

TOWN OF PEACHAM  
Wednesday, January 17, 2024  
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, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Jeff Berwick, Fire Chief, Amber Lowell, Joe Notini

Via Zoom: Anastasia M., Dave Stauffer, Linnea Wilhjelm, Janie Carle, Anne Marie Gilpin, Doug Morton, Rebecca Washington

Minutes

1. Call to order by Richard at 06:30pm, Wednesday, January 17, 2024
2. Additions to the agenda
  - a. Jeff Berwick – Fire Department updates
    - i. Requested approval to apply for FG grant to replace the forestry unit. The board agrees.
    - ii. Ordered SCBAs. FEMA paid already. Waiting for bill to pay it. To refill 45psi bottles, he found a used compressor booster.
    - iii. Rescue and tires to be put out bid soon.
    - iv. New rescue – body has been switched over, wiring started, and will take a couple weeks.
3. Highway Department Update
  - a. They are working on plowing and sanding recently. Some breakdowns: 6-wheeler breakdown solved, pickup plow pump and motor needed to be replaced, but is back up and running now.
  - b. Jeremy spoke to Dan about the new 6-wheeler. Mostly ready. Has to go to paint shop one more time. He hopes we'll have it by early Feb. Peter asked about the 10-wheeler, concerned we'd be in the same boat. Jeremy explained we might be, but it is out our control, whether leasing or buying. Doug Morton commented that RCT has been waiting for over a year for delivery times for buses.
  - c. Jeremy went to the Ford, Dodge, and GMC to inquire about pickup trade-in prices. All between \$20,000-25,000 for old pickup and plow. Ford and GMC would have one available much sooner. Discussion comparison between dealerships and trucks.
  - d. Regarding the milage certificate in correspondence, Jeremy reached out to the State and is getting some answers regarding the milage by Peacham Pond. He asked the Selectboard to hold off on submitting it until he has some clear answers.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update – email from Rebecca Washington

- a. Selectboard agrees to apply for PACIF grant to upgrade the alarm system in the Town Hall.
  - b. State might require Peacham to do a reappraisal because the Coefficient of Dispersion is over 20%, meaning houses are selling higher than market value. It is not clear if this will happen in 2024. They will know more by summer.
  - c. FEMA grant has been approved, so now working on State part. 75% of what we've applied for has been approved.
  - d. School kids will suggest names for snowplow at Town Meeting, so it will be on the warning or the names can be nominated during the meeting.
5. Transfer Station snow removal – Amber Lowell
  - a. Amber requested support finding a solution to snow removal that works for both the transfer station's needs and hers. She received an automatic shovel (not from town money), so they will see how it works out, and plan to have an executive session for personnel after Amber returns from vacation to determine how to move forward.
6. Finalize warnings
  - a. Regarding for article for the Town Hall renovation, they decided they needed to increase the bond maximum to make sure the project can be done properly, even if unforeseen issues arise. They hope that grants will cover large portions of the project. Richard is currently working on a HVAC grant.
  - b. Regarding paving, board discussed about making it a discussion item before budget approval instead of an article, per recommendation from VLCT. Tim McKay noted that including it in a discussion instead of an article does not give residents the opportunity to see the information laid out ahead of time. Since VLCT does not recommend it being a separate article, the board discussed how the idea is to get residents to think about how handle to non-grant covered paving costs moving forward by bringing it up in the discussion to determine how the decision will be made next year. Doug Morton encouraged the board to be strategic and try to be prepared because infrastructure costs are going up, and to communicate these needs to the residents.
  - c. Regarding appropriations, the Peacham requests each have their own articles, and county-wide appropriations will be grouped together. Any appropriation request that includes an increase will also be its own article.
  - d. **Peter moved to approve the warning subject to their edits, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
    - i. Board will work with Rebecca Washington to get the edited version signatures.
7. Cemetery Deed
  - a. **Peter moved to approve and sign the cemetery deed as presented, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
8. Late-filed Homestead penalty

- a. Discussion about whether to have penalty and if so, how much. Peter feels the penalty should be reinstated. Discussion of tax implications. Agreement that returning to 4% for this year only. Peter suggested bringing it up at Town Meeting to make sure residents are aware.
    - i. **Peter moved to reinstate the late-filed homestead penalty at the 4% rate, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
- 9. Windsong Property discussion
  - a. Richard requested tabling the discussion because the documentation regarding acreage and deeds is incorrect, so they will wait until they have corrected information.
- 10. Public comment
  - a. Joe Notini commented his appreciation for the road crew, Amber and Dale at the transfer station, and the work of the Selectboard and how it makes a difference to the community.
- 11. Approve minutes
  - a. **Peter moved to approve minutes from January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
- 12. Review and approve bills
  - a. **Richard moved to approve bills and payrolls as presented, seconded by Alfred, all in favor, so moved.**
- 13. Review correspondence
  - a. Linnea Wilhjelm and Anne Marie Gilpin – Music festival
    - i. Requesting approval from Selectboard to continue a music festival along the lines of PAMFest, which would involve using the town spaces. Board in agreement to approve it, but requested they continue communication related to parking. The date under consideration is August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, so Richard alerted them to the fact that the Town Hall maybe under renovation at that time, making the gym unavailable. Richard encouraged them to contact Rachael Moragues about scheduling the gym. They will be reaching out potential partners to manage sponsorships. They will be in communication with the Selectboard members to keep abreast of the renovation timing.
    - ii. Nothing further on the old store because the Assistant Fire Marshall still unavailable.
    - iii. Annette Lorraine agreed to review the documents from the Windsong property once they receive the corrected ones.
- 14. Peter moves to adjourn at 08:01pm, 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.