

TOWN OF PEACHAM
MINUTES OF THE SELECTBOARD MEETING

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

APPROVED

Selectboard Members: Beatrice Ring, Peter Craig, Richard Browne
Public: Town Clerk Thomas Galinat, Road Foreman Jeremy Withers, Selectboard Clerk Rebecca Washington,
Jeff Berwick, Jock Gill, Dave Stauffer, Rose Dedam, Tim Mckay, Neil Monteith, Ron Craig, Allison Webster,
John Reiss, Harry Vann

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair of the Selectboard Beatrice Ring at 7:00pm.
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. BAS survey
 - i. Moved to agenda item 15.
 - b. Town Gym
 - i. Moved to agenda item 16.
 - c. Executive session for personnel
 - i. Moved to agenda item 17.
3. Highway Department update
 - a. The Road Crew has been getting some cleaning and painting done at the Town Garage.
 - b. There were two people who blew tires on the Peacham-Danville Road during the first week of January. One person asked if the town would cover the cost.
 - i. The Selectboard agreed that it was a road hazard that would not be covered by the town and that the person should go through her insurance.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer update
 - a. VLCT contacted Galinat to find out if the town wanted to settle with the property owner for the incident on Deweyburg Road.
 - i. Withers will reach out to the property owner to see if he's gotten a quote for the repairs.
 - b. The School Board voted to authorize the mailing of Annual Meeting ballots to all registered voters if the Selectboard chooses to authorize it and to mail all ballots.
 - i. Galinat plans to send the ballots to the printer on Monday.
 - ii. S222 and S223 were both signed by the Governor. Petitions for candidacy have been waived, but candidates have to submit consent forms by 5:00pm on January 24th.
 - a) Galinat will post the consent form online.
 - c. Upon reviewing the 2022 budget with the Auditors, Galinat found omissions to correct.
 - i. Galinat would like permission to add budget numbers for interest, gains, and advisory fees for the cemetery endowment, cemetery working capital, ARPA, retreatment, and road capital equipment accounts, based on the actuals from 2021. Adding these budget numbers will not change the amount to be raised in taxes.
 - ii. **P. Craig moved to put the numbers into their respective spots to reflect transparency in the budget to the residents. Browne seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
5. 2022 Town Meeting
 - a. Ballot process
 - i. Discussion ensued on how mailing ballots to all registered voters would be the most democratic process.
 - ii. There is money in the budget for mailing ballots and the school plans to pay for its half.
 - iii. **P. Craig moved to mail ballots to all registered voters in Peacham. Browne seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
 - b. Warning
 - i. The Selectboard and Galinat reviewed drafts of the Town Warning.
 - ii. Browne recommended that the appropriations be voted on separately on the Australian ballot. He contacted the two organizations that had not yet submitted appropriations requests and, because the appropriations process was in flux this year, they will be included on the warning for the same amounts as last year.
 - iii. **P. Craig moved to approve the version of the warning where the appropriations are voted on separately. Browne seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
6. ARPA funds
 - a. Regarding the previously discussed idea of using a portion of the ARPA money to improve broadband in Peacham, the Selectboard reviewed a document from the CUD. The match has increased to 3X and the town has until September to decide the amount.
 - i. The Selectboard will discuss it further at the beginning of its February 2nd meeting and Gill will invite the executive director of the CUD to attend.
 - b. The Selectboard is currently trying to gather feedback from the residents on how they would like to see the town's ARPA money spent.
 - i. Webster agreed to be the point person to help gather ideas and get the word out.
7. Committee updates
 - a. Health Officer
 - i. The Health Officer was unable to attend and his update will be rescheduled.

- b. Fence Viewers
 - i. The Selectboard reviewed the Fence Viewers' report submitted by email.
 - ii. The current Fence Viewers, Julie Lang, Kathy Corcoran, and Kalanani Gallas, suggested that it may be time to fold this particular committee, knowing that there is limited need and expertise.
 - c. Green-Up Chair
 - i. Green-Up Chair Rose Dedam explained that in 2021 she received and distributed Green-Up bags and put up signs. She may try and plan more of a to-do this year.
 - ii. Stauffer described how there used to be a lunch at the school on Green-Up Day and that people were able to drop their trash off in the school parking lot. He suggested that the Tree Board could envelope Green-Up Day and plant trees, resume the potluck, and have the trash drop off at the school.
 - a) The Selectboard will consider this when making appointments in March.
 - d. NVDA Representatives
 - i. The NVDA Representatives had nothing to report.
8. Dry Hydrant
- a. Fire Chief Jeff Berwick reviewed the process of putting in the hydrant system at 31 Somers Road.
 - i. A grant through the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force was originally approved for \$11,500 in April of 2020. Due to a change in contractor and delays in getting materials, Berwick had to secure multiple extensions for the grant and was able to increase the grant funding to \$14,621. The work was completed before the extended deadline and the final cost of the project was \$19,494.83. With some donated labor, the project ended up costing the town \$3,529.83, which was in line with projections from 2020. Berwick explained that he dealt directly with the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force and the vendors, that he reviewed and approved the bills before submitting them to the Town Clerk, and that he handled all of the grant paperwork, which he offered to the Selectboard for review. He wanted to make sure the Selectboard was happy with the way the grant was handled.
 - ii. Ring asked about how the hydrant operated and Berwick explained the process.
 - b. Berwick was very happy that the project was completed because of its importance in serving the whole East Hill area. There has been no water in that area for a number of years.
 - c. Berwick had an issue to discuss during the executive session.
9. Fireworks on Memorial Day
- a. Because of the increased cost of fireworks on July 4th, someone suggested having the fireworks on Memorial Day.
 - i. P. Craig explained that Memorial Day is a day of mourning, not celebrating.
 - b. P. Craig suggested Labor Day. Ring will take the suggestion to the July 4th committee.
10. Town Auditor position
- a. Discussion ensued on candidates for the vacant Town Auditor position.
11. Tree Warden position
- a. The Selectboard received Neil Monteith's resignation as Peacham's Tree Warden. He would like to remain on the Tree Board and the Conservation Commission.
 - b. **P. Craig moved to appoint Joe Layn as Tree Warden and Jason Bean as Deputy Tree Warden with terms ending on Town Meeting Day. Browne seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
12. Approve minutes
- a. **P. Craig moved to approve the minutes of January 5, 2022. Browne seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
 - b. **P. Craig moved to approve the minutes of January 13, 2022. Ring seconded. Browne recused himself. Majority in favor. So moved.**
13. Review and approve bills
- a. **P. Craig moved to approve the bills as presented by the Town Treasurer. Browne seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
14. Review correspondence
- a. Correspondence present included Neil Monteith's resignation as Tree Warden.
15. BAS survey
- a. The Census Bureau is conducting the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS).
 - b. The Selectboard just needs to confirm that there have been no political changes to the boundaries of Peacham.
16. Town Gym
- a. Rachael Moragues has volunteered to be responsible for the gym, both the scheduling and the cleaning.
 - i. The Selectboard agreed.
 - b. Ashton Giroux emailed Ring to encourage the Selectboard to make the gym more accessible to residents.
 - c. Dedam would also like the gym to be more accessible and encouraged the Selectboard to decide whether the gym should be treated as an asset to the residents and accessible to all or if it should be treated as a secure location with limited accessibility.
 - d. Ring will reach out to Moragues to coordinate and explain all of the procedures, including the procedures designed to keep gym users safe during COVID.

17. Executive session for personnel

- a. **P. Craig moved to enter executive session for personnel. Browne seconded. All in favor. Executive session entered at 8:16pm.**
- b. The Selectboard came out of executive session at 8:34pm.
- c. No action taken.

18. Adjourn

- a. **Browne moved to adjourn. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.**

These minutes were approved as written by the Peacham Selectboard at its regular meeting on 2/2/22.

Rebecca Washington, Selectboard Clerk


