

WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 13, 2019 – 6:00 p.m. – Town Office Building
Reconvened at 7:00 p.m. at the
Williamstown Middle/High School Library

Present: Francis Covey, Matt Rouleau, Jasmine Coulliard and Jessica Worn.

Selectboard Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Francis made motion to enter executive session for personnel issues at 6:03 p.m. Jasmine second. So moved.

Francis made motion to exit executive session at 6:45 p.m. Jasmine second. So moved.

No action taken at this time. Will be discussed further during another executive session after the regularly scheduled meeting this evening at the School Library. Other than an announcement that the Selectboard has reconsidered their decision from the January 8th Selectboard meeting.

Selectboard reconvened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. at the Williamstown Middle/High School Library.

Jasmine made motion to amend the agenda to include Executive Session for personnel issues and add approval of Warning for Town Meeting. Francis second. So moved.

Review Public Comments

SB Announcements – Chris Wade stated that he had an announcement and proceeded to read a formal resignation of his position on the Selectboard. All Selectboard members asked him to reconsider his decision. He refused.

Jessica stated that she had also considered resigning from the Selectboard. That there had been a lot of adult bullying going. Jessica asked that people come forth and ask questions and have adult conversation instead of using Facebook to say mean and hateful things that the town would be in a better place.

Francis made motion to accept Chris's resignation with heartfelt regret. Jasmine second. So moved.

Public Announcements – Rodney Graham stated that if the personnel policy had been followed the hearing would never had taken place and the situation would not have escalated to the degree it did.

Approve the Minutes – Jasmine made motion to approve minutes of 12/30/19 Selectboard meeting as written. Jessica second. So moved. Francis recused himself as he was not in attendance at the 12/30/19 meeting.

Jasmine made motion to amend the 1/8/20 Selectboard meeting minutes to say that just cause was reason for termination and to send Jackie a letter stating the grounds of the "just cause" within 48 hours. Also amend the minutes to correct the date of meeting from 1/9/20 to 1/8/20. Jessica second. So moved.

Jasmine made motion to rescind the motion to terminate Jackie Higgins at the 1/8/20 Selectboard Meeting. Jessica second. So moved.

Review and Approval of Warrants – Francis made motion to approve SB1066, SB1070, SB1074 and payroll 1/5/20. Jasmine second. So moved.

Jessica asked that the year 2020 be printed on the warrants so eliminate any confusion with dates.

Town Manager's Report – See Attached.

New Business –

ATV Hearing: Rama Schneider gave final report of the ATV Committee. With the committee voting 6 to 2 to present the ordinance as amended to the Selectboard for consideration.

Francis made motion to accept the ordinance as written and feels that is it in the best interest of the town to proceed. Jessica second. So moved. 4 yes – 0 no vote.

Budget: Jessica made motion to accept final budgets for town meeting. Jasmine second. So moved.

Town Meeting Warning: Jasmine made motion to approve warning as written. Francis second. So moved.

Lister Letter to the State for redetermination of equalized study: Jasmine made motion to approve letter to the state requesting a redetermination of equalized study. Jessica second. So moved.

Town Manager will post notice of vacancy for opening on the Selectboard.

Don Angolano gave an update that He and Symquest would be moving computers to new server on Tuesday night into Wednesday morning.

Old Business – None

Open Public Comments – Helen Duke thanked the board for supporting Ainsworth Library.

Around the Table – Jasmine thanked Horace Duke for his Assistant Treasurer's Report.

Francis stated that it was tough to lose a Selectboard Member to a resignation. Matt felt bad that Chris left the board.

Executive Session – Jasmine made a motion to take a 10 minute recess before entering executive session personnel issues. Jessica second. So moved.

Jasmine made motion to enter executive session at 8:40 p.m. Jessica second. So moved.

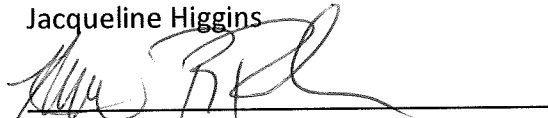
Jasmine made motion to exit executive session at 8:45 p.m. Jessica second. So moved.

Jasmine made motion to direct Town Manager to seek Human Resources training and personnel training and direct all employees to take trainings. Jessica second.

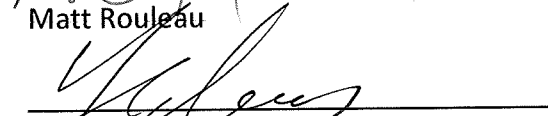
Adjourned – Jasmine made motion to adjourn 8:50 p.m. Francis second. So moved.

Respectfully Submitted

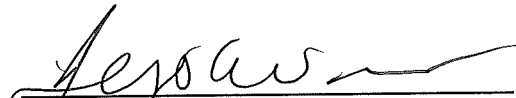
Jacqueline Higgins



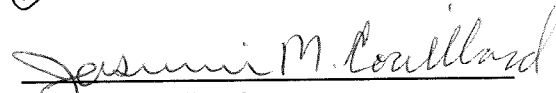
Matt Rouleau



Francis Covey



Jessica Worn



Jasmine Coulliard

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Delinquent Taxes \$158,946.89, Water \$15,946.89, Sewer \$19,946.17

Grant written to help pay for the new gurney lift through VLCT PACIF.

Finished up Audit documentations with the Treasurer.

Completed USDA Loan annual audit reports for grant/loan for the waste water treatment plant.

Compiling Town Report

Finalizing Budgets for final approval

Finalizing FEMA documentations for reimbursement for April 2019 flooding.

State of Vermont annual reports for highway certification.

MSHA quarterly reports for sand/gravel pits.

Transfer Station quarterly reports for tonnage.

HIGHWAY –

Done:

- Winter Maintenance
- Equipment Maintenance

To Do:

- Winter Maintenance
- Equipment maintenance

Christopher Wade

843 Cold Spring Rd
Williamstown, VT 05679
(802) 522-2656

13th January 2020

Williamstown Selectboard

Town Of Williamstown
2470 VT Rt 14
Williamstown, VT 05679

Dear Williamstown Selectboard,

It is with great sadness that I inform you of my resignation from the Williamstown selectboard that will be effective immediately. I have enjoyed my time on the board immensely over the last year, but I have learned many things about my community and many of the people that live and work in it. I ran for the selectboard because I and many other people in the community believed we needed a positive change. However, as soon as my first meeting after being elected, I encountered the same problems that have plagued the Town of Williamstown for years. I came to the board with a serious complaint from a member of the community, that involved her and the town manager, as well as a large business within the community. Not only was the complaint not looked into, it was torn up in my face. This was not only a violation of town policy, but a violation of state and federal law as well. There have been numerous other complaints and policy violations in the past that have been ignored. It is my opinion that you can't pick and choose who you want to hold accountable to the personnel policy. If your going to be an "equal opportunity employer", you need to participate in equal discipline as well. During the most recent events involving the town manager, I have learned just how hateful the community of Williamstown has become. Roughly 6-8 people, consisting of community members, prior selectboard members, and current Town of Williamstown employees, have turned our community upside down, spreading hate and lies throughout the community and on social media. As the board knows, there have been no "secret" meetings that have taken place regarding anything. These people have continued to tell the public that the board is hiding something. As prior board members and town employees, these people should and do know that there are certain things that can only be discussed in

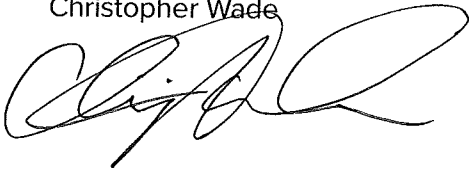
an executive session of a selectboard meeting. When the "Williamstown Vermont community residents" social media page began to "explode" because of the rumors, lies, and misinformation, I reached out to the page moderator and gave a brief synopsis of why the board was so limited in what we could say. This was out of respect for the town managers privacy as well as being bound by town policies such as the social media policy. The moderator chose to do and say nothing about a board member reaching out, and instead chose to let the hatred and lies that were being posted, continue.

I have done a lot of soul searching this weekend and put a lot of thought into this decision. I have two beautiful children and a wonderful wife whom I love very much. I do believe that a lot of the community members that I spoke with while I campaigned for selectman were correct when they told me that things will never change, no matter how hard you try. As a taxpayer in the community, it saddens me to know that we have to live with this in the future years to come, and it scares me to think of what could happen if certain people were to get elected in the spring and bring this hatred back to the board that we had worked so hard to try to get rid of.

I do want to wish the current board members the best of luck in the future and I thank you for your work.

Sincerely,

Christopher Wade

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Wade", written in a cursive style.

WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING SIGN IN SHEET

DATE 1-13-2020

CHRIS PELLOQUIN

Daniel Morrison

Carl Eubank

85

WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD
MEETING SIGN IN SHEET

DATE 1-13-2020

Sylvia Debut

Erin Holmes

John

Don Adams

RICH CHAMBERS

Carl Wood

J. Kepler Tuffy

D. Thorington

Liz Lewis

Jamie Lewis

WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD
MEETING SIGN IN SHEET

DATE 1-13-2020

J. D. W.

Olivia

Wendy Mac Cormack

Kathie Fries

Clyde Wank

Histy Rice

Allen Chouinard

Vanessa Chouinard

Bill Bell

ERIK BAYCO

WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING SIGN IN SHEET

DATE 1-13-2020

Chris Futay

RON

Shawn Boyce

TRAVIS PIERCE

Gordon Pigot

Mukul Mukherjee

Lorraine Markel

Robert C. Graham

Marquerite Johnson

Reine Pennington

Jen Jolls

WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING SIGN IN SHEET

DATE 1-13-2020

RON CADORETTE

WENDY CADORETTE

TRAVIS HULL

Rilla Farnham

Ed Farnham

Donna Blight

Robert Blight

RICH TURNER

C Sandlin

Patti Givno

WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING SIGN IN SHEET

DATE 1-13-2020

Donald Angolano

Duke Martin

Chad Brown

Helen Duke

Horace Duke, Jr.

James Vardon

Brian Pellegrini

Lindsey Contois

Mikaela Spurr

Jack O'Connor

WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD
MEETING SIGN IN SHEET

DATE 1-13-2020

Tom Hood

KERRY OPAROWSKI

Peter Oparowski

Arsen Lyons

Shelley Taylor

Shirley Hanley

Don U

Don A

Justin Johnson

Shawn Perkins

WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD
MEETING SIGN IN SHEET

DATE 1-13-2020

Rama Schneider

CASEY J. DAVIS

John Henderson

Al Luther Albert

Steve Ducey

BRAD Luther

Beth Allen

Liana Patten

Jason Jarvis

WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD
MEETING SIGN IN SHEET

DATE 1-13-2020

Renee Marceau

Greg Herbert

Orvil Lasek

Steve Tracy

Chris Hood

Teri Finneyan

Nate Pike

Rebecca Knutson

Al Lunde

Jesse Mear