

TOWN OF PEACHAM
MINUTES OF THE SELECTBOARD MEETING
Wednesday, October 6, 2021
APPROVED

Selectboard Members: Beatrice Ring, Peter Craig, Richard Browne
Public (in person/via zoom): Town Clerk/Treasurer Thomas Galinat, Road Foreman Jeremy Withers,
Selectboard Clerk Rebecca Washington, Janie Carle, Dave Stauffer, John Reiss, Aaron Morton, Ron Craig,
Jock Gill, Harry Vann, Bob Hansen, Neil Monteith

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair of the Selectboard Beatrice Ring at 7:00pm.
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. No additions to the agenda.
3. Roller shelf quote
 - a. The Selectboard reviewed the quote of \$3,925 for a new roller shelf for the land record books in the Town Office vault.
 - b. **Browne moved to approve the quote to purchase a new roller shelf for \$3,925 out of the Restoration Land Records Fund. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
4. Highway Department update
 - a. The road crew has been getting used to the new crack sealing equipment by using it on the Peacham-Barnet Road. Withers explained that it will dry more quickly during the summer.
 - b. The County Road/Maple Tree Lane intersection relocation hearing is scheduled for October 20th at 5:30pm. Matt Kempton asked Withers about doing his part of the work on the project before the hearing so that the road crew could start working on it the day after the hearing.
 - i. Withers is still unsure if there is enough time before winter to complete the project because the road crew is busy getting things ready for the change of the season. He is also unsure if it's wise for the work to be started if it may not be completed until the spring.
 - ii. Discussion ensued on following the process as laid out in state statute.
 - iii. Withers will have another conversation with Kempton about the timing.
5. Penny Street plowing
 - a. The resident on Penny Street that asked for the road to be plowed up to his house has agreed to let a turnaround be put in. The turnaround will be within the town's right-of-way.
6. Grants-in-aid:equipment purchase-letter of intent
 - a. Withers would like to use the grant to purchase a roller compactor attachment for the grader.
 - b. The Selectboard signed the letter of intent.
7. East Peacham Road question
 - a. Carle asked about the previously-discussed possibility of a bond vote paying for paving a second road, in addition to E. Peacham Road, in 2022 and asked about the order of the paving projects.
 - b. P. Craig explained that the order of paving would depend on the paving company since E. Peacham Road would need a base coat and top coat and the other road might only need a shim and overlay.
 - c. Withers confirmed that he has to apply for the paving grant for a specific road and that the grant can only be used for that road.
8. Committee updates
 - a. Transfer Station Attendant
 - i. Transfer Station Attendant not present.
 - ii. P. Craig explained that the free shed is costing the town money and that the Transfer Station Attendant would like to get rid of it. The Selectboard agreed that was fine.
 - iii. The Transfer Station is currently paying for itself.
 - b. Fire Warden
 - i. Fire Warden Aaron Morton explained that Jeff Berwick is the Assistant Fire Warden and is available when Morton is not. They are in constant communication.
 - ii. Some of the equipment that Morton uses needs to be replaced. The cost will come out of the Fire Department's budget and the state will match 50%.
 - iii. Morton has gotten the burn permits for the Peacham Pond area to just be issued out of Peacham, and not Marshfield as well.
 - iv. Morton usually issues 45-70 burn permits and works around 80 hours per year.
 - v. Expenses for fuel and his phone and the equipment he uses comes from the Fire Department.
9. Burrington zoning violation update
 - a. Vince Chiorgno, the state's Salvage Yard Program Coordinator, recently visited with Burrington. Chiorgno told Burrington that he needs to see some evidence that Burrington is taking cars away. If not, Chiorgno will consider turning the case over to the enforcement division, which would then go to court. Both Chiorgno and the enforcement attorneys have many open cases.
 - b. Browne pointed out that Chiorgno inspected everything on-site and said that there wasn't any environmental impact.
 - c. The town has been fining Burrington \$50/day for the zoning violation since October 1, 2020.
 - i. Browne will ask VLCT about collecting the town's fines.
 - ii. Discussion ensued on the possibility of putting a lien on the property for the amount due to the town.

- d. There have been a few anonymous complaints and concerns about the situation.
 - e. Hansen will find out if Chiorigno decided to send the case to the enforcement division.
10. Planning survey: request for funds
- a. The Planning Commission is going to go ahead with a survey using its budgeted \$2,300. There will be a letter and response card that will be sent to all Peacham voters to find out what they want in terms of planning.
 - b. Gill encouraged the Selectboard to send him questions to be included on the survey.
 - c. Gill will send the Selectboard a draft of the survey before it goes out.
 - d. Washington will email Gill and the Selectboard the results of the planning discussions from 2017.
 - e. Reiss was on the Planning Commission when there was a planning survey done in the 1990s and he stated that it was a good, unbiased survey.
11. Selectboard appointment to fill seat on the Energy Committee
- a. **P. Craig moved to appoint Harry Vann to replace Daniel O'Brien who resigned from the Energy Committee. Browne seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
 - b. There will be a joint Energy Committee and Planning Commission meeting on October 9th at Frank Miller's house to view the site and answer questions about the proposed solar project. There will also be a general information meeting about the solar project in a few weeks.
12. Town Hall rental
- a. Butch Spear would like to use the Town Hall Gym on October 30th at 6:00pm-8:00pm to hold a seminar on black bears in Vermont and the practice of using hounds to chase bears. Vermont Fish and Wildlife will be there to help with the seminar.
 - b. Discussion ensued on the current and future COVID restrictions for the gym and how to make them equitable for all gym users.
 - c. **P. Craig moved to leave it up to the presenter on the number of people allowed, but that everybody has to sign a release and wear a mask if it's inside.** After discussion, P. Craig amended the motion and **moved to leave it up to the presenter on the number of people allowed, but that everybody has to sign a release, wear a mask if it's inside, and go in accordance with the state guidelines. Browne seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
13. Summary of the Collaborators meeting held on 10/2/2021
- a. Ring explained that the Collaborators meetings are well attended by all of the organizations in town and are very informative.
 - b. The topics at the last Collaborators meetings included the status of the Peacham Children's Center, the Fall Fondo, how to get the red store active again, the East Peacham Schoolhouse, the Tree Board, and the Conservation Commission.
 - i. The Peacham Children's Center has met its fundraising goal and will be opening on October 25th. Discussion ensued on the relationship between the Children's Center and the afterschool program that's currently at the school. Ring will follow up with Tim McKay to find out if the afterschool program that is at the school will be moving to the Children's Center and how the town would be asked to be involved in its funding.
14. Summary of the results of the broadband survey done by John Dawson
- a. Ring explained that Dawson sent out 562 surveys and 148 have been returned so far. Of the returned surveys, 31% were happy with their service and 69% were unhappy. Dawson wondered if he should be encouraging people to respond to the survey and who the results should be shared with.
 - b. Gill, as Peacham's CUD representative, informed the Selectboard that the CUD is in phase 4 of its plan and it will be 4-7 years before Peacham sees results. Washington Electric Coop, which serves 62% of the town, is seeking a loan to fund a fiber project. If WEC brings fiber to Peacham earlier than four years, CUD will speed up its service. Gill also mentioned VTel and Starlink as options for Peacham residents.
15. 2021 Grand List adjustment approval
- a. The Selectboard reviewed the adjustment to the Grand List presented by the Peacham Listers.
 - b. **Browne moved to approve the Grand List adjustment. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
16. CALEX contract
- a. The Selectboard reviewed the proposed three-year contract for ambulance services presented by CALEX and looked at the amounts paid to CALEX over the past three years.
 - b. **Browne moved that the CALEX contract be signed by the Selectboard Chair. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
17. Personnel Policy update
- a. With the Selectboard's edits included, Browne will get the current draft of the Personnel Policy and the Code of Conduct to an attorney for review.
18. Approve minutes
- a. **P. Craig moved to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2021 meeting as presented. Browne seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
19. Review and approve bills
- a. **Browne moved to approve and pay the bills as presented. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
20. Review correspondence
- a. No correspondence present.

21. Adjourn

a. P. Craig moved to adjourn. Browne seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.

Peacham Selectboard:

Beatrice Ruy
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Date: 10/20/21