

TOWN OF PEACHAM
MINUTES OF THE SELECTBOARD MEETING
Wednesday, December 2, 2020
APPROVED

Selectboard Members Present (all via phone/video conference): Peter Craig, Beatrice Ring
Public (all via phone/video conference): Town Clerk Thomas Galinat, Road Foreman Jeremy Withers,
Selectboard Clerk Rebecca Washington, Jock Gill, Allison Webster, David Edwards, Jake Thomas

1. The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair of the Selectboard Peter Craig at 6:31pm.
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. No additions.
3. Highway Department update
 - a. The town trucks are ready for winter.
 - b. The road crew has been getting some grading done before winter.
 - c. Discussion ensued on how to keep the roads maintained over the winter if the road crew is out due to Covid or Covid-related quarantines.
 - i. Ideas included having road crew members work independently of each other, having a list of backup people on call, and having neighboring town road crews cover for each other.
 - a) Galinat recommended having backup people fill out w-4s.
 - b) Ring suggested putting a notice online explaining the impact that Covid could have on road maintenance over the winter.
 - ii. Withers will call neighboring town road crews to start the conversation.
4. Town Clerk update
 - a. The Town Clerk's Office has been busy preparing for next year which has included meeting with the auditors to work on the 2020 town report.
 - b. Delinquent taxes for 2020 are down to \$84,000.
 - i. There have not been any applications for property tax assistance from the Covid-19 Relief Fund.
 - c. Galinat would like to meet with Cemetery Sexton Ron Craig to work on a five-year budget plan for the cemetery.
5. Town gym maintenance plan
 - a. Galinat suggested having maintenance done in the gym while it's closed to the public due to Covid restrictions. Maintenance would include interior painting, small fixes, and expanding the storage area to make it more functional.
 - b. **Ring moved to allow Tom Galinat, as Town Clerk, to contact people to make improvements to the gym during the time it's closed within the confines of this year's 2020 budget. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
6. Covid sick time
 - a. Galinat asked if the road crew members are required to use their existing sick time for Covid-related absences from work, including Covid testing and Covid quarantines.
 - b. Discussion ensued and Galinat agreed to contact VLCT for a recommendation.
 - i. The Selectboard agreed to use VLCT's recommendation for the previous payroll as well as moving forward.
7. Covid-19 response update
 - a. No update.
8. Committee updates
 - a. Energy Committee
 - i. The Energy Committee has distributed flyers encouraging residential energy savings, raising awareness of energy audits, and detailing Efficiency Vermont's resources.
 - ii. The committee has been working with NVDA's Alison Low on updating the town's Energy Plan, which will replace the energy section in the Town Plan.
9. Appropriations Committee expanded responsibilities
 - a. Edwards asked if the Selectboard was interested in having him explore a revision of the current procedures that the Appropriations Committee uses. The revision would include an expanded committee that would make recommendations based on relative merit of the applicants.
 - b. Galinat pointed out that the voters of the town are responsible for voting on the town appropriations.
 - c. Discussion ensued.
 - d. Ring will put together a group of people in April or May to discuss improving the appropriations process.
10. Committee updates
 - a. Planning Commission
 - i. The Planning Commission has been working on reviewing zoning enforcement procedures, as well as correcting errors and filling in omissions in the Zoning Bylaws.
 - ii. The commission is currently working on scheduling the first of two hearings for the integration of the updated Energy Plan with the Town Plan.
11. New committees recommendation

- a. Gill suggested that, in the future, the Selectboard might want to consider forming an energy department and a communications department to manage and support Peacham's infrastructure.
12. Planning Commission recommendations for utility trenching
 - a. Gill explained that, since vital infrastructures that are underground are less vulnerable, utility companies should have the option of putting down conduit whenever there is digging in the public right-of-way.
13. Old business
 - a. Town Hall renovation/ADA improvements
 - i. Craig is waiting on a budget number for the Town Hall entry.
 - b. Keeper of the Pound search
 - i. The Selectboard is still looking for someone willing to serve as Keeper of the Pound starting in 2021.
 - c. Transfer Station property lines
 - i. No update.
 - d. Personnel Policy update
 - i. No update.
14. 2021 budgeting
 - a. Discussion ensued on the 2021 budget.
15. Approve minutes
 - a. **Ring moved to accept the meeting minutes of November 18, 2020. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
16. Review and approve bills
 - a. Galinat asked for a decision on paying Bill Cobb's final outstanding invoice for \$735.
 - i. The Selectboard agreed that Galinat should pay the outstanding invoice to Bill Cobb in the amount of \$735.
 - b. **Ring moved to accept the APs and payrolls as provided to the Selectboard. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
17. Review correspondence
 - a. The Selectboard reviewed correspondence.
18. Executive session for personnel
 - a. Ring moved to enter executive session for personnel. Craig seconded. All in favor. Executive session entered at 8:15pm.
 - b. The Selectboard came out of executive session at 8:55pm.
 - c. **Ring moved to increase the salaries for the three road crew members and the road foreman by \$3 per hour each to be more in line with the state average. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
19. Adjourn
 - a. **Ring moved to adjourn. Craig seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:58pm.**

These minutes were approved as written by the Peacham Selectboard at its regular meeting on 12/16/20.

Rebecca Washington, Selectboard Clerk


