

**TOWN OF PEACHAM**  
**MINUTES OF THE SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
Wednesday, January 5, 2022  
APPROVED

Selectboard Members: Beatrice Ring, Peter Craig, Richard Browne  
Public: Town Clerk/Treasurer Thomas Galinat, Selectboard Clerk Rebecca Washington, Harry Vann, Kathy Corcoran, Ron Craig, Dave Stauffer, John Reiss, Janie Carle, Jock Gill, Brian Barney, Allie Webster, Laurie Kozar, Richard Greenwood, Marilyn Magnus

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair of the Selectboard Beatrice Ring at 7:00pm.
2. Additions to the agenda
  - a. 2022 Town Meeting
    - i. Moved to agenda item 13.
  - b. Town attorney
    - i. The Selectboard is waiting on feedback from an attorney regarding the Personnel Policy.
    - ii. Appointing a Town Attorney will be discussed at a later time.
  - c. New Fire Department monitor defibrillator
    - i. Moved to agenda item 12.
3. Town Clerk/Treasurer update
  - a. The numbers from 2021 will be final after the Auditors complete their last reconciliation of the year.
    - i. There is currently \$98,623.20 in unexpended funds, which will change slightly during reconciliation. The unexpended funds include \$30,000 from the education penalty liability that was added back to the general fund and \$30,000 in unexpended HRA funds. \$87,673.10 will be used to offset the increase in the 2022 budget and the remaining amount will go into the Working Capital Fund.
    - ii. Because of the removal of the afterschool program from the budget and the Fire Department salaries changing from a warned article to being included in the budget, the town's tax rate should drop about 3.54%.
    - iii. The School District budget should be set soon.
  - b. Because of the Omicron variant of COVID, the Town Clerk's office is back to being accessible by appointment only. KN95 or N95 masks are required for entry and Galinat and Washington are helping researchers do land record searches as remotely as possible.
4. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds
  - a. The town received \$107,000 in APRA funds in 2021 and will receive another \$107,000 in 2022.
  - b. Discussion ensued on possible ways to use Peacham's ARPA funds.
    - i. The Fire District submitted a request for \$30,000 for upgrades to the village water system.
    - ii. ARPA money can also be used on broadband projects. Gill explained that every dollar Peacham pays to the Communications Union District (CUD) will be matched and, therefore, doubled. This would push Peacham further up in the queue for getting broadband to residents. Gill and John Dawson recommended that the funds go towards make-ready work on the poles for fiber between two points on the backbone from the river up to Mack's Mountain Road.
      - a) The CUD is working on a draft letter detailing what they would do with the money.
    - iii. There may also be a proposal coming from Peacham Community Solar for \$15,000.
  - c. Webster encouraged the Selectboard to do outreach to learn what projects the public would be interested in funding and to take time to make a decision and think big.
  - d. The Selectboard will solicit comments and proposals through the town website to be considered at the February 16th meeting.
5. Town Clerk term length
  - a. The Selectboard will include articles on the Town Meeting warning to elect a Town Clerk for a term of three years and to elect a Town Treasurer for a term of three years.
6. Committee updates
  - a. Health Officer
    - i. Rescheduled for January 19, 2022.
  - b. 911 Coordinator
    - i. 911 Coordinator Brian Barney explained that, when new houses are built, he assigns addresses based on the footages on people's streets.
    - ii. Barney requested that he be notified every time the Zoning Administrator approves an application for new construction.
      - a) Browne will talk to the Zoning Administrator.
      - b) The next time there are changes to the town's Zoning Permit Application, there should be a mechanism included for notifying the 911 Coordinator of new construction.
  - c. Planning Commission
    - i. The Selectboard reviewed the report submitted by the Planning Commission.
    - ii. The Planning Commission would like to figure out what the residents want from the town's Planning Commission.
      - a) Discussion followed.

- b) Gill will solicit feedback from the voters via the Town Report.
  - d. NVDA Representatives
    - i. Not present. Washington will reach out to them to reschedule.
- 7. Town Auditor position
  - a. Discussion ensued on possible candidates for the vacant Town Auditor position.
- 8. Tree Warden position
  - a. The current Tree Warden is interested in stepping down from the position but would like to continue with the Tree Board.
  - b. Discussion ensued on the updated state statutes regarding the Tree Warden position. Unless the town adopts a Shade Tree Plan and expands the duties, the Tree Warden is responsible for shade trees that the town has planted and is not responsible for every tree in the town's right-of-way.
  - c. P. Craig has reached out to a couple of people to see if they are interested.
- 9. Conservation Commission update
  - a. Stauffer recommended that Michelle Morton be appointed to the Conservation Commission.
  - b. **Browne moved to appoint Michelle Morton to the Conservation Commission for a term ending at the 2022 Town Meeting. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
    - i. The Selectboard plans to reappoint her for a full term after Town Meeting.
- 10. Fourth of July update
  - a. Ring explained that, for the past few years, the July 4th fireworks display cost \$5,000 per year. The fireworks are funded by donation and the July 4th event falls under the town's insurance.
  - b. This year, the price for fireworks during the week leading up to July 4th through the week after the 4th will be \$10,000. It will be \$5,000 for earlier or later dates.
  - c. Discussion ensued and the Selectboard agreed that the fireworks should be scheduled for a time when it will cost \$5,000.
- 11. Extension of face coverings rule
  - a. **Browne moved to extend the face coverings rule for another 45 days after it expires.** Washington pointed out that after the initial 45 days, the rule can only be extended in 30-day increments. **Browne amended his motion and moved to extend the face coverings rule for 30 days after its expiration date. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 12. New Fire Department monitor defibrillator
  - a. The Fire Department's current defibrillator can no longer defibrillate and needs to be replaced. It was a refurbished defibrillator when the Fire Department purchased it 18 years ago and has been out of FDA regulations for the past four years. The quote for a new Zoll defibrillator is \$29,210.3, which would be on a 0% payment plan for three years. The quote is good until February 27th and a payment of one-third of the price would need to be made. The Fire Department has decided to solicit donations through For the Love of Peacham and the Fire Department's website to raise the needed funds.
  - b. Discussion ensued.
    - i. Galinat suggested that unexpended funds from 2021 could be used to make the first payment. He also asked about the life expectancy of the new defibrillator, the number of times it would be used per year, and the possibility of purchasing another refurbished model.
    - ii. Browne suggested that the town may have to cover funds if fundraising falls short.
- 13. 2022 Town Meeting
  - a. Browne explained that the School Board is hoping to use the same model for Town Meeting as last year, which included an informational meeting over zoom and voting by Australian ballot.
  - b. The Selectboard and the School Board are both waiting on word that legislation has passed that would allow for it.
  - c. The elections budget was raised to accommodate the three elections in 2022 and the potential need to have ballots printed for Town Meeting.
- 14. Approve minutes
  - a. **P. Craig moved to approve the minutes of December 15, 2021 and December 30, 2021 as presented by the Selectboard Clerk. Browne seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
- 15. Review and approve bills
  - a. No bills present.
- 16. Review correspondence
  - a. No correspondence present.
- 17. Adjourn
  - a. **P. Craig moved to adjourn. Browne seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.**

These minutes were approved as written by the Peacham Selectboard at its regular meeting on 1/19/22.

Rebecca Washington, Selectboard Clerk

