

TOWN OF PEACHAM

MINUTES OF THE SELECTBOARD MEETING

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

APPROVED

Selectboard Members Present (all via phone/video conference): Mike Heath, Beatrice Ring, Peter Craig
Public (all via phone/video conference): Road Foreman Jeremy Withers, Selectboard Clerk Rebecca Washington, Neil Monteith, Ron Craig, Gretchen Boswell, Ian Boswell, Andrea Kane

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair of the Selectboard Mike Heath at 6:34pm.
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. Transfer Station
 - i. Moved to agenda item number 5.
 - b. Appropriations Committee resignation
 - i. Moved to agenda item number 6.
3. Covid-19 response update
 - a. Monteith explained that there is \$112.67 due to the town for food reimbursements and that Washington sent out new statements to the five individuals who still owe money.
 - b. Heath asked if there was an official position the town could take regarding reopening the school in August.
 - i. Monteith will get input from the Emergency Team and put together a response for Heath to pass on to the School Board.
 - c. The LEMP was accepted by the state.
 - d. Discussion ensued on the town website. The Selectboard decided that, instead of having Covid information front and center, a button or dropdown menu would suffice.
4. Highway department update
 - a. The Aiken Farm Road box culvert project is almost complete and going well.
 - b. While Walt Neborsky was roadside mowing on Way Road, a rock came out of his mower and went through a kitchen window.
 - i. Neborsky will pay to have the window fixed.
 - c. Discussion ensued on East Peacham Road paving.
 - i. The chloride truck has been down, which is why the road has been dusty.
 - ii. P. Craig has heard from a few people who have said it should stay a dirt road until next year.
 - iii. Heath would like to leave it as a dirt road for as long as possible.
 - iv. Withers explained that Peacham would probably not receive a paving grant next year.
 - d. Withers spoke with Matt Kempton about moving the road at Maple Tree Lane and County Road to make a safer intersection. Withers said it would cost \$12,000-\$15,000 and that Kempton would help with excavation.
 - i. A previous Selectboard discussed the project but those minutes have not been located.
 - ii. The Selectboard discussed saving money by moving the existing material over to the new section of road and having the old road become part of Kempton's lawn.
 - iii. The Selectboard agreed that it was not the year to do it as an unbudgeted project but that it should be discussed when budgeting for 2021.
 - e. The \$5,000 culvert budget has been spent but there are 150-200 feet of culverts that need to be replaced which would cost \$2,500-\$3,000.
 - i. The Selectboard agreed to have Withers go ahead and replace the culverts as good preventative maintenance.
 - ii. Withers is planning on increasing the culvert budget in 2021.
 - f. One of the road crew members gave his two weeks' notice.
 - i. Discussion ensued on hiring another road crew member.
 - ii. Washington will post the job opening on the town website and in the Caledonian-Record for two weeks starting on July 27th.
 - iii. Washington will also look into other places to post the job opening.
5. Transfer Station
 - a. NEKWMD contacted P. Craig to say that they would not take the recycling from the Transfer Station until it was cleaned up. P. Craig and R. Craig spent a few hours cleaning up and organizing the recycling shed so that it could be picked up. There were plastic bags in the compost, a lot of cardboard boxes that weren't flattened, and lids on many of the glass jars.
 - i. There was also more recycling than usual because the Transfer Station was closed the previous Saturday for the Fourth of July.
 - b. Heath suggested controlling the flow of traffic within the Transfer Station and possibly expanding the recycling shed to accommodate the newer recycling and composting laws.
 - c. The Selectboard agreed that more education on the proper way to recycle was needed.
 - i. Ring will post procedures for recycling and composting online.

- ii. P. Craig will meet with the Transfer Station attendant to review procedures and to make sure informational signs get put up. He will also stop in on Saturday to see how things are going.
6. Appropriations Committee resignation
 - a. Ring explained that Mel Reis resigned from the Appropriations Committee.
 - b. Washington will post online to try and find a volunteer to replace her.
7. Town Clerk update
 - a. Ring summarized Town Clerk Thomas Galinat's update.
 - b. The General Ledger is negative by \$18,800, but there is a roughly \$30,000 payment expected from the Peacham School District and the TAN is ready with \$300,000.
 - c. The Selectboard agreed not to make any adjustments to the 2020 budget.
 - d. **Ring moved to waive the 4% late-filed homestead penalty. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
 - e. Regarding the Town Hall renovations/ADA improvements, the Capital Building Fund is at \$99,000, which does not include a \$20,000 2020 contribution after the school is paid in November.
8. Approval of Tax Rate
 - a. The Selectboard reviewed the Grand List Computations 2020 provided by Galinat.
 - b. **P. Craig moved to approve the town tax rate. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
9. Fall Fondo
 - a. I. Boswell explained that the 2020 Fall Fondo had been cancelled due to Covid-19.
 - b. Entry fees will either be refunded, rolled over to 2021, or donated and then allocated to organizations in Peacham.
10. Outdoor classroom request
 - a. Kane explained that she runs a business called TrainNEK and would like to use the town soccer field as an outdoor classroom for an emergency medicine class. She is planning one session per month in August and September, with each session lasting eight days. A tent would be set up and a port-a-potty would be brought in. Each of the six students would wear a mask, maintain social distance, and bring a non-socially distanced person along as a "patient".
 - b. Discussion ensued and the Selectboard agreed to let Kane use the soccer field as an outdoor classroom.
 - i. Kane would be responsible for having it mowed because the work crew hasn't been able to mow due to Covid-19.
11. Town Hall renovation/ADA improvements
 - a. Barber presented drawings for the planned ADA improvements and covered walkway at Town Hall.
 - i. Discussion ensued.
 - ii. David Jacobs will work on the grades for the driveway and ADA parking area.
 - iii. Barber will get an estimate from a local contractor.
 - iv. Ring will look into available grant writers.
 - b. R. Craig pointed out that the pieces of railing left in the ground are dangerous and that they should be removed. He offered to remove them the following day.
 - i. Washington explained that Withers was planning on removing them the following day.
12. Old business
 - a. East Peacham Road paving
 - i. Discussed during the Highway Department update.
 - b. Personnel Policy
 - i. No update.
 - c. Town solar policy
 - i. No update.
13. Approve minutes
 - a. **P. Craig moved to approve the minutes from July 1, 2020. Ring seconded. P. Craig and Ring in favor. Heath abstained. So moved.**
14. Review and approve bills
 - a. Discussion ensued on the bills from the Law Office of William Cobb.
 - b. **P. Craig moved to approve all bills except the ones from William Cobb. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
15. Review correspondence
 - a. No correspondence present.
16. Executive session for legal matters
 - a. The Selectboard did not enter executive session.
17. Adjourn
 - a. **P. Craig moved to adjourn. Ring seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.**

These minutes were approved as written by the Peacham Selectboard at its regular meeting on 8/5/2020.

Rebecca Washington, Selectboard Clerk

