

TOWN OF PEACHAM

Selectboard Meeting

Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 7:00pm

Hybrid meeting in Peacham Library Community Room and via zoom

Attendance: Peter Craig, Selectboard Chair, Richard Browne, Selectboard, Alfred Dedam, Selectboard, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Thomas Galinat, Town Clerk, Harry Vann, Steve Engle, Ron Craig, Beatrice Ring, Jonathan Kaplan, Lorraine Clough, Dave Edwards, Via Zoom: Neil Monteith, Karen Lewis, Dave Stauffer, Greg Lockhart, John Reiss, Carol Fox, Laurie Kozar, Morgan Gold, Jacob Thomas, Mary Ellen Reis

Minutes

1. Call to order by Peter Craig at 7:00pm
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. ARPA
 - i. Beatrice Ring presented a timeline for ARPA funding to date. Browne stated the board is working on the proposals and he emailed the groups with the proposals.
 - b. Selectboard Concerns
 - i. Ron Craig mentioned that the board has to do far more activities than in the past. Richard Browne stated that the board receives a \$2000 a year stipend. Galinat stated this stipend was \$500 in 2016 to \$2000 in 2022.
 - c. NEK Broadband Utility Easement
 - i. NEK Broadband needs an easement to create and install a base station next to the fire station.
 1. **Richard Browne moved to approve and sign the easement, seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, so moved.**
 - d. Executive Session for Personnel
 1. The board entered executive session at 8:57pm. The board came out at 9:04pm. **Peter Craig moved to appoint Anna Carvalho to Selectboard Clerk, seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, so moved.**
 - e. Public Comment
 - i. The board agreed to create a regular item for public comment at future meetings.
 - ii. Steve Engle asked about the village signage. The board stated it would be on the warning as its own Article.
3. Highway Department update
 - a. Withers stated that he is stuck in between winter and fall. He plans on having to spread more gravel to clean up the mud holes before winter. He said all equipment is up and running and in good shape. Withers said he received a request to purchase the 6 wheeler at the end of the lease. Withers said a resident complained about trash on Green Bay Loop. Craig said he would call the sheriff.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer update
 - a. Galinat said that the digitization should be done before the first of the year. He said he is continuing his assistance with title searches of Peacham's historic houses for the Peacham Historical Association as they update their book, Historic Homes of Peacham.
 - b. Galinat stated that there may be a need for representation from the Town at the collaborators meeting. He offered to write a letter from the clerk's office if needed. Galinat stated that from the same collaborators meeting there was concern for a town recreation committee. Galinat explained the history of recreation in Peacham and asked the board to address the gaps between residents and the board.

- c. Galinat stated he was negotiating security agreements with Passumpsic Bank for the town accounts. He stated that delinquent taxes are only \$77K for 2022. Of that \$55K is representative of school taxes. He explained that the town would not go over budget if the Town was responsible for all delinquent school taxes.
5. 2023 budget/current year status
 - a. Galinat stated the town is at \$41K for the remainder of the year.
 - b. Galinat presented options for cost savings next year or reduce spending this year (attached below). Galinat stated that he requested the board to support the Town Office and Highway department in their decisions as they will be the ones to hear the concerns of their decision.
 - c. Galinat stated the draft budget (before cuts) is an increase of 13.9% on the town side, or \$92.50 per \$100,000 of house value. Browne asked Galinat about the working capital fund. Galinat stated he had strong reservations against pulling from reserves.
 - d. Craig read an electronic message from Galinat that the legislature passed the weighted bill removing the education spending penalty. He said the school board anticipates the budget on the school side will go down again this year.
6. Town Hall issues
 - a. Browne stated there is a new quote for a keypad on the gym. **Peter Craig moved to install the keypad, seconded by Richard Browne, all in favor, so moved.**
 - b. Browne stated that there are no fire rated doors in the Town Hall. The board will be installing new doors in the spring. Browne stated that the HVAC contractor repaired the zone valves, Modine's in the post office, and is looking into getting programmable thermostats.
 - c. Brown stated that he is getting a quote to bring the storage area to the floor level. The tape on the floor for pickle ball has to come up. The board would like to repaint all the lines for the gym. The board stated that the pickle ball tape should stay until the new paint is ready to be put down. Craig stated he is meeting with a contractor to get a price to clean the gym and town hall.
7. Broadband Equipment Installation Agreement
 - a. No Action Taken, the board addressed this under the Additions to the Agenda item, NEK Broadband Utility Easement.
8. Cemetery deed
 - a. **Browne moved to approve the cemetery deed, seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, so moved.**
9. Approve minutes
 - a. November 16, 2022
 - a. **Alfred Dedam moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Richard Browne, all in favor so moved.**
10. Review and approve bills
 - a. **Richard Browne moved to approve bills as presented, seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, so moved.**
11. Review correspondence
 - a. The board reviewed correspondence.
12. Executive session for real estate
 - a. The board went into executive session at 8:47pm to discuss real estate. The board came out of executive session at 8:57pm. No Action Taken.
13. Adjourn
 - a. Richard Browne moved to adjourn at 9:06pm, seconded by Alfred Dedam, all in favor, so moved.

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

TOWN OF PEACHAM

Magnificent Scenery, Fine Social Atmosphere, Collaborative Community

Office of the Treasurer
PO Box 244
Peacham, Vermont 05862

Options to Lower 2023 Financial Outcomes

December 7th, 2022 Selectboard,

Here a few options to lower to impact on the 2023 tax year. These decisions may impact the 2022 or the 2023 year but ultimately affect the tax rate for 2023. Please note, I don't like any of these options, they are simply to save money. All of these options will take the support of the entire board as the outfall will likely be felt by the road crew and town office.

1. Use Bridge Fund to offset total culvert line in 2022 or 2023. \$6775.79 in fund, \$4500 expended in 2022, and \$7000 budgeted in 2023.
2. Lower culvert line and create a worst first policy. Jeremy buys "x" number and replaces them, those not replaced will have to wait until the following year. Emergencies use bridge fund.
3. Gravel on worst first as well. Set amount and stop when we hit that number. When Jeremy runs out, he simply shapes up with equipment until next year.
4. Hold some bills until 2023. Essentially spread the debt over into 2023 and spend accordingly. IE the gravel bills I received tonight.
5. Personnel policy change to vacation time. Promote the use of vacation. Remove annual payout if not used and promote time off.
6. Grant participation. Promote the use of highway, office, and labor from Town personnel. If we use our match in labor, we make money on grants. If we hire out, we spend money on grants.
7. Transfer all Town Office maintenance to capital building fund for 2023 and/or 2022.
8. Reduce the amount we add to our reserves for Capital building, highway retreatment, or capital equipment
9. Use Working Capital Fund to offset 2022 deficit.
10. Any combination of above

Thomas Galinat,
Town Treasurer