

TOWN OF PEACHAM
MINUTES OF THE SELECTBOARD MEETING
Wednesday, November 4, 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, Bob Hansen, Dan St. Cyr, Rusty Barber, Jock Gill

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair of the Selectboard Mike Heath at 6:30pm.
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. No additions.
3. Highway Department update
 - a. The road crew had to plow the roads recently but will now get back to grading.
4. 10-wheeler bids
 - a. The town received two bids for the new 10-wheeler truck lease.
 - i. The International bid from Clark's Truck Center was for \$24,864.92/year for a 3-year lease.
 - ii. The Freightliner bid from Charlebois was for \$39,858.28/year for a 3-year lease.
 - b. Craig explained that the state had locked in the International price and that towns get the state-contracted price.
 - c. **Craig moved to accept the bid from Clark's Truck Center in Jericho, Vermont for the 2021-2022 truck with the stipulation that it has to show up before next winter. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
 - i. Withers was delegated to negotiate the contract to get the truck before the end of 2021.
 - ii. Discussion ensued on the timeline for getting the truck.
 - a) St. Cyr said that he expects to be able to get the truck body for a June to July build date.
5. Town Clerk update
 - a. The election went smoothly in Peacham with a 74% voter turnout. Peacham was lucky to have a dedicated group of election workers and volunteers and they all deserve a huge thank you.
 - b. Ring and Withers will meet with Galinat to start working on the 2021 budget to present to the Selectboard at the November 18th meeting.
 - c. 2020 delinquent taxes are at \$149,000, which is average for this time of year. That amount most likely includes payments that were postmarked by the due date but have not yet been received.
 - d. Recordsforce and NEMRC have been working on digitizing Peacham's land records and there is a new estimate of the project's cost.
 - i. In addition to the \$16,000 grant that Peacham received, Galinat would like permission to spend up to \$7,500 out of the Restoration Land Records restricted fund. The fund is currently at \$19,000 and is entirely self-funded through recording and copy fees and does not cost the taxpayers any money.
 - ii. Galinat plans to have the records available online which will protect the books from being handled unnecessarily. There will be fees for records spanning from 1955 to the present and records before 1955 will be free.
 - iii. **Ring moved to let the Town Clerk's Office go forward with the digitization of land records. Craig seconded.**
 - a) Discussion ensued.
 - b) **Ring amended the motion so that fees spent from the Restoration Land Records fund be no greater than \$7,600. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
6. 2021 Town Meeting
 - a. Act 162 allows the legislative body, the Selectboard, to move to make Town Meeting happen by Australian ballot for one year due to Covid. There can be a remote informational meeting that follows the open meeting standards provided during Covid.
 - b. Discussion ensued.
 - c. **Ring moved to accept the idea provided by Act 162 that for Town Meeting in 2021 Peacham uses Australian ballot for critical elements. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
7. Covid-19 response update
 - a. No update.
8. Broadband-Jock Gill
 - a. Gill emailed the Northeast Kingdom Communication Union District annual report to the Selectboard and the Town Clerk.
 - b. Broadband availability is a problem in Peacham and Gill said that Starlink may help solve that problem starting in 2021.
 - c. There are a few people in town exploring a community-owned solution.
 - d. The school now has a fiber-optic connection to the internet. The cost of installation was \$0 and an e-rate grant reduced the monthly cost to \$100 per month.
9. Selectboard appointment
 - a. Appropriations Committee
 - i. **Ring moved to accept Geoffrey Sewake as a member of the Appropriations Committee. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**

10. Committee updates
 - a. Zoning Administrator
 - i. Hansen has processed fourteen Zoning Permit Applications so far in 2020.
 - a) There were ten building permits, one subdivision permit, two boundary line adjustments, and one conditional use permit.
 - ii. The Planning Commission has been working on wording in the Zoning Bylaws that will provide more leverage and improve enforcement for outstanding problems such as unregistered vehicles, public nuisance issues, and excessive trash.
 - a) Gill explained that the state has a list of fines and he plans to recommend that the Planning Commission use the maximum rate allowed by law.
 - b) Discussion ensued on the enforcement of Zoning Bylaws.
 - b. Development Review Board
 - i. Barber has been a member and chair of the DRB since June 2020 and the rest of the board consists of Morris McCain, Matt Kempton, Marilyn Magnus, and Rick Scholes.
 - ii. The DRB approved a subdivision at its first hearing of 2020.
 - iii. The DRB's second hearing is scheduled for November 13th to consider an application for construction of a two-car garage with an office on Tony Burrington's property on Old County Road.
 - a) Hansen issued Burrington a notice of violation on July 28th, Burrington had 60 days to come into compliance, and Burrington applied for the zoning permit in order to come into compliance.
 - b) Discussion ensued on whether or not Burrington is out of compliance for a past violation and whether or not he is running a salvage yard.
 1. Hansen explained that Burrington came into compliance for a past violation and that Vince Chiorgno from the state has been to the property three times and made the determination that it is not a salvage yard.
11. Town Hall renovation/ADA improvements
 - a. Craig is waiting on the drawings for the front entry to come in.
12. Old business
 - a. Appropriations Committee expanded responsibilities
 - i. No update.
 - b. Keeper of the Pound research
 - i. There is a potential opportunity to collaborate with Barnet to hire a Keeper of the Pound for both towns. Barnet and Peacham would each pay a stipend and would split the cost of the equipment and training.
 - a) Discussion ensued.
 - b) The Selectboard plans to have someone ready to be appointed to the position in March.
 - c. Mask policy in Town Hall
 - i. Ring is still touching base with the Postmaster in Danville.
 - d. Transfer Station property lines
 - i. If the property lines are where they are thought to be, Craig would like the brush piles to be burned, the lumber piles moved off, posted signs removed, and the gate removed or unlocked.
 - ii. Galinat recommended working with the landowners, either through a letter or a recorded conversation, to establish awareness that they are maintaining town property. They do have a deeded right-of-way across town property.
 - iii. Discussion ensued.
 - iv. Heath will reach out to the landowners.
 - e. Cold weather Transfer Station procedures
 - i. Heath is waiting on suggested procedures from Peacham's Health Officer.
 - ii. Discussion on possible procedures ensued.
 - f. Personnel Policy update
 - i. No update.
13. Approve minutes
 - a. **Ring moved to accept the minutes from October 21, 2020. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
14. Review and approve bills
 - a. **Craig moved to approve the payment of the bills. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
15. Review correspondence
 - a. The Selectboard reviewed a letter from Rick Scholes who resigned from the Planning Commission.
16. Adjourn
 - a. **Ring moved to adjourn. Craig seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.**

These minutes were approved as written by the Peacham Selectboard at its regular meeting on 11/18/20.

Rebecca Washington, Selectboard Clerk

