

Athens Special Selectboard Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2023
7:00pm at the Athens Town Office

In attendance: Sandi Capponcelli, Hannah Regier, Janet Perry, David Bemis, Denise Randall, Krista Gay, Don Capponcelli, Dennis Mirante, Anna Warn, William Borsi, Danny Taylor, Tara Taylor, Carmen Dresser, Matt Perry, Bob Bova, Kate Bova, April Lyman,

Called to order at

Adjustments to Agenda

David makes a motion to add the NEMRC contract to the agenda. Sandi seconds. Put to a vote: all in favor.

Public Comments

David says that often there is discussion back and forth in a meeting, but there really shouldn't be. It should be that there are public comments and not a discussion amongst the whole group.

Dennis Mirante wants there to be a time that the public can ask questions and get answers from the selectboard. He asks what this special meeting is about.

Don Capponcelli says that he has contacted Dead River to come and do annual servicing for the furnace in the office and the boiler community center. The service is scheduled for January 4th. The cost is \$390 per building, which Don says is in line with the service he had done at his house. David and Denise say it is important to keep the furnaces maintained. Don says that Russ Brown used to do this work and this is the first time since he passed that the town needs it done.

Bob Bova asks what this meeting is about. He says he'd like an answer. In other meetings he's been to, there haven't been answers. David says that a Special Meeting is one that isn't a regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Bob asks how anyone can have a public comment if they don't know what the meeting is about. David says it's part of the statute that all board meetings have a public comment period.

Dennis Mirante asks again what the meeting is about. Sandi says it is about personnel issues which is a reason under 1 VSA to have an executive session.

Kate Bova says she understands that an executive session can't be talked about because that could change the outcome of the issue. She wants to know if any of the information can be shared, after time has passed, about the executive sessions and their outcomes. David says

that sometimes that happens and sometimes it doesn't. David says there are very few things that can be brought into executive session. Krista reads the full statute.

Executive Session per 1 VSA § 313

There is some procedural discussion about having a two-part executive session with board members who are conflicted not being present for one part. Krista thinks it is better to go into executive session, come out, then go back in for the different issue. David thinks it's ok to make two motions and have one executive session.

Sandi makes a motion to enter executive session for the evaluation of an employee. Janet will leave the room for this part of the executive session because she has a conflict. Denise seconds.

Discussion: Bob Bova asks if David has a conflict because Matt has logged his property. David says he has contracted with Matt and other people in town, but he doesn't believe that is a conflict. He says he will leave that to the rest of the board if they think it's a conflict.

Put to a vote: 4 in favor, Janet abstains.

Krista asks if David is currently paying Matt. He says no, and he doesn't pay Matt at all. Krista says she doesn't see a conflict.

Denise makes the motion to go into executive session to review employment applications. Sandi seconds. Put to a vote: all in favor.

Kate Bova asks if there is any reason to come back in after the executive session. David says that the board will sign the NEMRC contract, and if there are any decisions to be voted on from the executive session, those will be voted on in an open session. Krista adds that if the board makes any decisions to hire or take action they have to explain the reasons for the decisions in an open meeting.

Executive session begins at 7:16

Janet leaves.

Matt remains in the executive session until 7:45

Matt and Janet rejoin executive session at 8:04

David makes a motion to exit executive session at 8:24. Denise seconds. Put to a vote: all in favor.

No decisions were made in the executive sessions.

David makes a motion that Krista comes up with a benefits package for the next meeting. Sandi seconds. Put to a vote: 4 in favor, Janet recuses herself.

David makes a motion that Denise, Sandi, Matt and Hannah be on the hiring committee to review and interview candidates for the open position. Krista seconds. Put to a vote: all in favor.

David makes a motion to sign the contract with NEMRC. Sandi seconds. Put to a vote: all in favor.

Motion to Adjourn

*David makes a motion to adjourn. Sandi seconds.
Meeting adjourned at 8:27.*

Respectfully submitted,
Hannah Regier