussed his experience on the Board, his experience, including on budget preparation, and his readiness to jump right in.

The Chair asked Chris Wallace if he would like to speak. He did and recited his service to the Town and his experience, and his willingness to serve till the election.

Cathy Siano-Goodwin then commented on Ron Pilette’s experience and his position on the Town Plan and the necessity to expedite the Plan approval, and that Chris Wallace has a conflict of interest regarding the Plan, having been on the Planning Commission It was noted there was no conflict according to the law, and that had been confirmed by VLCT lawyers and communicated to all the Selectboard by email. Stan Mack thanked Ron and Chris for stepping up.

Motion by Al Sands to Call the Question, second Stan Mack.

There was then a point of order made by Suzanne Welch, which was not procedural but further discussion on the process and whether the Board had been transparent, or had they pre-arranged the motion to appoint. She further noted people unaware that Ron Pilette had asked for consideration. The Chair stated there was transparency. When receiving the resignation on Monday night, all the Selectboard were asked to give names to Bill Kearns and he would contact them to be sure they were interested. Chris Wallace was named for bill to contact. Ron Pilette phoned on Wednesday and said he was interested and the Selectboard was immediately informed.

Liisa Kissel then spoke of Ron Pilette’s experience and how he would be good for the board.

The Chair then acted on the motion to call the question, which was approved 3 to 1. The Question was read: MOTION by Al Sands, second by Stan Mack, to appoint Chris Wallace to fill the vacancy in the three year term position on the Selectboard created by the resignation of Josh Hearne which was effective at 1753 on September 9, 2019 by text message he sent to the Board and to fill the position until the next election. The Chair called for a vote and the Motion initially appeared to pass 4-0 by voice vote, but after polling the Board the vote was corrected to Joe Pollio aye, Al Sands Aye, Stan Mack aye and Cathy Siano-Goodwin, no.

Ron Pilette congratulated Chris Wallace. Cathy Siano-Goodwin stated she had nothing against Chris Wallace but voted “no” because she did not approve of the process.

1. Other business. Discussion about closing the town pool due to the condition of the water and the fact that it is after Labor Day. Motion by Stan Mack to close the Town Pool, second Cathy Siano-Goodwin. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Cathy Siano-Goodwin had a comment, in which she thanked Suzanne Welch for reminding the Board about the need for transparency. She then thanked Chris Wallace for his willingness to serve.
3. Date of Next Selectboard Meeting: September 16, 2019, after Hearing on LT 8 at the Town Garage (Hearing on LT 8 – site visit at 5:30, Hearing 6PM)
4. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:02 PM.

Respectfully presented,

William G. Kearns