

TOWN OF PEACHAM
Wednesday, September 6, 2023
Selectboard Meeting
Hybrid meeting in the Peacham Library Community Room and via Zoom

Attendance

In-person: Richard Browne, Selectboard chair, Peter Craig, Selectboard, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Jennifer Slen, Jeff Berwick, Fire Chief, Allie Webster

Via Zoom: Alfred Dedam, Selectboard, David Stauffer, Robert Bartell

Minutes

1. Call to order by Richard at 06:30pm, on Wednesday, September 6, 2023
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. Jennifer Slen – classification of The Lane - to be discussed after Highway Dept update
3. Highway Department Update
 - a. Meeting with 9 people from FEMA last Thursday went well. Working with Rebecca and Jenn to pass along bills and information for FEMA from first week after storm. Richard asked if there was money available to offset the extra work grading that they've been doing above and beyond the regular work. Jeremy said they won't cover the smaller sites and work, just the big sites. The Old Cemetery Rd culvert, and two spots on Mack's Mountain will be covered. He's trying to get the work done this year, but it will be tight. There is money to upgrade the covered sites. He wants to get bigger pipes for the culverts on Mack's Mountain, but must get 3 quotes.
 - i. **Peter moved to authorize Jeremy to decide which price and option is best, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**

Jeremy has a general idea of the cost to cover the pipes and other materials. He may need to hire an excavator and an extra truck or two. He will try to have numbers and names ready for the next meeting.
 - b. Grants in Aid – maintenance for stone-lined ditches or changing pipes near Martin's Pond. Hoping to be done in about a week.
 - c. 3 documents to sign for the new truck
 - i. **Peter moved to have the Selectboard chair sign on the Allegiance truck documents, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
 - d. Per last meeting, Jeremy spoke to Seth Graves of 802 Lawn Care about plowing Peacham Pond area again. Seth agreed to stay with the \$18,000 price from last year.

i. Peter moved to continue to use 802 Lawn Care to plow Peacham Pond area at the same price as last year, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.

- e. Meeting to discuss work on Peacham Pond Access on September 18th at 09:00am. They have asked if Peacham's plow person could do the fishing access. Peter does not agree as it is a state access. Richard and Jeremy clarified that the correspondence with the state explained that they want our person to plow, which we would pay for initially. We would bill it separately from our regular town contract, and send the invoice for that area to the state to get reimbursed. Neither Jeremy nor Peter feel this is a good choice due to the complications of the billing process. They all agree that it's necessary to hear Rebecca's thoughts. Richard noted that the state-contracted plow person would only plow if there is 4+ inches of snow, and it would only get plowed when that person could get to it. So, a benefit to hiring Seth to do it would be more reliable plowing, which would improve some of the current parking issues. Alfred asked why our plow person couldn't bill the state directly. Richard explained that the state already put out a multiple-year contract out to bid, which another person has already won. In order for a town to hire someone else, we have to pay for the contract, then ask for reimbursement. Seth would have to agree and find it worthwhile as well.
 - f. Still some grading and sand moving to do. Discussion of some spots on roads that need attention.
 - g. Jennifer Slen has property on Martin's Pond, on Camp Road. She requested The Lane be reclassified from class 4 to class 3. Her main concern is drainage. She has had Allen Thresher fix her driveway multiple times due to water draining into her driveway regularly and washing it out. Richard explained that reclassification is a lengthy process. To adjust to Class 3, it has to be built to state class 3 standards, which includes 18ft road, which would require removing tree lines on both sides. Jen asked if there is way to put in drainage without reclassification. Jeremy explained that class 4 policy is to grade it once a year (though it's usually more), and that by ditching, it would force water onto someone's land. There is no funding allotted for it. Jeremy is not aware of any culverts on The Lane. Richard said he would look into it to be sure, but he believes reclassification would require a public hearing. Unfortunately, this year, finding money to solve it is unrealistic, but perhaps in the future. Jeremy suggested allotting some class 4 money in the future budget. Allie Webster suggested reaching out to Doug Morton to see if there is any current grant money available, or for suggestions, which Richard will do. Richard suggested Jen ask Allen if he has any suggestions as well.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update – via email
- a. Tax payments flowing in. We were able to pay back the \$20,000 we borrowed.
 - b. Meeting with FEMA (as shared by Jeremy)

- c. They are working on gathering information for the energy audit for town buildings.
- 5. Jeff Berwick – rescue vehicle quotes
 - a. Fire department won a \$203,000 grant from FEMA for equipment. This will supply us for the next 20 years. Town has to put up %5 which is about \$10,000. Some equipment will be for sale, which will bring back a little money towards the town’s portion. There is a purchase policy, which includes multiple bids. We pay for the purchases initially, then get reimbursed. Rebecca will determine how to make that work.
 - b. Cabin and Chassis quotes: Jeff threw out the Chevrolet bid because it’s a diesel, which doesn’t work for our purposes. Crosstown Dodge and Twin State Ford updated their quotes. Ford is about \$61,090, but cannot do a master disconnect, no maintenance is included, and there is a 27-gallon gas tank. Dodge is \$64,329, includes a master disconnect, 2 years maintenance, and a 52-gallon and a 22-gallon gas tank. Both gross vehicle weights are 18,000. Jeff feels better about the Dodge because of the master disconnect, but it's more expensive. Feels the service will be better at Dodge. It will be a 5-7 month wait for the truck. He’s not sure the price of the switchover of the body. Peter feels that the master disconnect, the service plan, and fuel capacity validates the higher cost of the Dodge quote.
 - i. **Peter moved to accept the Fire Chief’s recommendation and accept the Dodge quote, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**

Richard noted that the understanding is that the money for the cabin and chassis will come out of the ARPA fund. Jeff will do an estimate of the changeover as part of next year’s budget. They will speak to Rebecca about getting the \$1000 down payment.
- 6. Allie Webster – Solarbration
 - a. Peacham Community Solar Array is active, so starting this month there is a %10 discount on the town electricity bill. They are having a party to celebrate, ie, Solarbration. They are partnering with the town, the Peacham Energy Committee, the NVDA, and the state public service department to provide fun and educational opportunities. The free event will be on Sunday, September 24th from 12:00-4:00pm at Frank and Patrice’s house, as they are the hosts of the solar array. The Peacham Energy Committee hopes to use a significant portion of their budget along with the \$4000 MERP mini grant, as it is meant for energy education. Board agrees with these funding choices. Event puts Peacham on the map and is a good model for other towns to follow. Peacham Energy Committee meeting on Monday will include recruitment for new members because Harry resigned. Richard asked about including NEK Broadband alternate because he resigned from that as well. Allie thanked the town for all their support.
- 7. Lister Grand List adjustment

- a. A resident received an incorrect tax bill for 2023. Correction on grand list would allow the town clerk to print a revised bill.
 - i. **Peter moved to approve the grand list adjustment, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
- 8. Public comment - none
- 9. Approve minutes
 - a. **Peter moved to approve minutes from August 16th, 2023, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
- 10. Review and approve bills
 - a. **Peter moved to approve bills as presented, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
 - b. Amber has been working at the transfer station for 6 years, so now she is entitled to 3 days of paid vacation. Her sick time goes up as well. Peter will speak to Rebecca and Amber about making adjustments to her contract.
- 11. Review correspondence
 - a. Thursday, September 07th there will be a DRB meeting at Library at 7:00pm regarding sheds for HVAC on back of town hall. Richard will attend. Rusty will step away from being on the DRB that night, so he can present it to the rest of the DRB. We will have to get a variance because too close to set back.
- 12. Peter moved to adjourn at 07:22pm, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**

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