

**Town of Ira
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Date: July 19, 2022**

Present: Nathan Hewitt, Karen Davis, Bob Toppin (by phone), Darin May, Debbie Perry, Chad Ebbighausen, Bob Ebbighausen, Cindy Wragg, Sara Meling, Steve Pietryka

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm. Nathan asked that everyone be courteous and speak in turn.

Review and approve agenda: Darin made a motion to approve the agenda, Nathan 2nd passed unanimously.

Warrant for bills: Nathan made a motion to approve & sign the 7/19/22 warrant for bills. Darin 2nd passed unanimously.

Review Minutes: Darin made a motion to approve the minutes from 7/12/22, Nathan 2nd passed unanimously

Recording: Nathan Hewitt

Business and Administrative

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	RESOLUTION
<p>Select Board</p>	<p>Cynthia Wragg- annual year report</p>	<p>Cindy Wragg was asked to speak. She said she had some questions for the board to answer.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If the 6-28-22 meeting was recorded? The board said meeting notes were taken and the minutes were posted on the town website. The meeting was not recorded with any audible equipment. The board state that it is not the responsibility of the board to call people to notify them when there is a board meeting. Meeting agendas are posted on the town website, at the West Rutland post office, and on the bulletin boards outside the town office and town hall. Meeting minutes are posted on the town website and available at the town office. 2. Does the town provide health insurance to its employees? The board said no the town does not provide health insurance to its employees. 3. Why did the town purchase the new backhoe if it is not getting used? The board said that the old backhoe was worn out and had to be replaced. A new machine was needed to load winter sand/salt mix and allow more to be done by the road employee. Storm damage cleanup, cleaning out culverts, small ditching jobs, and what is feasible to do in house. Larger jobs will still need to be subbed out. The expectation is that the road employee will utilize the new backhoe to do these jobs. 4. Why has the road employee been using his own tractor to fill potholes? The board said they had asked the road employee to use the new backhoe instead of his own tractor. Doing more as an employee and less as a sub-contractor. If the employee uses his own tractor as a subcontractor, he is paid more. 5. Cindy said the road employee uses his own truck to plow and sand at his own expense! The board said he gets paid as a subcontractor when he uses his own truck. 6. Cindy said that Chris Lanfear had done the winter roads! The board said no. He had been on the payroll to help John, but not to

	<p>Local Hazard Mitigation Plan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sign amended agreement 2. Adopt the LHMP 	<p>drive the truck until he got his CDL.</p> <p>Signed the amended LHMP agreement with RRPC. Darin made a motion to adopt the LHMP. Bob 2nd passed unanimously.</p>
Treasurer Report	FY22 Year End Financial report	none
Clerk Report	<p>Washing windows at town office</p> <p>Town Hall: Game Night 8-26-22 Movie Night (Maryann Black)</p> <p>October Select Board meeting date</p>	<p>Karen will ask Madeline Kerstetter to wash windows.</p> <p>Karen will do the paperwork for the town hall rental for the 8-26-22 game night and the once a month move night.</p> <p>Moved the October regular board meeting to 10/25/22 at 6:00 pm because property taxes are due on the normal meeting night.</p>
Lister Report		none
Highway Business	<p>Steve Pietryka – Toppin Road concerns</p> <p>Road Employee</p>	<p>Steve brought to the attention of the board the trees and brush that need to be cut along Toppin Road between his driveway and Route 133. Specifically, the dead elm trees and the apple tree. He also brought to the attention of the board the guard rail at the first culvert that needs to be replaced and his safety concerns about it. The board will have the tree warden look at the cutting that needs to be done and see if the trees are in the towns right of way. The board will look into the replacing the guard rail.</p> <p>Bob Ebbighausen brought up that John Capen was fired and was told he had to choose between the farm and town. The board stated that John was not fired and not told he had to choose between the farm and town. The board asked where this rumor was coming from? The group present indicated they heard it from John. Nathan made a motion to go into executive session to discuss the road employee at 6:49 pm pursuant to Title 1, Section 313 (a)(3). Darin 2nd passed unanimously.</p> <p>The board adjourned executive session at 7:07 pm. The board came out of executive session and reported on the session. During the executive session Nathan said that John had called him in the evening of July 13th returning the message the board had left him when they called him during executive session on the July 12th meeting. John said that he was no longer going to work for the town. Being able to do what the select board expects of the road employee going into the fiscal year was not going to work with his business. Nathan asked John why he did not let the board know by July 1st and communicate with the board. He said he told David Kerstetter. Nathan told him the board was being confronted over a rumor that the board had fired him and the 7-12-22 select board meeting was heated. John said that he did not say to anyone that the board had fired him. The board then called Jeff Davis for his decision on picking up the road work. Jeff agreed to do it. Darin agreed to be Jeff's select board contact. Jeff agreed to attend the</p>

	<p>FY22 Grants in Aid -project/bids</p> <p>Summer road work update</p> <p>Road equipment maintenance update</p>	<p>select board meetings. The board stated that Jeff is already an employee and do not need to advertise for the position. The board will advertise for a second part time employee with a CDL to help Jeff and to be a backup.</p> <p>Will regroup and look for other sections of road that will fall under Grant in Aid.</p> <p>Need more bids on the projects. Jeff Davis checked the roads after the rain. Darin will talk with Jeff about filling potholes until the grader is fixed, smoothing out Pyka Road, and ditching on Birdseye Road before the backhoe comes back.</p> <p>Brad Nadeau and Jeff got the leaking cylinders off the grader. The cylinders are at Brad's shop being rebuilt. Two new batteries were put in the grader to get it to start. The old batteries would no longer take a charge.</p>
TOPIC	DISCUSSION	
Public Comments	none	none
Maintenance & Repairs to Town Buildings	Report of maintenance concerns from monthly inspection by DHP	None to report
Cemetery Committee	Mowing/trimming salary	Bob made a motion to increase the salary for labor by \$500 and the gas stipend by \$100. Darin 2 nd passed unanimously.
New or Other Business	none	none
Executive Session (legal, personnel, real estate)	none	Voted and passed to move into executive session to discuss road the employee Pursuant to Title 1, Section 313 (a)(3). See above
Adjourn	7:50 pm	Nathan made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 pm. Darin 2 nd passed unanimously.
In my capacity as a member of the Ira Select Board, I certify that the above is a true and accurate copy of the approval minutes of the board meeting held on July 19, 2022		