

WESTMINSTER, VT SELECTBOARD MEETING

Friday, March 28, 2022

In Person at the Westminister Town Hall

Selectboard Present: Kevin Hughes, Craig Allen, Jason Perry, Toby Young and Katrina Hamilton

Staff Present: Russell Hodgkins (Town Manager/Zoning Administrator)

1. Call to Order: Jason Perry – Chair

2. Town Meeting Venue - discussion:

Jason Perry told the meeting that after careful consideration he wanted another discussion on the venue of the Town Meeting. All present had concerns about changing the meeting space that had been warned and posted in many areas including the Town Report. Craig Allen made a motion to keep the Town Meeting at the Institute lawn and in case of rain, the Fire Station on April 30, 2022 at 10:00 AM. Kevin Hughes seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.

Other Business:

Jason Perry asked if there was any further business to be discussed. Russell Hodgkins brought up the Interim Treasurer's position which was voted on, to only last two weeks. Kevin Hughes told the meeting that Cassandra Pedigo called him this afternoon and she was not given all of the information that she had requested from the Town Hall about the Treasurer's position and duties. Jason Perry said he received the same call. The Manager explained the meeting was with Cassandra, Chip Stearns from NEMRC, and himself. Russell Hodgkins continued that the meeting was cordial, and that he explained that some details of the position needed to be cleaned up from the February 23 meeting. Kevin and Jason both said that this was not the explanation that Cassandra Pedigo gave. They both explained that Ms. Pedigo is the Interim Treasurer and should be given any and all the information that she requested. Kevin Hughes told the Board that he believes that statutorily Cassandra is the Treasurer and should be treated as such.

Kevin Hughes apologized for any misunderstanding with Millie Barry and her draft minutes, that appears to be interpreted by her email. It was not my intension to question Millie's work but he just wanted to make sure all of the important facts were presented, Kevin said.

Kevin Hughes stated that the February 23 meeting was confusing, and misinformation was given to the Board about who was eligible to be Assistant Treasurer, the resignation of Paul Harlow as a complete surprise, and who is able to hold the token from the bank. Jason Perry said that Cassandra Pedigo as the temporary Treasurer wanted more information as she is concerned about liability for herself not given the complete scope of her job. Craig Allen stated that the position and the duties need to be posted. Katrina Hamilton told the meeting that Cassandra thinks that

she has the job until November when the next election can take place. Kevin Hughes told the Board that Cassandra stated that Russell Hodgkins said the position was still under advisement because the Board was not appropriate with their decision. Jason Perry stated that Katie Dearborn from Mascoma Bank will be at the next meeting on April 13 to help clarify the tokens and who is eligible to carry them. Katie just wants to make sure things are correct. Jason Perry stated that as the Chair, he was not informed of Pauline Blake O'Brien's letter stating she would fill the position of Interim Treasurer until such time as the election could take place, if needed. Jason continued that he is concerned about the out of meeting conversations taking place as they are multiple.

To clarify what was agreed to, Jason asked the Board if it's their opinion that things are to be left alone until the next meeting on April 13. All agreed and Jason said that both individuals should be asked to join the meeting.

Kevin Hughes said that the Conflicts of Interest's need to be improved. He stated that he is not going to keep going as is.

Kevin Hughes stated that the timeline presented by the Town Manager (Russell Hodgkins) was not what was said and the document should have been run by him before presenting to the Board and Public. Kevin continued that he sought advice from his own legal counsel and the Town's Counsel, Lawrence Slason on this matter.

3. Date of Next Meeting - April 13, 2022 at the Town Hall at 6:30 PM.

4. Adjournment: Toby Young motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 PM, seconded by Kevin Hughes, meeting adjourned.

Selectboard Clerk

Date

Minutes composed by Russell Hodgkins 3/29/2022