

**APPROVED MINUTES/FREEDOM BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
April 25, 2015 EMERGENCY SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

Discussing Legal Issue's regarding abatement & public works items:

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 am

Present: Ron Price, Ken Overlock, Steve Bennett, Erna Keller, Jackie Robbins, Drew Fales & Clara Alvarez, Lanie Kertesz and Lissa Widdoff

Discussion:

- Ingraham's made a request to move an excavator over Bryant Road to Bridges
- Ron told them No... Roads are posted but he would ask other selectmen
- Ken/Steve motion For Ron to let them know that they could wait a week until things dried out some

Communications from Kristin Collins:

- Steve contacted town lawyer after selectmen meeting on April 20th about conflict
- Kristin Collins sent a letter stating that both Ron and Steve could participate and her reasoning on both.
- Ron says he still will not participate because of the way it looks
- Steve & Beaver Hill group has an easement and a confidential agreement with Beaver Ridge
- Steve also sent his confidential agreement for the lawyer to look at with permission from Todd Presson
- Steve and Ron have to act in the TOWN's best interest
- Kristin also gave advice about the foreclosure on Tingley property and where to go from here

Comments and Questions:

- Lanie Kertesz: The meeting Monday is at 2:00 and a lot of us are working. Is there anyway of

being able to listen in and comment

- Steve- We can audio tape it
- Jackie- You can always call me and I can leave phone on
- Steve: This will be somewhat of a negotiation and we might not even make a decision Monday.
- Ken: I think we are on the right track. The lawyer has made it clear about where the selectmen stand. Ron is abstaining from any vote but will be the moderator, and then Steve and I will make the decision.
- Lissa: Is there a request on the table?
- Ken: Yes they have made an abatement request

Ken handed a copy of lawyer's letter, copy of abatement request and the papers Steve had printed for the concerned citizens to look at.

- Steve asked "Do we want or need to go into executive session to discuss any of this matter?"
- Ken- No we don't think it is necessary.
- Secretary printed off executive session info for each selectmen and rules on holding Emergency & regular meetings.
- Ron- I don't think we are in any violations for having this meeting or if you wanted to go into executive session, personally I don't think it is necessary.
- Steve/Ken made motion to discuss in public meeting. All in favor
- Abatement was rec'd back on January 19th for a 30% for 2014 which is \$56,000 plus interest.
- Jackie stated "The request would have to be in 185 days on the value, which is different then if there had been an error and you was charged a garage, etc... but there wasn't any there."
- 1st problem is this is for 2014
- 2nd problem is they have said in public meetings that they didn't want an abatement
- Mike Rogers said theoretically 2% a year, not necessary because we aren't obligated to follow other turbines. Different set of circumstances. Just treat them fairly.
- Justin our Freedom supervisor for state said have them prove that they aren't worth what we have listed.

- Jackie's opinion is No abatement for 2014, just go forward and maybe depreciate from here forward or they also have option to go to State Board of Appeals.
- Ron asked Jackie- How many towns in the state don't have TIF's associated with turbines. Also do they have it listed in TIF for depreciation?
- Jackie said we can ask Mike on Monday
- Ron-What about the 5% deal state made with some towns
- Jackie- Also something to ask Mike, until recently this wasn't even public information
- Steve stated in Beaver Ridge letter Todd has recognized that there is a difference between organized and unorganized territory.
- Ken says Freedom is 100% unique for our turbines.
- Lissa stated they have federal tax credits such as mandated rapid depreciation and that property tax and federal tax is different.
- Double declining depreciation on federal for land
- Steve- Two different things ... The cost of what they paid and what they show to IRS is different
- Steve said his report shows the power performance & pay. They get paid a flat rate
- Lissa stated ... You need consistency. Over a 20 year period, 1 to 1 1/2% per year should be the bottom line to protect the town. Make sure you separate the past from the future when talking with them Monday.
- Jackie stated I feel like everyone else feels there should be no abatement and going forward is the way to go. Nothing else in town is depreciated and if that's what they wanted then they should have asked for this when they wanted to build them.
- Discussion about who would speak first and what they would discuss went on
- Jackie said listen to what they have to say and no decisions have to be made Monday night. Take some time to consider if you feel you need to. Then go back to them with your decision.
- Ron will chair the meeting
- Listen to Beaver Ridge & their lawyer
- Mike Rogers

- Then Jackie on behalf of the town
- This will give the selectmen time to ask very necessary questions
- Jackie said Selectmen want to make sure whatever points you want to make do so and ask as many questions as you feel necessary, if this goes to a hearing then you can usually only bring up info that was brought up here.

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Gerry Spaulding:

- Would like to talk to selectmen about selling property between him and town garage.
- Ken- Ron can you contact him to see if he can be here Monday Night for ap/payroll meeting?
- Ron will call him
- All in favor

Ron/Ken Motion to adjourn passed at 9:45 am

Next Regular meeting will be May 4th 2015 @ 6 pm

Next AP/Payroll Warrant signing meeting will be April 27th 2015 @ 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

Ernestine Keller