

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

June 28, 2021

Special meeting to discuss Transfer Station Incident

The Canaan Selectboard had originally planned on reviewing and working on policies at this meeting but considering the incident that took place at the Transfer Station on the morning of June 28, 2021, the board decided to use this meeting to get information and details of the incident.

Chairman Haven Haynes, Jr. opened the meeting at 5:01 PM. Those present: Haven Haynes, Jr., Alfred Buckley, Noreen Labrecque, Marc Dion and later joined by Richard Thibeault.

The incident happened at approximately 9:45AM. Richard Thibeault was using the Town's backhoe to crush down the metal's container at the Transfer Station. He was in the process of picking up a refrigerator that had been left at the Transfer Station on Saturday, June 26th, 2021. When he picked up the appliance, the gas line was punctured, and the fluid flew out onto Richard's face and into the cab of the backhoe. This rendered Richard temporarily unable to see. Richard was able to exit the backhoe and call for help. Brian Bissonnette was at the Treatment Plant and was onsite within minutes. Brian administered oxygen to Richard and called the Ambulance. Once the Ambulance arrived, they flushed out Richard's eyes and he was able to see. Richard was transported to UCVH where they examined him and concluded he received a chemical burn to his cornea and lips. Richard was able to leave the hospital and given permission by the doctor to resume work the next day if he was feeling up to it.

Marc Dion reported that he did in fact see who dropped off the appliance. He admitted that he did not check the appliance for the mandatory tag from a plumber indicating that the appliance had been serviced. Marc said he had refused one the week before but did not with this one.

As a result of this incident new policies will need to be established. The Transfer Station information sheets as well as the A-Z listing clearly states that any appliance containing Freon or other refrigerant must have it removed by a licensed plumber and tagged prior to dropping off at the Transfer Station. The board will work on other means to make the Transfer Station users aware of this important requirement.

Noreen stated that she has notified the Town's insurance company (VLCT PACIF) about the incident, and they have contacted Richard for a statement from him.

On a motion by Al, Chairman Haven Haynes, Jr. adjourned the Special meeting at 5:45PM.