

\*\*\*Meeting Minutes are in Draft Form until Approved by the Board\*\*\*

KIRBY SELECTBOARD'S MEETING

DECEMBER 5, 2016

The Selectboard met at the Kirby Town Clerk's Office on December 5, 2016. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steven Baker at 7:00 p.m.

Those present were: Selectpersons Rebecca Hill-Larsen, David Chase and Steven Baker  
Road Foreman John Ohina  
CALEX Kirby Representative Sharon Baker  
Kirby School Director Miles Etter  
Secretary Wanda Grant

There was an addition to the agenda – CALEX changes from appropriation request to contract.

Sharon Baker, Kirby's Representative to the CALEX Board, was present to discuss a change that the CALEX Board would like to implement for the 2018 year. Sharon explained the following:

- CALEX serves just the Mud Hollow and South Kirby areas of Town and Lyndon State Rescue serves the rest of the Town.
- The CALEX Board would like to change the way they interact with the Town – go from an appropriation request for funds to a negotiated contract. They are considering going to this method with all towns that they deal with and already does this with Littleton. It would probably be a negotiated 3-year contract (figured on a per capita basis) with a percentage increase for each year.
- She pointed out that CALEX's request to Kirby for the 2016 was based on \$10.00 per capita (100 people) which she believes is the lowest in the State. The 2017 appropriation request will increase to \$14.50 per capita or \$1,450.00.
- Going to a contract amount will make it easier for both the Town and CALEX to make long range plans but will not take effect until 2018.
- Sharon stated that CALEX is a well run organization but the health system is changing including how they are reimbursed. It is getting more expensive to meet Federal and State requirements making it harder and more expensive for the individual employee to pay for on their own so CALEX pays most of their 25 member employees. CALEX has improved the professionalism of the staff and has at least 1 paramedic on staff 24/7 which is expensive along with keeping up their equipment.
- If the Town does not want to contract with CALEX they are free to negotiate with another ambulance service.

The Selectboard stated that they will include an article on the 2017 Town Warning asking the voters to authorize the Selectboard to negotiation a contract with CALEX.

School Director Miles Etter was present to update the Selectboard on where the Kirby School District is in the consolidation process. He stated that the committee of the new

district that Kirby is looking to become a part of has voted on a set of articles and to send the articles to the State for approval. He stated that it is difficult to come up with a precise budget at this time and how this will affect Kirby. It looks like at this time that the tax rate may go down a bit at first but then will increase a little each year instead of a big jump from one year to the next. He does not believe this will hurt us but will help stabilize the rate. There are still so many variables so it is hard to figure exactly what will happen. He did state that on Town Meeting Day 2017 the Town will vote on whether to join this district and also on picking two representatives (one for a 1-year term and one for a 2-year term) to serve on the 12 member board.

There was then some discussion on the Vermont State Board of Education's proposed rule changes that will affect independent schools in the State. These changes address how public dollars are being spent; enrollment and special education requirements; and the licensing of teachers. He pointed out that the School Board Association and the NEA are supporting these changes. He informed the Selectboard that a hearing is being held tomorrow night at St. Johnsbury Academy's Fuller for the Vermont State Board of Education to take testimony.

Rebecca Hill-Larsen made the motion to approve the November 7, 2016 Selectboard Meeting minutes as written. Seconded by David Chase. So voted.

#### Road Report:

- It was noted that the Town Truck broke down earlier tonight. Hopefully it will only take a day or two to get it repaired. Road Commission John Ohina will use the Town Grader to plow with until the Truck is fixed.
- John requested that the Board consider adopting a policy on how long a former employee can claim ownership of personal property left in the Town Garage. The Selectboard discussed adding a section to their employment policy that states that all personal items must be taken by a terminated (voluntary or not) employee within 5 days of termination. The employee would have no claim to any item left behind after that date.
- John informed the Board that Gingue Construction should be delivering sand next week.
- There was some discussion of the floor drain in the Town Garage. It was decided to install a containment area for all oil drums, etc. along the back wall of the Garage and to daylight the drain. The Board authorized John to continue to work on this project.

The Board then reviewed the November budget.

Town and Highway orders were reviewed and signed.

The Board reviewed the survey of a portion of the South Kirby Cemetery that was recently completed by Northeast Survey. The Board will decide in the spring what kind of markers will be use to mark the individual grave sites.

It was noted that the hearing on reclassifying Lynhill Road and Apple Tree Lane will be held on December 19 at 7:00 pm at the Kirby Town Hall with site visits to be held on December 18 – Apple Tree Lane at 2:30 pm and Lynhill Road at 3:00 pm.

The next regular Selectboard Meeting will be January 2, 2017 at 6:00 pm and the 2017 Town budget meeting will be on January 9, 2017 at 6:00 pm

Rebecca Hill-Larsen made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by David Chase. So voted.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda L. Grant, Secretary