

TOWN OF PEACHAM  
MINUTES OF THE SELECTBOARD MEETING  
Wednesday, October 7, 2020  
APPROVED

Selectboard Members Present (all via phone/video conference): Mike Heath, Peter Craig, Beatrice Ring  
Public (all via phone/video conference): Town Clerk Thomas Galinat, Road Foreman Jeremy Withers,  
Selectboard Clerk Rebecca Washington, Ron Craig, Neil Monteith, Jock Gill, Frank Miller, Rose Dedam, Rick  
Scholes, Annette Lorraine

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair of the Selectboard Mike Heath at 6:30pm.
2. Additions to the agenda
  - a. Committee reports
    - i. Ring would like to start the process of having the Selectboard-appointed committees and commissions report to the Selectboard.
    - ii. Washington will set up the schedule.
  - b. Solar project
    - i. Moved to agenda item 15d.
3. Highway Department update
  - a. The older 10-wheeler is currently out of service.
  - b. The new road crew member just started working full-time.
  - c. Green Mountain Power's Kevin Matte will come to the October 21 meeting to discuss running power underground for 350 feet from Danville to the last resident on Thaddeus Stevens Rd.
    - i. Discussion ensued on the need to have the power line buried deep enough along the road and encased in concrete if buried under the road.
  - d. The Selectboard will go to the Town Clerk's Office to sign paperwork for the Aiken Farm Road box culvert grant so that Withers can submit it for a reimbursement of \$92,408.00.
4. Bid opening-Peacham Pond plowing and sanding
  - a. The town received one bid for plowing and sanding Peacham Pond Road and Onion Point Road for the entire 2020-2021 winter season.
    - i. Blake Jenkins bid a yearly price of \$13,000.
      - a) Withers already explained to Jenkins that the roads should be ready for the morning and afternoon commutes, with additional plowing and sanding as needed.
      - b) Jenkins will provide his own sand.
  - b. **P. Craig moved to accept Blake Jenkins' bid for plowing Peacham Pond Road and Onion Point Road. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
5. New 10-wheeler
  - a. Discussion ensued on whether to continue on the truck lease program that the Selectboard started several years ago or to get off of the lease program and buy out the older 10-wheeler.
    - i. The lease program reduces the need for costly repairs as the trucks age and results in less down time for the road crew.
  - b. **Ring moved to lease a new 10-wheeler for 2021. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
    - i. Withers will start calling around for bids.
6. Town Clerk update
  - a. The new 6-wheeler arrived at Clark's Truck Center and the price has changed. The annual payment amount decreased by \$200 and is now \$12,029. The guaranteed buyback price is the same.
    - i. The Selectboard will go sign the paperwork in the Town Clerk's Office.
  - b. Every registered, non-challenged voter in Peacham was sent a general election ballot by the state.
  - c. \$549,000 has been received in property taxes so far, which is ahead of the amount received by the same time in 2019.
    - i. Galinat was able to release roughly 5% of the education liability to the school early.
  - d. Galinat is nervous about the potential volume of delinquent taxes this year and said that the Selectboard could consider waiving penalty and interest for 2020.
    - i. The town holds all liability for delinquent taxes and the school gets paid in full. The Selectboard would be responsible for addressing shortfalls in tax revenue.
    - ii. Freund asked if, starting this year when delinquencies might be high, delinquent taxes could be quantified in a comparable fashion. He suggested that delinquent taxes could be a measure of whether the total budget and the education budget are sustainable.
      - a) Heath said that delinquent taxes are at a low point and Galinat explained that, since the town held a tax sale in 2016, Delinquent Tax Collector John Sheehan has been diligently collecting the budgeted volume of delinquent taxes and considers a tax sale annually.
7. Covid-19 response update
  - a. The Covid-19 Relief Fund is still available for those who need help.
  - b. The town is not planning on doing any more food orders because there are now systems in place.
  - c. Monteith and Terry Miller are working on updating Covid information on the town website.
  - d. The emergency team plans to stay in place as long as the state of emergency is active.
8. Mask policy at Town Hall
  - a. There have been multiple incidents at Town Hall of people going into the post office without masks. The post office, as a federal agency, cannot enforce a state mask mandate, but there is a sign on the exterior door stating that masks are required.

- b. Details and enforcement options of the mask mandate were discussed.
  - c. Ring will speak with the postmaster in Danville about enforcement of the mask mandate in the post office and Heath will review the post office lease.
9. Peacham Pond Association update-Allen Freund
- a. Freund updated the Selectboard on the Public Access Greeter Program at Peacham Pond, which helps prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.
    - i. 407 watercraft were logged and inspected this year, up from 240 in 2019 and 250 in 2018.
  - b. Freund is the new Peacham Pond Association liaison to the Selectboard, but Martha Winston will still apply for the grant and work with the Town Clerk's Office to administer it.
  - c. Freund asked for support from the Selectboard to apply for the 2021 grant.
    - i. The Selectboard agreed to continue supporting the Peacham Pond greeter program which helps prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.
10. Gym use request-PTF
- a. Dedam explained that the PTF wanted to use the gym to hold meetings once a month and to make wreaths from November 7-November 23.
  - b. Ring will get back to Dedam by Monday with an answer.
11. Town Hall renovation/ADA improvements
- a. Galinat would like to see the drawings and budgets for both the entrance and the ADA access/drainage firmed up so that the town can get on contractors' schedules for the spring.
  - b. P. Craig will get the drawing from Rusty Barber of the plan that Greg Schoolcraft gave an estimate for and talk to a few contractors.
12. Request to run water under the road
- a. Galinat requested permission to close Bayley Hazen Road on October 15 to redo the water line under the road at Chandler Hill Farm. Cars will not be prevented from driving through because they will be able to drive through the barn yard.
  - b. The Selectboard gave Galinat permission and told him to coordinate with Withers.
13. Outdoor Club
- a. Ring asked if one of the other Selectboard members who is more outdoorsy would be willing to rejuvenate the Outdoor Club.
  - b. The Selectboard will discuss it at the next Selectboard meeting.
14. Transfer Station property lines
- a. In researching the Transfer Station property lines for the stump dump, P. Craig discovered that the abutting property owner maintains and has a locked gate on a large portion of town property.
  - b. Discussion ensued on sending the neighbor a letter to prevent adverse possession and Scholes recommended having the letter written by an attorney familiar with real estate litigation.
    - i. Heath will get a recommendation from Annette Lorraine for an attorney.
15. Old business
- a. Gym use procedures
    - i. Ring presented the finalized gym use procedures and the rest of the Selectboard approved them.
    - ii. Discussion ensued on the town's liability and Ring confirmed that gym users will have to sign a release of liability form.
  - b. Cold weather Transfer Station procedures
    - i. Heath is waiting on suggested procedures from Peacham's Health Officer.
    - ii. P. Craig has been making sure the Transfer Station Attendant is getting everything ready for winter.
  - c. Personnel Policy update
    - i. Heath recommended having a work session to update the policy and the Selectboard agreed.
  - d. Solar project
    - i. Gill would like to discuss the solar project further when the Selectboard is not so busy.
16. Approve minutes
- a. **P. Craig moved to approve the minutes from September 16, 2020 and September 21, 2020. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
17. Email approval of warrants
- a. Discussion ensued on the procedure for approving warrants by email.
18. Review and approve bills
- a. **P. Craig moved to approve the bills. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
19. Review correspondence
- a. The Selectboard reviewed a letter from John Reiss.
20. Executive session for personnel
- a. **P. Craig moved to enter executive session for personnel. Ring seconded. All in favor. Executive session entered at 9:20pm.**
  - b. The Selectboard came out of executive session at 9:30pm.
  - c. No action taken.
21. Adjourn
- a. **Ring moved to adjourn. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:31pm.**

These minutes were approved as written by the Peacham Selectboard at its regular meeting on 10/21/20.

Rebecca Washington, Selectboard Clerk