

# TOWN OF PEACHAM

## Selectboard Meeting

Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:30pm

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

Attendance In-Person: Richard Browne, Selectboard, Peter Craig, Selectboard, Alfred Dedam, Selectboard, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Rusty Barber. Caleb Heath, Joel Wright, Ron Craig

Attendance via Zoom: Doug Morrison, Dave Stauffer, Leah McDermott, Tim McKay, Neil Monteith, Kyle Chapin

### MINUTES

1. Call to order by Richard at 6:30pm on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023
2. Additions to the agenda
  - a. Executive session for personnel
  - b. Clarification that LEMP has been approved so Neil can move forward with it and get it signed.
3. Highway Department update
  - a. All trucks back in service. Roads in ok shape, but Harvey's Hollow Road was mostly impassable due to mud, so they have put up signs. Keiser pond road access needs work, so they will try next week.
  - b. A Peacham Pond resident called about breaking a piece of grating equipment and asked to be reimbursed. However, the town had not requested or contracted the resident to do any work, so the request was denied by the Road Foreman, the Town Clerk, and the Selectboard.
  - c. Matt finished CDL class and took test and passed.
  - d. Price for road salt has jumped up significantly.
  - e. Walt Nebrosky, the roadside mower, can come for 2-3 days in early June. Peter will be in contact closer to date to settle on which days. No information on the price difference yet.
  - f. Doug Morrison asked the selectboard to address an access issue at the end of the class 3 road on Cow Hill, which is also the access to town forest. Selectboard discussed asking owner of gate to remove it. Doug asked about town's control of the 100 yards of road and parking for the start forest access, and he also expressed concerned that the gate was being locked, blocking his access. Selectboard and Jeremy will get more information and will be in contact with Doug.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer update
  - a. No update
5. Cross Vermont Trail Association – Michael Thomas
  - a. Not present.
  - b. Richard clarified that the organization is interested in speaking to the town about connecting the trails from Lamoille Valley rail trail to a point south. To be determined later.
6. Town Hall update
  - a. No updated quotes on HVAC and no updates on the post office.
  - b. Drawing – Rusty Barber
    - i. Selectboard discussed drawing for renovating the Town Hall to accommodate changes in post office, updated heating/HVAC system, and reworking the town spaces a bit.
    - ii. Rusty will scan a draft copy of the drawing and Peter will send to the postmaster, Robert Campbell.

- iii. Rusty will meet with Shane Stevenson and Allen Thresher for quotes for waterproofing the west wall of the Town Hall.
    - iv. Rusty provided the Selectboard an outline of work he will do for the town.
    - v. Discussed possible contractors who could do the work, but it's possible it may not get done until spring 2024 due to availability.
    - vi. Discussion of roof as it relates to the exterior work.
7. Town Mowing bids
  - a. Kyle from 5 Season Land Works in Plainfield presented a bid for the primary locations for \$33,800. For the village and library greens, a bid would increase by \$1,170 each. The bid includes a spring and fall clean ups.
  - b. Caleb from Faith and Family Property Maintenance in Hardwick presented a second bid for the primary locations for \$22,000. The library would add \$1,100 to the bid, and the village green would add \$1,400 to the bid. The bid does not include spring and fall clean ups.
  - c. Discussion about the town potentially doing part of the mowing. Jeremy explained that he is not certain how it would impact his workers and their time spent on road work. The town would still need to hire someone to do the cemeteries, which is about 75% of the work. The town would only save about 25% by doing it themselves, but would require a trailer purchase and potentially a part-time summer road crew worker.
  - d. Richard clarified that the decision about the mowing bid would not guarantee inclusion of the library and town greens. The exclusion or inclusion of those locations would have to be determined at a later date.
  - e. Will discuss further in executive session.
8. Church driveway/parking lot gravel/grading
  - a. John Marshall sent a draft of an agreement to the Selectboard. All found it acceptable. Jeremy is ok with 2 loads of gravel, plowing, and sanding. He requested clarification about plowing all the time versus certain days. He also asked for clarity about the liability for that area. Selectboard will address these in the next draft of the agreement with John.
9. Transfer Station contract
  - a. Casella correspondence stated that recycling will be approximately \$3600 (about the same as last year's expense with NEK), plus there is a \$415/month fee for 8-yard containers, and an environmental fee.
  - b. Discussion of comparison between Meyers and Casella for trash, and the supplemental benefits of being a part of NEK vs the benefits of zero sort.
  - c. Selectboard wants to find out if the town can still be a member of NEK if we accept Casella's zero sort recycling bid. Discussion of accepting trash bid only, and looking into zero sort recycling options over the next couple years.
  - d. Peter moved to accept the bid for Casella's trash option only, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.
  - e. Richard moved to authorize Peter to sign contracts and make phone calls to take care of the change, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.
10. Loss prevention items from transfer station update
  - a. No update.
11. Clothes recycling
  - a. Amber is following up on this. If/when a container is provided, it will be located at the transfer station.
12. Public Comment

- a. Joel Wright brought bill, #480, to the Selectboard's attention. The bill is currently in the Senate, and it is related to how property reappraisals will occur, sponsored by the House Committee on Ways and Means.
13. Approve minutes
    - a. Peter moved to accept minutes as presented for Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.
    - b. Alfred moved to accept the minutes from Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, seconded by Peter, all in favor, so moved.
  14. Review and approve bills
    - a. Alfred moved to accept the bills as presented, Peter seconded, all in favor, so moved.
  15. Review correspondence
    - a. Laurie Kozar emailed regarding storm water grants. Last year's meeting with the state determined that the road is properly built and maintained, so any stormwater issues are the responsibility is the homeowners.
    - b. Jeff Lamphere emailed about trash being dumped on the road. There is nothing the selectboard can do unless someone is caught doing it. It's an unfortunate reality around town and the state.
    - c. Richard asked if Peter was comfortable sharing the survey documents with PCH, regardless of how the bills end up being paid because PCH will need them for the subdivision. He agreed. Alfred is recused from the discussion related to PCH.
  16. Executive session
    - a. Peter moved to enter executive session at 7:41pm.
    - b. Peter moved to exit executive session at 7:52pm
    - c. No action taken.
  17. Mowing bid decision
    - a. Alfred moved to accept the bid from 5 Season Land Works, seconded by Peter, all in favor, so moved.
    - b. Peter will contact 5 Season Land Works. Richard will reach out to Susan. Alfred will be in touch with PCH.
    - c. Rural Edge put out a bid for the 2 acres that PCH currently owns. Peter's company put in a bid for this.
  18. Peter moved to adjourn at 7:56, 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.