

# TOWN OF PEACHAM

## Selectboard Meeting

Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 7:00pm

Location: **Peacham Library Community Room**

Attendance: Peter Craig, Selectboard Chair, Richard Brown, Selectboard, Alfred Dedam, Selectboard, Thomas Galinat, Town Clerk, Steve Engle, Laurie Kozar, Mel Reis, Rod Reis, Dave Stauffer

## Minutes

1. Call to order by Peter Craig at 7:00pm
2. Additions to the agenda
  - a. Cemetery – Dave Stauffer
    - i. Stauffer stated that tree work completed in the cemetery was a success.
  - b. Tennis Court – PTF
    - i. Richard Browne moves to approve the use of the tennis court for the PTF to assemble wreaths, seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, so moved.
  - c. Explosives in the Village – Mel Reis
    - i. Mel Reis asked about how to protect the water system in the village from future use of explosive materials. The board stated this was outside of the board's purview. The board recommended other state agencies.
3. Highway Department update
  - a. Peter Craig spoke that the Highway crew is getting roads ready for the winter with final grading. The new truck has arrived. Richard Browne said he would do the annual diesel tank inspection.
  - b. Steve Engle asked about winter sand for residents. Craig stated there is a resident sand pile, he stated residents cannot use the large pile at the garage but the small pile by the salt shed.
  - c. Richard Browne summarized the Selectboard meeting on Monday 10/17/22. He stated the following: The current conditions of Bayley Hazen Road meet the standards that VTrans requires. Across from Kozar's there is a location that a catch basin and culvert may help the water runoff. However, the installation could compromise the newly installed water main. With landowner permission the town could install a swale on the Kozar property but it would not mitigate all the runoff. The water runoff is the responsibility of property owner.
  - d. Church Street's drainage system is working. Due to the lack of ditching, eroded materials are depositing on adjacent properties. An engineering study is required. Craig stated that if the Town were to try to mitigate the eroded materials, stone lined ditches would be required. The board is looking into funding options for an engineering study and any work required that doesn't look like stone lined ditches.

4. Town Clerk/Treasurer update
  - a. Galinat stated the office is getting ready for the General Election. He is still waiting on the digital records from Records Force. Galinat asked that the board consider having request for a work in the Town's right of way be a contact form online. He stated he will perform a website review for the board to update.
  - b. Dave Stauffer asked about access permits, Galinat furthered to ask who is financially responsible when existing driveways without a culvert but the Road Foreman feels one is needed. The board said that the town would be responsible. No action taken.
5. 2023 budget discussion
  - a. Galinat presented the budget status report for 2022, he asked the board to review the areas that will require a decision in the coming weeks. Galinat stated he anticipated increases of 5%-15% across the board. Galinat also stated that he anticipates the tax rate to increase. He said that the unexpended funds of 2021 that decreased the 2022 tax rate will increase 2023's tax rate by 8-9%, in addition he stated the 5-15% increase in the budget to match inflation will also increase the tax rate. Lastly, he stated concern over the school's portion of the tax rate as the legislative hold on per pupil threshold may be lifted adding an addition increase if the school's census is too low. He was unclear where legislation was on this. Galinat stressed that these increases are outside of the board's control and these increases are going to make the board's decisions in December much harder.
  - b. Galinat stated the July 4<sup>th</sup> fund is underfunded and asked the board to consider funding the shortfall from the general fund. Browne stated he wanted to review the budget and review at the next meeting.
  - c. Stephen Engle asked the board to consider replacing the white village signs. The board said this should be a Town Meeting Article for the residents to decide. The board asked Engle to get update quotes for the warning.
6. Approve the edited appropriations process
  - a. Browne described the changes to the appropriation process without an appropriation committee. Discussion ensued over the petition vs request deadlines. **Peter Craig moved to approve the appropriation process with the 47 days prior to Town Meeting for petitions, seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, so moved.**
7. Lister appointment
  - a. Craig stated Richard Scholes resigned via correspondence. **Richard Browne moved to appoint Nathan Colpitts to the position of lister for the remainder of the Rick's term, Alfred Dedam seconded, all in favor, so moved.**
8. Approve minutes
  - a. October 5, 2022
    - i. Browne asked about requests to revise minutes. Galinat stated he felt strongly about having public influence other than from the clerk and the board. Browne requested to leave it as is. He will be meeting with Allison Webster and the heating contractor on Monday the 24<sup>th</sup>. Discussion ensued on how to include reports and document into the minutes. Kozar and Mel Reis asked about what gets included in the minutes. Browne stated that is it most important to include the board's actions versus general discussion. **Richard Browne moved to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, so moved.**

9. Review and approve bills
  - a. There was no motion to approve the accounts payable or payrolls, however all 3 board members signed all warrants present, signifying approval.
10. Review correspondence
  - a. The board reviewed correspondence regarding the Passumpsic watershed.
11. Executive session for personnel
  - a. **Richard Browne moves to go into executive session at 8:33pm.** The board came out of executive session at 8:39pm. No Action Taken.
12. Executive session for legal issue
  - a. **Richard Browne moved to go into executive session at 8:39pm.** The board came out of executive session at 8:48pm. No Action Taken.
13. Adjourn
  - a. **Alfred Dedam moved to adjourn at 8:48pm.**

Documents provided to the Selectboard and documents discussed at this meeting are available by request to the Town Office.