

TOWN OF PEACHAM
MINUTES OF THE SELECTBOARD MEETING
Wednesday, July 7, 2021
APPROVED

Selectboard Members: Beatrice Ring, Peter Craig, Richard Browne
Public: Town Clerk/Treasurer Thomas Galinat (via zoom), Road Foreman Jeremy Withers, Selectboard Clerk
Rebecca Washington, Janie Carle, Dave Stauffer, Dart Thalman, Karen Lewis, Sharon Jones, Ron Craig

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair of the Selectboard Beatrice Ring at 6:30pm.
2. Additions to the agenda (moved to agenda item 8)
 - a. Tax rate approval
 - b. ARPA funds
 - c. Noise Ordinance draft
 - d. Snow Roller Barn
 - e. Town employees volunteering
 - f. Zoom for future in-person Selectboard meetings
 - g. Personnel Policy update
 - h. Burrington property update
3. Highway Department update
 - a. The crack sealing equipment arrived in Danville yesterday. Peacham and Danville purchased the equipment together and will use it to seal cracks in the pavement.
 - b. The roadside mower will start mowing in Peacham during the next week or two.
 - i. Stauffer has identified, staked, and weed wacked around oak seedlings along the roadside so that they won't be damaged during roadside mowing. Stauffer also flagged oak seedlings around the monument and the Snow Roller Barn.
 - c. The road crew is about to start a grant project on the second hill on Thaddeus Stevens Road, which will include major ditching and culvert replacement. Withers will try and find a subcontractor to help with the excavation.
 - d. The truck that the town is about to trade in recently had mechanical issues but is now back. The new truck should be available sometime during the first couple of weeks of August.
 - e. Discussion ensued on the lease for next year's new 10-wheeler.
 - i. If the town orders it now, it should be available by next August or September.
 - ii. Withers pointed out that the state contract has been awarded to International and that International will continue to have the lowest price. Withers wondered if the town could order the next truck through International without soliciting other bids.
 - a) Discussion followed on the town's bid process and the possibility of following the state contract instead of putting trucks out to bid.
 - b) Galinat suggested amending the Purchasing Policy to reflect the Selectboard's ability to follow the state contract as long as it has gone through Vermont's Office of Purchasing and Contracting.
 - c) The Selectboard was okay with going that route this year and Browne suggested starting pricing trucks two years in advance.
 - f. The town trucks haven't had their names lettered yet and there will be a new truck for the town to name at the next town meeting.
 - g. The new stop sign in South Peacham needs to be warned before it can be installed.
 - i. Washington will coordinate the process with Withers and Ring.
4. East Peacham Road discussion
 - a. Discussion ensued on the unpaved portion of East Peacham Road and the resulting dust issue.
 - i. The town did not get a paving grant last year or this year and a VTtrans grant is needed for the town to afford paving East Peacham Road. The Selectboard has received concerns about the dust.
 - ii. P. Craig brought up the idea of holding an emergency town meeting to vote on a bond to have it paved.
 - a) Browne pointed out that it would be hard to find a paver for this year.
 - iii. The Selectboard discussed the idea of putting "local traffic only" or "road closed" signs on either end of the road.
 - iv. Withers has been trying to control the dust with chloride, but recently had trouble getting any. He has chloride now and that, plus the recent rain, has helped the situation. However, the frequent traffic dries it out and it gets unpleasant.
 - a) Carle lives on the road and pointed out that the road was still dusty after the rain and chloride and that she couldn't go for a walk because of it.
 - v. Browne will work on drafting a letter that will explain the situation and be available for concerned residents.
 - vi. Carle said that anything less than paving wouldn't work and expressed her concern about the health hazard caused by the dust. She thought that the chloride should have been applied during mud season when there was a lot of water in the road. Her lawnmower kicks up a cloud of dust when she mows and the snow is brown during the winter. Carle

can't open her windows on the road side of her house to get cross ventilation. This caused her house to be 90 degrees during the recent hot weather. The residents have dealt with the dust for over a year and Carle explained that it is unbearable and hazardous to their physical and mental health.

- a) Carle suggested paving the two ends of the road where the houses are right on the road.
 - b) Browne explained that the town doesn't have the money for a partial pavement job and suggested that Carle reach out to VTrans for ideas since the Selectboard doesn't have a solution.
 - vii. Browne explained that the town will likely get a grant in 2022, but that it can't be counted on.
 - a) P. Craig suggested putting a bond vote on next year's town warning in case the town doesn't get the grant.
5. Deliberation for the proposed relocation of the intersection of County Road and Maple Tree Lane
- a. The Selectboard held its public hearing on June 16, 2021 and has since received one letter with concerns.
 - b. Withers pointed out that the next steps involve Selectboard approval, contacting the Town Attorney, and having the intersection surveyed.
 - i. Withers will reach out to Matt Kempton to see if he's willing to have it surveyed.
 - c. Browne explained that the presentation Withers made at the hearing was convincing that the change would be a benefit in the long term.
 - d. **P. Craig moved to move forward to the next steps of the relocation of the intersection of County Road and Maple Tree Lane. Browne seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
6. Cemetery Committee update
- a. Lewis presented the Cemetery Committee update to the Selectboard.
 - b. The Cemetery Committee is in favor of green burials and Bob Morgan is taking the lead. He is currently out of town, but the committee will come back to the Selectboard when it has a plan.
 - c. Lewis has been working with Cemetery Sexton R. Craig and complimented him on his work.
 - d. The Cemetery Committee and R. Craig are consulting with Tree Warden Neil Monteith on tree work in the cemetery.
 - i. Since Monteith has a responsibility for trees on town property, R. Craig recently met with Monteith to discuss the specifics and will coordinate with him and get quotes for upcoming tree work.
 - e. R. Craig has done a survey of the stones that need work and there is a meeting scheduled with Kirkyard Services.
 - f. The state work crew has been mowing every other week.
 - i. Discussion ensued on Worcester Cemetery and the Peacham-Groton Cemetery.
 - a) Stauffer offered to weed wack Worcester Cemetery since access to the cemetery is limited and will coordinate with the abutting landowners for access.
 - b) It is Groton's year to maintain the Peacham-Groton Cemetery.
 - g. R. Craig does all of the sales and paperwork for cemetery lots, has inventoried the tool shed, and submits detailed invoices to the town.
 - h. R. Craig would like to purchase a metal detector to more efficiently find the rebar that marks the cemetery lots. He will get a price for Selectboard approval.
7. Town Gym access
- a. The Selectboard discussed the logistics of opening up access to the Town Gym.
 - b. The Selectboard agreed that gym users should sign COVID release forms and that there should be controlled access with either a check-out system for keys or a coded door lock.
 - c. Ring will modify the COVID release form and gym use procedures to reflect the current recommendations.
8. Additions to the agenda
- a. Snow Roller Barn
 - i. Thalman explained that, in various discussions about fundraising for \$1,250 for the new Snow Roller Barn signs honoring Richard and Dorothy Hovey, a question was raised about the need to fundraise for a project on town property and the idea came up of establishing a reserve fund for long-term care.
 - ii. Discussion followed and the Selectboard agreed that fundraising would be appropriate for the sign because it is a special project honoring a Peacham resident. The reserve fund would be for special projects and funded by donations over time. Long-term maintenance of the building would be part of the town budget.
 - iii. Stauffer mentioned that one of the rollers in the Snow Roller Barn is riddled with powder post beetles and offered to get an estimate from an exterminator.
 - a) If the estimate is high, Ring suggested that the estimate be separated into two parts, one estimate for the contents of the building and one estimate for the building itself.
 - b) Stauffer also mentioned trying to treat the issue himself.
 - b. Tax rate approval
 - i. The Selectboard reviewed the 2021 Grand List Calculations presented by Town Treasurer Thomas Galinat. The total homestead tax rate is 2.3654, which is down 8.17% from last year. The total Non-Homestead tax rate is 2.1972, which is down 2.71% from last year.

- ii. **Browne moved to approve the tax rate. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- c. ARPA funds
 - i. Peacham is signed up to receive ARPA funds, but it is unclear what they can be used for.
 - ii. Washington will email the Selectboard a link to VLCT's webinar on ARPA funds.
- d. Zoom for future in-person Selectboard meetings
 - i. Selectboard meetings will go back to being held in-person, without Zoom, downstairs in the Peacham Library starting on July 21, 2021. Selectboard members or the Town Clerk will be able to attend remotely if needed.
- e. Noise Ordinance draft
 - i. The Planning Commission has drafted a Noise Ordinance for the Selectboard to review.
 - ii. The Selectboard will discuss the draft at its July 21, 2021 meeting.
- f. Town employees volunteering
 - i. The town has the ability to sponsor volunteering as paid time for its employees.
 - ii. The Selectboard will discuss it at its July 21, 2021 meeting.
- g. Personnel Policy update
 - i. Browne got feedback on the Personnel Policy draft from VLCT. There were three significant comments about the draft, including discipline/termination language and the way benefits are written. Browne has a call scheduled with VLCT's Jill Muir.
- h. Burrington property update
 - i. All Metals Recycling has taken all the vehicles that can be removed at this time. There are still over 30 vehicles remaining that can't be transported yet. The maximum number of unregistered cars allowed on a property is three.
 - ii. Vince Chiorgno, from the state's Waste Management and Prevention Division, plans on contacting Burrington upon his release from prison in August. He asks that any contact from the town go through the state.
- 9. Approve minutes
 - a. **P. Craig moved to approve the minutes from the June 16, 2021 Selectboard Meeting and the June 16, 2021 Public Hearing. Browne seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 10. Review and approve bills
 - a. **Browne moved to approve the payrolls and AP. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 11. Review correspondence
 - a. No correspondence present.
- 12. Adjourn
 - a. **Browne moved to adjourn. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.**

Peacham Selectboard:

BC RJ 7/21/21
