

TOWN OF PEACHAM
MINUTES OF THE SELECTBOARD MEETING

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

APPROVED



Selectboard Members: Beatrice Ring, Peter Craig, Richard Browne

Public: Road Foreman Jeremy Withers, Selectboard Clerk Rebecca Washington, Janie Carle, Dave Stauffer,
Dan St. Cyr, Gretchen Boswell, Ian Boswell

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 11)
 - a. Update on Roller Barn, Town Forest, and East Peacham Road tree-Dave Stauffer
 - b. Late-filed homestead penalty
3. Highway Department update
 - a. The Selectboard reviewed a proposal for next year's lease of an International 10-wheeler, provided by Clark Truck Center's Dan St. Cyr.
 - i. The town does not have a trade-in and the proposed lease price is \$34,652.49 per year for three years.
 - ii. The proposal is good until August 12, 2021 and the Selectboard plans on making a decision at the August 4, 2021 meeting.
 - b. Withers has been asked by a few residents to open up the Transfer Station during the week, outside of regular Saturday hours.
 - i. Discussion ensued and the Selectboard agreed that Withers shouldn't be responsible for opening up the Transfer Station and that residents should follow the instructions in the Town Report. The instructions direct residents to contact the Transfer Station Attendant for after-hours access. Access is at the availability of the Transfer Station Attendant and residents will be charged \$20 per hour plus the cost of refuse.
 - c. Withers and the Selectboard discussed the water issue in the village near 458 Bayley Hazen Road.
 - i. Water runs down the wheel tracks in the road and onto the property.
 - ii. The Road Crew plans on removing the berm across the road to see if it helps.
 - iii. Until the road can be repaved, there's not a sure solution.
 - d. Due to an inquiry from a resident about installing "children at play" signs around the village, Withers plans on putting up some old signs he has at the garage to see if they make any difference.
4. Amended Traffic Ordinance: addition of stop sign in South Peacham
 - a. The Selectboard approved and signed the amended Traffic Ordinance which adds a stop sign in South Peacham on South Main Street entering Peacham Groton Road.
 - b. Washington will post it as required within 14 days.
5. Tax Anticipation Note
 - a. Not present for approval.
6. Peacham Fall Fondo
 - a. G. Boswell and I. Boswell explained that this year's Fall Fondo is scheduled for September 25, 2021 and will be similar to previous years. The number of participants will be capped at 250, the ride will be 50 miles, and there will be a kids 5k. The registration tent will be on the green, other tents will be on the tennis court, and there will be porta-potties next to the driveway up to the tennis court.
 - b. The proceeds will be split amongst town organizations.
 - c. The Boswells will coordinate with Wes Davis on mowing the parking area behind the senior apartments.
 - d. The Selectboard reviewed the liquor license application drafted by Stowe Cider.
 - i. G. Boswell explained that drinking would be limited to the tennis court and that there was a note on the application adding Ren Barn Brewing to the permit with the same conditions.
 - ii. **Craig moved to approve the liquor license for the Fall Fondo. Browne seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
7. Noise Ordinance draft discussion
 - a. The Noise Ordinance that the Planning Commission drafted came up again because of the mock wedding that was recently held in the village.
 - b. The Selectboard discussed the issues regarding how it would be enforced, the lack of a need for an ordinance in such a rural area, and the current availability of the state police for handling complaints.
 - c. The Selectboard chose not to proceed with adopting the Noise Ordinance.
8. Town employees volunteering
 - a. Discussion ensued on the possibility of town employees using town hours to volunteer, similar to what some businesses started doing during the pandemic.
 - b. The Selectboard agreed that it wasn't a good fit for a municipality and decided not to move forward with the idea.
9. Town Gym use procedures
 - a. The Selectboard reviewed the gym use procedures, as revised by Ring.
 - b. Washington is waiting on an estimate from the locksmith for the installation of a code lock for the gym door.
10. Personnel Policy draft discussion

- a. The Selectboard discussed the latest draft of the Personnel Policy, as revised by Browne.
 - b. Browne had a conversation with VLCT's Jill Muir about the draft.
 - c. Discussion ensued on whether or not to include a discipline/termination section. It would negate the town's at-will status and give the employees due process.
 - i. The Selectboard agreed to include it.
 - d. There will need to be a way for part-time employees to accrue sick time, at a minimum of one hour for every 52 hours worked, for employees working at least 20 weeks per year.
 - e. There will need to be clarifying language in the health insurance reimbursement section.
11. Additions to the agenda
- a. Update on Roller Barn, Town Forest, and East Peacham Road tree
 - i. Stauffer explained that he had not heard back from the exterminator about the powder post beetles in the Roller Barn. He ordered borate and will apply it after the Hovey Celebration of Life on August 7, 2021.
 - ii. Stauffer explained that he and Tim Mckay agreed that there needs to be a map for the Town Forest trails. Mckay has the coordinates for the trails and will give them to someone who will plot the trails on paper. Stauffer will paint the trail map on plywood and attach it to the kiosk.
 - iii. Stauffer explained that a major branch of a maple tree on East Peacham Road came down and that it did not take down the power lines. The Road Crew cleaned up the branch and helped remove the stump of a maple tree that used to be in the triangle in East Peacham. Stauffer would like to see the spruce tree in the triangle removed as well, which would leave room for the Tree Board to plant something better.
 - a) Browne has already asked Tree Warden Neil Monteith to get a quote to have the maple tree on East Peacham Road taken down.
 - b. Late-filed homestead penalty
 - i. The Selectboard discussed whether or not to charge a penalty on this year's tax bills for late-filed homestead declarations.
 - ii. The Selectboard agreed that, because Vermont was still under a state of emergency when homestead declarations were due and because residents were not warned about the penalty in the Town Report or at Town Meeting, there would not be a penalty in 2021.
 - a) The Selectboard plans to remind residents of the penalty in next year's Town Report.
12. Approve minutes
- a. **Browne moved to approve the minutes of July 7, 2021 as revised. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
13. Review and approve bills
- a. Discussion ensued on the Google Suite bill. The Selectboard agreed to continue using Google Suite and to budget for it under a different expense line in 2022.
 - b. The Selectboard reviewed the bills and signed the warrants approving the AP and payrolls.
14. Review correspondence
- a. Correspondence present included the following.
 - i. A letter of resignation from the Energy Committee from Daniel O'Brien.
 - a) The Energy Committee Chair will be informed and asked to recommend a replacement.
 - ii. A letter from John Reiss pointing out the number of additions to the agenda during the July 7, 2021 Selectboard meeting and explaining that additions to agendas should only be allowed when necessary for immediate action. In addition, Reiss would like to discuss the idea of the Selectboard resuming the use of Zoom for meetings to make them more accessible to everyone.
 - a) The Selectboard hopes to avoid having so many additions in the future and may revisit the Zoom decision in the future, depending on COVID.
 - iii. An email from Jane Alper regarding the Selectboard's decision on Roller Barn funding.
 - iv. An email from Beth McCabe regarding East Peacham Road.
 - v. An email from Mark Strohmeier regarding the Maple Tree Lane intersection.
15. Executive session for personnel
- a. **Craig moved to enter executive session for personnel. Browne seconded. All in favor. Executive session entered at 7:48pm.**
 - b. The Selectboard came out of executive session at 8:01.
 - c. No action taken.
16. Adjourn
- a. **Craig moved to adjourn. Browne seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.**

Peacham Selectboard:

Be Ri



Date: 8-4-21