

**TOWN OF PEACHAM**  
**MINUTES OF THE SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
Wednesday, March 17, 2021  
UNAPPROVED DRAFT

Selectboard Members (via phone/video conference): Beatrice Ring, Peter Craig, Richard Browne  
Public (via phone/video conference): Selectboard Clerk Rebecca Washington, Mark Elliot, John Reiss, Ron  
Craig, Jock Gill, Laurie Kozar, Dave Stauffer

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair of the Selectboard Beatrice Ring at 6:31pm.
2. Additions to the agenda
  - a. Minutes from the Selectboard Informational Hearing-John Reiss
    - i. See agenda item 10.
  - b. DRB decision for Childcare Center-John Reiss
    - i. See agenda item 10.
  - c. There will be two agenda items added to the April 7th Selectboard meeting.
    - i. Planning Commission recommendation to start a reserve fund for the legal cost of zoning enforcement
    - ii. Possible EV station in Peacham
3. Highway Department update
  - a. The Selectboard reviewed an email from the Road Foreman regarding the purchase of a backhoe and agreed to wait to discuss it at the April 7th meeting.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer update
  - a. The Selectboard reviewed an emailed update from Town Clerk/Treasurer Thomas Galinat.
  - b. Revamping Personnel Policy and Purchasing Policy
    - i. This has been an ongoing item since the fall of 2018. Galinat requested that someone tackle it.
      - a) Browne agreed to take it on and will consult with Galinat.
  - c. Galinat explained that an archivist, who is a resident of Peacham, has agreed to train the Town Office staff at no cost on preserving documents. Galinat would like the Selectboard's approval to purchase archival storage materials and tools using the Restoration Land Record Fund. The Restoration Land Record Fund is self-funded and does not affect the tax rate.
    - i. **P. Craig moved to allow Thomas Galinat to purchase the items required for the restoration of land records. Browne seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
  - d. Galinat asked if the Transfer Station could purchase extremely-visible "no cash" signs.
    - i. P. Craig explained that it is already in the works as a result of a discussion he had with a town auditor.
5. Town Clerk term length
  - a. Ring will contact VLCT to learn about the process for changing the Town Clerk term length.
6. Covid-19 response update
  - a. Monteith explained that Peacham's Covid-19 Response Team has been in standby mode but is going to stand down.
    - i. Monteith and Terry Miller will continue to monitor and post information coming from the state.
7. Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP)
  - a. Monteith emailed the Selectboard the 2020 LEMP for review.
  - b. Monteith will update the contact information in the LEMP and come to the April 7th Selectboard meeting for discussion and approval.
8. Drainage issue
  - a. Kozar described a drainage issue that's been occurring in front of her house on Bayley Hazen Road.
    - i. The Fire District recently experienced the release of 36,000 gallons of water over a three day period. The majority of that water came across the road and flooded Kozar's driveway and culvert and created a three-inch ice dam in her driveway. The salt that the town put down into the water compounded the issue and Kozar is worried about the long-term effects the salt will have on her garage.
    - ii. The issue that Kozar would like help with from the town is the sheeting of water across the road. The road lacks a crown and water sheets across the road, missing the culverts and swales, and goes into Kozar's driveway.
      - a) Kozar understands that there's a big cost involved but thinks that the problems with the form of the road should be addressed.
      - b) The Fire District's leak illustrated the issue and the resulting two inches of solid ice on the road was a major safety hazard.
  - b. Kozar is also concerned about the lack of communication and oversight with the Fire District.
  - c. Kozar is looking into grant opportunities to help with funding and is meeting with Road Foreman Jeremy Withers and Shauna Clifford from VTrans on March 24th.
9. 2021 Selectboard appointments
  - a. Development Review Board

- i. **Browne moved to appoint Rusty Barber to a one-year term on the Development Review Board. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
    - ii. Next year, Barber's position will be appointed as a three-year term to get the DRB members onto three-year staggered terms.
  - b. Fire Warden
    - i. No appointment made.
  - c. Keeper of the Pound
    - i. No appointment made.
- 10. Additions to the agenda
  - a. DRB decision for Childcare Center
    - i. Reiss pointed out that the DRB decision states that a new septic system will pump the effluent from the church to the existing pump tank serving the Town Hall. Reiss stated that the DRB permit should be rescinded because the septic system agreement between the town and the church has not been finalized yet.
      - a) Ring noted Reiss' concern.
  - b. Minutes from the Selectboard Informational Hearing
    - i. Reiss pointed out that the minutes from the Selectboard's informational meeting were not posted online and wondered if his questions about the town's support of the afternoon childcare program were answered at the meeting.
      - a) Browne explained that the town funds the public after-school program because, if the school funded it, it would have a much greater impact on the taxpayers.
      - b) Ring pointed out that the voters approved the funding and that it was originally moved from the school budget to the town to help the school avoid penalty spending.
- 11. Old business
  - a. Church septic system
    - i. The Selectboard reviewed the proposed maintenance agreement with the attorney's revisions. The revisions included the distinction between the terms wastewater and effluent, the funding for maintenance, and that the agreement will begin after the Children's Center is operational.
      - a) Ring pointed out that the easements for the church and the town are reciprocal.
      - b) P. Craig pointed out that all of the current Selectboard members should be on the signature pages of the easements.
    - ii. Ring will send the revised agreement to the church's representatives.
  - b. Town Hall renovation/ADA improvements
    - i. The Selectboard reviewed the drawing for the renovation of the entryway of Town Hall.
      - a) Discussion on building materials and the specifics of the plan ensued.
    - ii. P. Craig will draft an RFP for the April 7th Selectboard meeting.
- 12. Approve minutes
  - a. **Browne moved to approve the minutes of March 3, 2021. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 13. Review and approve bills
  - a. **P. Craig moved that, due to Covid, bills approved during a meeting require one single signature on the warrants. Browne seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
  - b. **P. Craig moved to approve this meeting's bills which include two payroll warrants and one AP warrant. Browne seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
    - i. Browne will sign the warrants in the Town Clerk's Office.
- 14. Review correspondence
  - a. The Selectboard received emails regarding agenda items that were discussed during the meeting.
  - b. P. Craig received an email from NEKWMD which reiterated the need for all Transfer Station Attendants to monitor the items that are being recycled.
- 15. Executive session for personnel
  - a. The Selectboard did not enter executive session.
- 16. Adjourn
  - a. **P. Craig moved to adjourn. Browne seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.**