

TOWN OF PEACHAM
Wednesday, October 18, 2023
Selectboard Meeting
Hybrid meeting in the Peacham Library Community Room and via Zoom

Attendance

In-person: Richard Browne, Selectboard, Peter Craig, Selectboard, Alfred Dedam, Selectboard, Allen Freund

Via Zoom: Dan StCyr

Minutes

1. Call to order by Richard at 6:30pm, Wednesday, October 18, 2023
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. Discussion of 911 Coordinator
 - b. Act 68 – VT reappraisal Act
3. Highway Department update
 - a. FEMA contracts need to be signed.
 - i. **Peter moved to sign all the FEMA contracts as presented by the Town Clerk, Road Forman, and FEMA, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
 - b. Truck lease discussion with Dan StCyr
 - i. Selectboard is unhappy with the truck delay. Dan's communication with Kansas State Bank suggested this scenario is a frequent issue these days. The formal proposal is for extending the lease on the truck the town currently possess for 3 more months, based on the fact that Dan was told the new truck could be ready by Christmas. Peter asked if we would be making rental payments because the truck had already been sold. Dan said that was not the case. Originally, the town had the option to buy out the truck, or return it for Alliance to pay off. He reached out to the bank since he understood that turning in the truck before we had a new truck didn't make sense. The two options were to turn in truck on Oct 5th or keep the same truck until the new truck arrives. The proposal allows the town to continue to keep the truck until January 15th for a total of \$2750. Alfred asked if the new lease would begin with the delivery of the new truck. Dan confirmed that the new lease would not start until the day the town takes possession of the new truck and that there would be no overlapping payments. Dan will follow up with Rebecca.
 - ii. **Peter moved to accept and sign the proposal of an extension of the current truck lease through January 15th, 2024 for a total of \$2750, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**

- c. Peter shared that Jeremy had reported that starting Monday, sections of Mack's Mountain will be closed for FEMA culvert work, and that the crew will be finishing up fall work over the next few weeks, then starting preparations for winter work.
- 4. Town Clerk/Treasurer update from Rebecca Washington
 - a. Still receiving tax payments.
 - b. Contracts for FEMA (see above).
 - c. She let the Fire Alarm System company know that we are putting off the upgrade until the building renovation next year. The grant from VLCT expired, so hopefully there's another one next year.
- 5. Peacham Pond Access
 - a. The State representative did not appear to discuss the access. Richard suggested that they organize a time to get the Selectboard and the State on site. Allen Freund from the Peacham Pond Association agreed.
 - i. Richard asked Allen what he thought the next step should be for parking. Allen requested a search for a remedy for the narrowness of the road when it gets crowded. The area is limited in how it could be expanded. Peacham Land Trust owns a property nearby that, if there was no conservation easement, and if the trust agreed, could potentially be developed for a parking lot. Discussion on gravel and signage.
 - b. Peter asked about the end of Peacham Pond Road. Richard confirmed that it was determined the State road ends at the turn around. Documents with this information are to be kept at the Town Office.
- 6. 911 Coordinator
 - a. There have been problems with existing coordinator not responding to people's request for a number. Richard spoke with State. The current 911 Coordinator for Danville, Jeremy McMullen, works for the State in that division and is willing to act as our interim, until we find someone new.
 - b. **Richard moved to remove Brian Barney from the 911 Coordinator, and ask Jeremy McMullen to take it on in the interim until we find someone new, Peter seconded, all in favor, so moved.**
 - c. Jeremy suggest to Richard that the 911 Coordinator also be a lister. Richard will reach out to see if Nathan Colpitts would be willing.
 - d. Richard will sign and handle the paperwork needed.
- 7. Act 68
 - a. Act 68 passed this year, which affects how reappraisals get done. CLA has gone away. Information from VLCT states that towns will have to do a reappraisal every 6 years, regardless. Still unclear if the State or the Town will do it. Many details still need to be worked out, but it will be a significant change.
- 8. Public Comment - none
- 9. Approve minutes

- a. **Peter moved to approve minutes from October 4th, 2023, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
- 10. Review and approve bills
 - a. Rebecca provided a spreadsheet outlining her and Jen's hours on FEMA work.
 - b. **Peter moved to approve bills as presented, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
 - c. Richard asked if anyone was willing to go through the Vermont Municipal Compensation and Benefits Report to see how our road crew stands in relationship to comparable towns in the rest of the state. Alfred volunteered and will provide a report for the budget meeting.
 - d. Rebecca agreed to schedule a special meeting to go over the budget sometime after November 15th.
- 11. Review correspondence
 - a. Self-certification reminder for underground storage tank - completed by Richard.
 - b. Act 76 – effective July 1st, all non-profits, regardless of size, must have unemployment insurance. Selectboard will confirm our current status with Rebecca and ask her to share Act 76 information on Town social media.
 - c. We have been pre-approved for a municipal technical assistance program grant if we need it.
 - d. Rebecca has reached out to Casella to get a firm price for zero sort recycling. NEK has not been taking everything, which has caused problems.
- 12. **Peter moved to adjourn at 7:10pm, 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.