

TOWN OF PEACHAM
MINUTES OF THE SELECTBOARD MEETING
Wednesday, December 16, 2020
APPROVED

Selectboard Members Present (all via phone/video conference): Michael Heath, Peter Craig, Beatrice Ring
Public (all via phone/video conference): Town Clerk Thomas Galinat, Selectboard Clerk Rebecca Washington, Jock Gill, Allison Webster, Ron Craig, Alfred Dedam, Bob Hansen, Julie Hansen, Neil Monteith, Amber Lowell

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair of the Selectboard Michael Heath at 6:29pm.
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. VLCT training on remote Town Meeting procedures
 - i. Ring and Galinat both signed up for the virtual training and will get the recording of the class from VLCT.
 - b. Peacham Congregational Church septic system
 - i. The Selectboard will discuss the septic system at its January 6, 2021 meeting.
 - c. Tree Warden item-Neil Monteith
 - i. Tree Warden Neil Monteith explained that there are trees in the right-of-way on Thaddeus Stevens Road that are hazardous and should be taken down.
 - a) Discussion ensued and Monteith will get three quotes to take them down.
 - d. Worcester Road issue-Alfred Dedam
 - i. Moved to agenda item number 4.
3. Covid-19 response update
 - a. Information from Governor Scott is still being posted via the town website.
 - b. Discussion ensued on a potential storage energy system that would be funded through the USDA RESP.
 - i. The Selectboard will discuss the idea further at its January 6, 2021 meeting.
4. Worcester Road issue-Alfred Dedam
 - a. Dedam is concerned that vehicles are being prevented from traveling on a town road.
 - b. In 2019, as a result of evidence presented by Dedam's neighbor, the Selectboard reinstated Worcester Road back to its historical location, which ends at the neighbor's house, and eliminated the Dedam's turnaround. Because the turnaround is no longer being maintained by the town, the school bus recently tried to turn around using the reinstated town road and was met with resistance from Dedam's neighbor.
 - i. Discussion ensued.
 - ii. The Selectboard will look into it.
5. Highway Department update
 - a. No update.
6. Town Clerk update
 - a. The Town Clerk's Office has been working on the upcoming town meeting, the town report, closing the year, and 2021 budgeting.
7. 2021 budgeting
 - a. Discussion on the 2021 budget ensued.
 - b. The budget will be discussed further and finalized at a special Selectboard meeting at the end of December.
8. Zoning violation update
 - a. Zoning Administrator Bob Hansen explained that Vince Chiorgno, from Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation, is pursuing a violation against Burrington and would like to know how Peacham is proceeding with its violation.
 - i. The town is currently fining Burrington \$50/day and can decide whether to take legal action and file an injunction or let the state proceed with its violation.
 - b. Discussion ensued on how the town should proceed, a potential Act 250 violation, and a potential cease and desist order to prevent more cars from coming onto the property.
 - c. Hansen will inform Chiorgno that the town isn't going to pursue legal action at this time and ask about an Act 250 violation and a cease and desist order.
9. Committee updates
 - a. Transfer Station Attendant
 - i. Transfer Station Attendant Amber Lowell explained that the Transfer Station is still a break-even operation.
 - ii. The generator for the compactor recently had an issue that P. Craig fixed.
 - iii. The Stump Dump is up and running.
 - iv. Discussion ensued on the increased volume of recycling and potential ways to handle it.
 - a) Options discussed included expanding the recycling shed, getting a baler, and switching to zero-sort recycling.
 - 1) Lowell will get prices for zero-sort recycling.

- v. Lowell will email the Selectboard her yearly update, recycling data from the past five years, pricing for zero-sort recycling, and information on how her job has changed due to Covid-19.
- b. Green-Up Day Chair
 - i. The Selectboard reviewed an update emailed by Green-Up Day Chair Rose Dedam.
- 10. Selectboard appointments
 - a. Auditor
 - i. **Ring moved to name Cynther Greene as a Town Auditor temporarily to replace Jan Eastman who resigned. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
 - b. Health Officer
 - i. **P. Craig moved to appoint Josh Kantrowitz as the state Health Officer for the Town of Peacham. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 11. Australian ballot beyond 2021
 - a. The Selectboard could choose to recommend making Australian Ballot a part of Town Meeting beyond 2021.
 - b. The Selectboard will discuss the idea further at a later meeting.
- 12. Old business
 - a. Town Hall renovation/ADA improvements
 - i. No update.
 - b. Keeper of the Pound search
 - i. No update.
 - c. Transfer Station property lines
 - i. Heath will ask the Town Attorney to help draft a letter granting permission to the neighboring property owner.
 - d. Personnel Policy update
 - i. No update.
 - e. Holiday bonuses
 - i. **P. Craig moved to pay the holiday bonuses in the amount done in years past. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 13. Approve minutes
 - a. **P. Craig moved to approve the minutes from December 2, 2020 as written by Rebecca Washington. Ring seconded. Heath abstained. Majority in favor. So moved.**
- 14. Review and approve bills
 - a. **P. Craig moved to approve the bills as presented by the Town Clerk via email. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 15. Review correspondence
 - a. The Selectboard reviewed correspondence.
- 16. Adjourn
 - a. **P. Craig moved to adjourn. Ring seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.**

These minutes were approved as written by the Peacham Selectboard at its regular meeting on 1/6/21.

Rebecca Washington, Selectboard Clerk


