

Municipal Corner – Selectboard Meetings

Larry “Duke” Rhodes: Duke is retiring from Stowe Emergency Medical Services after 32 years of service. He grew up in Stowe in Nebraska Valley by the Rhodes Bridge. As an adult, he became Stowe Rescue’s first employee doing administrative work and serving as an EMT. Duke volunteered for Stowe Rescue for many years after obtaining his first EMT certification in 1981, later, in 1988 Duke advanced his certification to the EMT-Intermediate/Advanced EMT level and worked in that capacity until his retirement. In the early years of working full-time for the Town, Duke was integral to keeping everything on track for Stowe Rescue (now Stowe EMS). As the only Full-time employee for many years, Duke saw to multiple administrative tasks, vehicle maintenance, supply inventory, and anchored daytime crews during an era when all other responders were volunteers. Over the years, Duke served also as a member of the Stowe Fire Department and the Stowe Hazardous Terrain Team (now Stowe Mountain Rescue). It is not easy to see your friends and neighbors in a painful emergency situation, but Duke did it in a caring manner and helped a lot of people in difficult circumstances. Thank you, Duke, for your service.

15 Years: As of April 9th, I have been the Stowe Town Manager for 15 years. I am proud of the team of municipal employees we have been able to build to help the community achieve their goals. Although we have undertaken a number of municipal infrastructure projects, the project that has been most endearing to me was burying the Main Street utility lines. It was most rewarding to facilitate a project where a town came together to invest in the vitality of their historic community center. I would like to thank the current and previous Selectboards and the community for giving me the opportunity to serve the Town of Stowe. I would also like to thank all the employees for their service.

Selectboard Meetings:

The Selectboard typically meets the second and fourth Monday of every month. The agendas are posted on the town website a week in advance of the meeting so that you can see what is being discussed. We welcome public comment and if you have interest in any of the topics on the agenda – you should attend either in person or virtually and your voice will be heard.

To introduce a matter for a future Selectboard agenda to discuss a policy item, please start by sending an email to me at csafford@stowevt.gov, with the appropriate background information. I can then forward to the appropriate municipal employee or body to review, further research and advise the Selectboard on what it being asked and what the scope of solutions might be. In some cases, we may refer the matter to another board, commission, or committee that is better suited to consider the matter or needs to be consulted first. Once this process has been completed, we will schedule the matter for consideration as an agenda item, and it will be posted so that others who may have interest in the matter will also have the opportunity to have input.

In addition to the formal agenda, there is always a reasonable opportunity to raise items of concern or public interest in the ‘other business’ section of every meeting. This is to hear from the community on matters that they care about; to hear brief thoughts. If the matter raised requires any formal action of the Selectboard, it will be warned for consideration at a future meeting and the process described in the above paragraph would prevail. As always, warning a specific agenda item provides time for staff to research the topic, time for the community to see and understand what is in front of the Selectboard

and offers ample opportunity for the public to weigh in or provide testimony for the Selectboard's consideration.

All this being said, it is important to recognize that there is the general business of updating the Selectboard on the many items that come up to keep the municipality operating smoothly, get updated on capital projects that have previously been approved or items that are required statutorily for them to consider. All of this takes time and there is only so much time the Selectboard can devote at each meeting, so please be patient as we schedule items, sometimes having to go out a month or more before we can get to your topic. Suffice it to say, with so much to cover at the meetings, they can often go late into the night and so we also that you be patient at meetings. We have a strong culture of civility at Selectboard meetings, we want to give each topic the time it deserves and do so in a considered manner. We thank you for taking the time to understand and participate in our community process.

If you would like to know more about Selectboard meetings in terms of how agendas are set and the meetings are conducted, you can view the Selectboard Policy Regarding Selectboard Meetings at www.townofstovevt.org under *Documents* along with all of the other Town ordinances and policies. In addition, if you want to know what is going to be on a Selectboard agenda you can see a legal ad in the Stowe Reporter the preceding Thursday and/or you can go to the *Stay Connected* section of the Town's website and click the *Selectboard Agenda* option to have them directly send to your email.

I hope this has been helpful information!