

TOWN OF PEACHAM
Wednesday, April 17, 2024
Selectboard Meeting
Hybrid meeting in the Peacham Library Community Room and via Zoom

Attendance

In-person: Alfred Dedam, Selectboard Chair, Peter Craig, Selectboard, William Kempton, Selectboard, Molly Willard, Selectboard, Andrea Kane, Selectboard, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Rebecca Washington, Town Clerk, Niel Monteith, Emergency Management Coordinator

Via Zoom: Janie Carle, Bob Harnish, Barbara Noyes Pulling,

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 6:32pm, Wednesday, April 17, 2024.
2. Additions to the agenda - none
3. Highway Department Update
 - a. Jeremey attended Beaver management class to gather information from the state about how to deal with beaver-related issues in town.
 - b. Grants in Aid letter of intent for 2025 was signed off and sent back. Grant funding helps fund ditching or culvert work.
 - c. Havey's Hollow Road at Keiser Pond Road has "road closed" signs up due to mud on road. Danville end is closed too. No one lives in that section. Emergency vehicles can get by if necessary.
 - d. Grader is going to be need a new water pump and some exhaust work. Ok to run, but needs work done.
 - e. Wrong fuel in one of the tanks, caught and dealt with immediately.
 - f. Going to work on reclaiming and cleaning up the gravel that got strewn on the sides of the road.
 - g. New pickup is on order. Should be here in May.
 - h. Road crew summer hours will begin last week of April.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update
 - a. Budget Status report – 22% expenditures so far, but big bills come later in the year. We are on par at the moment. \$200,000 in operating cash, which may not quite be enough until taxes start coming in.
 - b. Mowing contract signed by Matt. Rebecca reached out to VLCT about Non-employee Work Agreement. RFB didn't include requirement for Workers Comp, so VLCT highly recommended including that next year. It will have to be added to our policy this year.

i. Peter moved to sign the contract with Precision Lawn Care, seconded by Molly, all in favor, so moved.

- c. Grant for upgrade to fire alarm system – supposed to happen in conjunction with renovation. Due to the project delay, they board agrees it is best to wait and apply next year.
- d. ARPA money allocated to renovation project, but funds must be obligated by the end of the year (which requires a contract in place), VLCT APRA expert recommends offsetting payroll expenses with exact amount left, then with the saved money from that fund, transferring it to the capital building fund.
- e. Rebecca on vacation next week. Reach out to Jen if anything is needed.
- f. Sign Tax Anticipation Note

i. Peter moved to sign the TAN, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.

5. Hazard Mitigation Proposals – Niel Monteith

- a. 5 areas need to be covered in order to get State and Federal funding in case of natural disaster: Local Emergency Management Plan, current Hazard Mitigation Plan, Class 3 roads, be a part of National Incident Management System (NIMS), and one more.
- b. Plan needs to be approved by Selectboard. Then it is sent to Vermont Emergency Management, who will approve it or send it back for revisions. Then sent to FEMA.
- c. Neil, Rebecca, and Jenn reviewed 7 proposals. Some large firms, and some smaller firms, some local, some not. Rebecca called to follow up on references. Narrowed it down to 3. They recommend SEAM Solutions, due to lowest bid, and because they have done work with the towns of Walden, West Windsor, and Topsham, and those towns were very satisfied with their work. Rebecca clarified that there is grant that will cover the bid and help with the town expenses.

i. Andrea moved to accept the SEAM Solutions proposal, seconded by William, so moved.

Rebecca will work on the contract and reach out to the contacts from the other proposals.

6. VT declaration of Inclusion discussion

- a. Alfred reiterated his position from the previous meeting. Molly noted that it wouldn't hurt to adopt it, and could be a potential leverage for change. Andrea agrees that it sets a tone for the culture we strive for. She suggested bringing it to Town Meeting. Alfred agrees that if it should be a guiding tool, the Town should decide. Bob Harnish confirmed that some towns have adjusted the wording or redrafted it, as long as it covers the 5 major points. The board agrees that the decision should be made by the Town.

7. Public comment - none

8. Approve minutes
 - a. **Molly moved to approve minutes from April 3th, 2024, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
9. Review and approve bills
 - a. **Peter moved to approve bills as presented, seconded by Molly, all in favor, so moved.**
10. Review correspondence
 - a. Peter reported that there was an incident at the Transfer Station. A resident threw a freezer away without emptying the food from it, instead dumping the food into the bulky waste dumpster. They were able to identify the resident, so the Town will be sending a bill for labor to remove the food waste and disposal.
 - b. Asbestos Report – none found.
 - c. Email from Janie Carle in opposition to Declaration of Inclusion.
11. Executive Session for Cemetery Sexton
 - a. **Andrea moved to enter executive session at 07:30pm, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
 - b. Came out of executive session at 08:00pm with no action taken.
12. Peter moves to adjourn at 08:01pm, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.

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