

TOWN OF PEACHAM

Selectboard Meeting

Wednesday, March 22nd, 2023 at 6:30pm

Location: Hybrid meeting in Peacham Library Community Room and via Zoom

In-Person Attendance: Richard Browne, Selectboard chair, Peter Craig, Selectboard, Alfred Dedam, Selectboard, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Jake Thomas, Amber Vecchiarelli

Zoom Attendance: Karen Lewis, Morgan Gold, Dave Stauffer, Sarah Lydon and Greg Lockhart

MINUTES

1. Call to order by Richard at 6:30pm on March 22nd, 2023.
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. Executive session for personnel
 - b. Tax anticipation note
 - c. Tree board appointment
 - d. Cemetery Committee appointment
3. Highway Department update
 - a. Jeremy Withers reported that they are working on springtime maintenance and are ready for mud season. They are trying to hold off on plowing to avoid making a mess. All is well at the garage. Matt got CDL permit and has been practicing.
 - b. Jeremy asked the Selectboard about roadside mowing. Alfred confirmed that the contracted amount is \$6000. Discussion about when to mow first, whether to mow twice, and where. The selectboard asked Jeremy to find out if there is availability to mow early, and what the cost would be to come back in August and mow only specific areas.
 - c. Jeremy noted his concern in the delay in truck availability for ordering and how it may affect our 3-year lease for trucks. Selectboard asked for update after he gets more information.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer update
 - a. Update received via email from Rebecca Washington, noting the Tax Anticipation Note from Passumpsic Savings Bank needs approval.
 - b. **Peter moved to approve Tax Anticipation Note and authorize Rebecca Washington, Town Treasurer to be the authorized signature, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
 - c. Amber Vecchiarelli from Casella delivered the transfer station proposal. The recycling portion is TBD because she is waiting for information from our station. Casella does zero sort recycling, so Selectboard asked for confirmation about how it works. Instead of the public sorting their own recycling, it all goes into one packer, and the packer goes to the facility. Amber then explained the process at the facility to sort the material more efficiently. She confirmed that they do compost as well, including a depacking process. Some materials are turned into energy. With Casella system, our shed would not be used, but she suggested other ways the shed could be used.
5. Lister appointment
 - a. **Alfred moved to appoint Sarah Lydon to a 1-year term as lister, seconded by Peter, all in favor, so moved.**
6. NEK Broadband Governing Board appointment

- a. Already approved, but needs to be signed, so Selectboard withheld until reviewing and approving bills portion of the meeting.
7. Service Officer appointment
 - a. No service officer appointment yet.
8. Recreation Committee
 - a. **Richard moved to appoint Rachael Moragues, Lorraine Clough, Greg Lockhart, and Ian Boswell to the Recreation Committee with Gretchen Boswell as an alternate, seconded by Peter, all in favor, so moved.**
 - b. Focus on gym cleanup first, then they can decide how to move forward.
9. Code of Conduct Signatures
 - a. Selectboard and committees need to sign. Richard will email the form to Anna and Rebecca to email out to committees. He will bring 3 copies for selectboard to sign next meeting.
10. Cemetery Deed Approval
 - a. **Peter moved to approve a cemetery deed as presented, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
 - b. Selectboard signed off on deed. Jeremy Withers and Jake Thomas signed as witnesses.
11. PCH – survey and documents costs
 - a. Alfred recused himself from conversation.
 - b. So far, \$7000 in costs have incurred during survey. There is one more cost for drafting an easement to allow access to the upper area and one document that remains to be finalized. Richard stated that the goal is mutual and the funds are likely to come from ARPA regardless who requests them. As such, he proposed that the town absorb the costs for keeping the green open and creating a lane to get to tennis court area, and suggested the town pay for it out of ARPA funds instead of billing PCH. Peter proposed asking PCH for half. Richard explained that the project falls into the ARPA funding category, so PCH would likely request ARPA funds to pay the bill anyway, so in this case, it may be simpler to just pay directly from ARPA funds. Selectboard agreed to table the decision until next meeting.
12. Post Office 24/7 request
 - a. Discussion on design based on 2019 proposal drawings and combining projects like the floor, ramp, listers space, and walkway. Quotes are needed for all changes, which requires bid documents. Peter will ask Rebecca to update one of Peter’s previous requests for proposals. Alfred proposed a special meeting site visit. The Selectboard will decide on a date next meeting.
13. Town Hall fire alarm system
 - a. Upgrades need to be done. There is a quote for \$4626. It was noted that Rebecca will file for a grant to get some of that money refunded.
 - b. **Peter moved to accept estimate for upgrading the fire alarm system at the Town Hall, Alfred seconded, all in favor, so moved.**
14. Public Comment
 - a. Richard asked Karen Lewis and Dave Stauffer if the Cemetery Committee needs more appointees since Jim Barlow did not accept the appointment. Karen said a replacement was not necessary.
15. Approve minutes
 - a. **Peter moved to approve minutes from Wednesday, March 8th, 2023, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**

- b. **Peter moved to approve minutes from the Special Meeting on Wednesday, March 15th, 2023, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**

16. Review and approve bills

- a. Peter noted that the phone at the transfer station is unusable because of the line being damaged and cannot be fixed until summer. He noted that Rebecca will ask for a prorated refund for paying on a line they cannot use.
- b. **Peter moved to approve and pay all bills as presented, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**

17. Review correspondence

- a. Peter noted that he forwarded the grant from Dave Stauffer to Dave Edwards, explaining that the focus is on energy efficiency. Richard noted that he forwarded the information to Allie Webster to see if there is any overlap with the Energy Committee. Richard requested heating and ventilating of the Town Hall be on the agenda for the next meeting. Discussion on venting pipe in the back of the building and eventual need for painting.

18. Executive Session

- a. **Peter moved to enter executive session for personnel at 7:30pm, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
- b. **Exited executive session at 7:34pm**
- c. No action taken

19. Adjourn

- a. **Peter moved to adjourn at 7:35pm, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**

Documents provided to the Selectboard and documents to be discussed at this meeting are available by request to the Town Office. Requests must be made before 11am on the date of the meeting in order to be fulfilled before the meeting