

ST. GEORGE SELECT BOARD & ASSESSORS

St. George Town Office MEETING MINUTES

December 2, 2019 – 7 p.m.

The Select Board meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. Members present were: Richard Bates, Chair; Randy Elwell, Jerry Hall, and Tammy Willey. (Wayne Sawyer was absent). Also present: Terri-Lynn Baines. (Tim Polky was absent.)

PUBLIC HEARING:

Craignair Inn by the Sea, Inc. Liquor License Application: Chair Bates opened the public hearing at 7 p.m. No members of the public were present. There being no public comments, Chair Bates declared the Public Hearing closed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

REGULAR SESSION:

- Adjustments to Agenda: None.

- Minutes: A motion was made by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Hall, to table the reading of the November 18, 2019 minutes until the December 16, 2019 meeting. The vote was 4-0. Motion carried.

- Communications: None.

- Warrant: The warrant for the week of December 2, 2019 was reviewed and signed. The total expenses were \$511,682.22 and includes two weeks of payroll, a November school payment, a payment for salt, and other regular expenses.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Polky was absent, but Finance Director Terri Lynn Baines reported approximately four to five tax acquired properties had been paid off this week.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Solid Waste and Recycling Committee: Selectperson Willey reported the SW&RC met on November 22, 2019 at 7:30 a.m. The committee had a question and a comment for Ms. Willey to bring before the Select Board. The question was who decides when the transfer station stickers change color? Who makes that decision? Selectperson Hall asked if there was a concern about the change in color? Selectperson Willey stated that no one on the committee was aware that anything had changed which led to the comment that the Boards and Committees and Select Board need to have better communication with each other. Chair Bates noted that he did not receive the November notes/summary report from the SW&RC chair, but Ms. Willey thought the chair of the committee had sent those to him.

Selectperson Hall indicated that the Select Board had not discussed the color change in stickers. Ms. Baines explained that the office staff uses a color until it is gone and then they order more stickers. Chair Bates reminded the public they would need to have a blue sticker on their vehicle

by January 1, 2020 in order to use the transfer station, and Hall mentioned there was a sign at the transfer station to remind people of the upcoming change.

The first St. George Roadside Clean-Up will be held Saturday, May 2, 2020.

The SW&RC will not meet again until March 2020.

The new SW&RC brochures are in the town office.

Chair Bates asked Ms. Baines if she would find out why there was a change in sticker color for vehicle access to the Transfer Station and let Selectperson Willey know.

- St. George Historical Society: Selectperson Willey mentioned that the Historical Society had a soft opening at 38 Main Street (the old library) on Saturday, November 30, and the event went very, very well. Many people signed up to be volunteers, and the HS would be working on publishing a newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Liquor License for Craginair Inn by the Sea, Inc.: On a motion by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Hall, it was voted 4-0 to approve the liquor license application of Craginair Inn by the Sea, Inc. The motion carried and the municipal officers signed the liquor license.

- Ad Hoc Sea Level Rise Committee: Chair Bates explained he had organized a group of volunteers to sit on an ad hoc committee to look into the sea level rise issue. John McIlwain and Dan Verrillo wrote a charge, and Chair Bates said he felt the charge could be accomplished.

On a motion by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Hall, it was voted 4-0 to approve the formation of an ad hoc Sea Level Rise committee. The motion carried.

Chair Bates indicated there may be several other people who would volunteer for the ad hoc committee, and that he would like to see someone from the school on this committee.

- Approve Select Board Policy Manual, pages 51 to end: On a motion by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Hall, it was voted 4-0 to approve the Policy Manual changes as discussed at the November 18, 2019 Select Board meeting.

A newly revised Policy Manual, with page numbers, will be posted on the town website.

- Discussion of New Policies: Chair Bates stated that several months ago, he asked the Select Board to think about new policies the town may need. He asked whether the Board wanted to look into the use of short-term rentals in town. Chair Bates said he had looked at what other towns were doing, and many were passing policies and ordinances, but he thought the issue appeared to be more complicated because of matters such as licensing, fee implementation, and

safety issues. Chair Bates would like CEO Brackett's advice on short term rentals and suggested Brackett be placed on their agenda for some time after the first of the year.

Selectperson Hall asked, "Do we think we have an issue? If we do not have an issue, let's not address it."

Chair Bates said the issue he sees is personal safety and could be argued that it is not the Select Board's problem; it is the individual's responsibility.

Selectperson Elwell suggested holding several public meetings in order to get a sense on how the town felt about short-term rentals. Elwell thought the biggest issue was people who have rentals as a business versus renting their house out as an Airbnb.

Selectperson Willey asked Hall if there was a difference between having a rental cottage or home versus an Airbnb? Hall said, for instance, if we decided to go away for a month in the summer and rent our house out for a month, we have homeowner's insurance. We don't have commercial insurance to rent our house. On the cottage we own and rent out, we have commercial insurance with high liability coverage and all the proper protections. In addition, the insurance company sends a list of things we need to pay attention to.

Selectperson Willey suggested the Select Board keep an eye on short-term rentals. Selectperson Hall said there were municipalities where this was a big issue and he could understand wanting to think more about it.

Chair Bates asked if there were any other policy issues that needed to be brought up. Selectperson Hall felt when the Board encountered an issue, or someone mentioned an issue then that should be the impetus for raising whether or not the Board should consider a policy issue. Selectperson Elwell asked Ms. Baines if there was anything the office administration wanted the Select Board to address. Ms. Baines said she could not think of anything.

At 7:25 p.m., on a motion by Selectperson Hall, seconded by Willey, it was voted to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marguerite R. Wilson
Select Board Recording Secretary