

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

Attendance

In-person: Richard Browne, Selectboard, Alfred Dedam, Selectboard, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Jeff Berwick, Fire Chief, Rusty Barber, Ron Craig

Via Zoom: Dave Stauffer, Jaine Carle, D Morrison

Minutes

1. Call to order by Richard at 06:30pm, Wednesday, December 6, 2023
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. Jeff Berwick – rescue vehicle
 - i. Cab and chassis arrived about 3 months ahead of schedule. Final invoice provided. Jeff decided to do the undercoating. Service package offered extends the warranty to 7 years. Jeff feels this is important, bringing the total to \$68,153. Selectboard can give him permission to sign for the town when he picks it up.
 - ii. **Richard moves to approve the purchase agreement for the new rescue cab and chassis and permit Jeff Berwick sign for the town, Alfred seconds, all in favor, so moved.**
 - iii. Clarification: Jeff can sign to pick up the vehicle. The Selectboard signed the purchase agreement.
 - iv. The body can be switched in a day and should happen soon. Jeff has been in touch with an electrician.
 - v. Calex board member – Fire department recommends Kathleen Corcoran be our representative.
 1. **Alfred moved to appoint Kathleen Corcoran as our Calex board representative, seconded by Richard, all in favor, so moved.**
3. Highway Department Update
 - a. Busy with cleanup from last two storms.
 - b. Keeping up with truck maintenance
 - c. Preparing for next storm
 - d. Signs for Peacham Pond are in, so they will be put up soon.
 - e. Rob Woodward fixed lighting issue at Town Garage. Jermey has some other issues he'd like him to fix at some point.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update – email from Rebecca Washington
 - a. **Alfred moved to approve \$250 holiday bonuses for road crew and town office staff, seconded by Richard, all in favor, so moved.**
 - b. Hazard Mitigation Plan – Richard will speak to Neil Monteith and request more time if necessary
 - c. **Alfred moved to submit the renewal of the MVP Health Insurance, seconded by Richard, all in favor, so moved.**
 - d. Rebecca praised the quality of the maintenance done on the town office parking lot lighting by Rob Woodward and the road crew.

- e. The State is still processing stump dump permit. There is a meeting with Rebecca on the 12th. Richard will plan to attend.
5. Budget Discussion
- a. Most of the budget is not finalized yet, but discussion has commenced.
 - b. Selectboard received a letter from auditors regarding a couple of bookkeeping errors for 2016-2017 year. No funds are missing nor were any funds misused. They determined the cause and have resolved the errors. A copy of that report will be available at the town office.
6. Town Hall update – Rusty Barber
- a. Rusty asked about whether the town would want AV and technology (referring to what is used in the library) in the new renovated space. The Selectboard agrees they would.
 - b. Richard moved to approve Rusty Barber hiring Martin Calverley to create bid documents for the technology in the new meeting room in the Town Hall and authorize Rusty Barber to sign the documents up to \$800, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
 - c. Rusty broke down the tentative budget by section for a total of \$384,000. He emphasized that a much of the budget is still an estimate.
 - d. Rusty noted that there is possible MERP funding that could support some of the changes in the gym instead of ARPA, in order to insulate and replace windows before updating to HVAC in order to help keep costs down once the HVAC is installed.
 - e. Rusty asked if exterior painting should be included in the project. The Selectboard agreed it should be. Richard suggested that Rusty look into possible Historic Preservation grants as well.
 - f. Rusty asked for clarification about the information about the HVAC systems from Andy Tomlinson, and Richard explained that they had put it out to bid, and he was the only one to bid, but that he is qualified.
7. Public comment
- a. Ron Craig
 - i. Cemetery – Ron explained that a tree that was scheduled to come down last Monday needs to wait until spring due to weather. The cost of bringing down the large pine tree is about \$7000.
 - ii. Ron has received a couple requests over recent years from families who want to sell cemetery lots back because they are not going to use them. Documents he has found say they cannot be sold back, only donated back. Richard requested he take it to the Cemetery Committee and bring the Selectboard a proposal.
 - iii. Ron found household garbage on the roadside on Bayley-Hazen Rd and Willow Brook Rd. He suspects it is the same person. There was an issue on Keiser Pond Rd recently too. The police have been notified. The Selectboard will let the police handle it.
8. Approve minutes
- a. Alfred moved to approve the minutes from November 15th, 2023, seconded by Richard, all in favor, so moved.**
9. Review and approve bills
- a. Alfred moved to approve bills as presented, seconded by Richard, all in favor, so moved.**
10. Review correspondence
- a. Andrea Otto sent a proposal for a concert series at the Peacham Transfer Station. Selectboard likes the idea. Richard responded.
 - b. Another person interesting in a mowing bid reached out. They will put the mowing contract out to bid in January, so they will hold off on that for now.

- c. A survey from Roxbury, VT regarding Selectboard expansion. Richard will fill out the survey.
 - d. New quotes from Casella for zero-sort recycling. They will make this decision when all 3 Selectboard members are present and when they are finalizing the budget.
 - e. Richard reached out to the State Fire Marshall regarding the old Peacham Store. The Marshall said there was no response from the owner regarding the report he sent, however the owner signed for it. They have a designated period of time to provide a response. Richard asked to the Marshall to speak to his supervisor to see if we can push it forward. Beatrice Ring sent an article in VTDigger about the Red Store from Preservation Trust, which the Selectboard will read. Alfred said he did some research, but that it was still unclear what a homeowner's responsibility is within a registered historic district. The Selectboard agrees that while the community can push the issue, the Town needs to handle it carefully.
 - f. Regarding the hazard mitigation email from the State, as noted previously in the Town Clerk update, Neil Monteith is looking into it, and Richard will reach out if Neil needs more time.
11. Alfred moved to adjourn at 07:24pm, seconded by Richard, all in favor, so moved.

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