

**TOWN OF PEACHAM**  
**MINUTES OF THE SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
Wednesday, January 20, 2021  
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, Road Foreman Jeremy Withers,  
Selectboard Clerk Rebecca Washington, Neil Monteith, Tim Mckay, Adam Dobson, Jock Gill, Becky Jensen,  
Nancy Saidi, John Reiss, Heather Smires, Jock Gill

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair of the Selectboard Michael Heath at 6:31pm.
2. Additions to the agenda
  - a. No additions.
3. Highway Department update
  - a. Everything has been running smoothly in the Highway Department.
4. Committee updates
  - a. Cemetery Preservation Committee
    - i. The Selectboard reviewed the update submitted by the Cemetery Preservation Committee. The report will be recorded with these minutes.
    - ii. Discussion ensued on the trees in the cemetery. The Selectboard agreed that the trees in the cemetery are under the purview of the Cemetery Preservation Committee and not the Tree Board.
  - b. NVDA Representatives
    - i. Not present.
5. Old business
  - a. Stop sign in South Peacham
    - i. The discussion was tabled until the spring.
  - b. Church septic system
    - i. Discussion ensued on the proposed maintenance agreement, the required size of the septic system if it needed to be rebuilt in the future, separation of church and state, and allowing a private entity to join the town's septic system.
    - ii. Ring will reach out to two municipal attorneys to have one of them review the maintenance agreement on behalf of the town.
6. Covid-19 response update
  - a. The Emergency Response Team is ready to respond if needed.
7. Trees on Thaddeus Stevens Road
  - a. Tree Warden Neil Monteith received five quotes to have three trees on Thaddeus Stevens Road taken down and hauled away.
    - i. The low bid was \$1,500 from NEK Treeworks.
  - b. The subcontractor will have to provide a signed non-employee work agreement, a w-9, and proof of insurance naming the town as an additional insured with a minimum of \$1,000,000 in liability coverage.
  - c. Since the town is currently operating on an unapproved budget and there is no money in the budget for tree work, Galinat recommended that the work be done after the budget is approved in March.
    - i. The Selectboard agreed.
  - d. **Craig moved to have Monteith set the process in motion and verify that the low bidder has the proper insurance and paperwork. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
8. Old business (continued)
  - a. Town Hall renovation/ADA improvements
    - i. No update.
  - b. Keeper of the Pound search
    - i. No update.
9. 2021 Highway Mileage Certificate
  - a. The Selectboard members will review and sign the certificate in the Town Clerk's office.
10. Town Clerk update
  - a. The Town Clerk's office has been busy working on the town report and planning for Town Meeting.
    - i. Galinat finalized the contract with the printer for printing and mailing the ballots.
11. Town gym use request for Peacham School basketball
  - a. The Selectboard discussed the school's request to use the town gym for physical education classes and after-school basketball practices.
    - i. The Governor has allowed for youth sports practices to resume.
    - ii. Having Peacham students practice in Peacham would allow the school to maintain its educational pods and limit exposure with outside groups.
    - iii. There would be no parents or siblings allowed in the gym and Covid-safe cleanings would be performed after each use.
    - iv. The town's Covid liability waiver has already been sent home with every student.

- b. **Craig moved to allow the Peacham students and Peacham basketball to use the town gym. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 12. 2020 unexpended funds
  - a. There is \$104,334.81 in unexpended funds.
    - i. The town spent all of the money received for the Highway Department, so there is no highway liability.
  - b. Galinat recommended leaving \$27,074.80 in the general fund to reduce the increase in the 2021 tax rate; moving \$22,824 back into the childcare fund to reduce the amount raised in 2021; moving \$40,000 into the Capital Equipment Fund to help replace the highest repair-liability equipment without affecting the tax rate; and moving \$14,436.01 into the Working Capital Fund to reduce the town's borrowing liability.
  - c. **Craig moved to use Town Treasurer Thomas Galinat's recommendations for how to distribute the unexpended funds and to put them on the Town Warning. Ring seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 13. 2021 Town Meeting Warning
  - a. Discussion ensued on the Town Meeting Warning.
  - b. The Selectboard members will go sign the Town Meeting Warning in the Town Clerk's Office.
- 14. 2021 Town Meeting planning
  - a. Town Moderator Tim Mckay agreed to run the town's informational meeting being held on February 27, 2021 at 10:00am.
- 15. Schedule Town Plan hearing
  - a. The Planning Commission already held its hearing on the changes to the Town Plan and has turned it over to the Selectboard for its hearing.
  - b. The hearing will take place during the regular Selectboard meeting on February 17, 2021.
- 16. Approve minutes
  - a. January 6, 2021
    - i. **Ring moved to approve the minutes from January 6, 2021 as presented by the Selectboard Clerk, Rebecca Washington. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 17. Review and approve bills
  - a. **Heath moved to approve the warrants. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 18. Review correspondence
  - a. No correspondence present.
- 19. Adjourn
  - a. **Craig moved to adjourn. Ring seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.**

These minutes were approved as written by the Peacham Selectboard at its regular meeting on 2/3/21.

Rebecca Washington, Selectboard Clerk

