

TOWN OF PEACHAM
Wednesday, December 18, 2024
Selectboard Meeting
Hybrid meeting in the Peacham Library Community Room and via Zoom

Attendance

In-person: Alfred Dedam, Selectboard, Peter Craig, Selectboard, William Kempton, Selectboard, Christian Snow, Selectboard, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Larry Jensen

Via Zoom: Molly Willard, Selectboard, Matthew Colburn

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 06:30pm, on Wednesday, December 18th, 2024
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. Larry Jensen – Peacham Fire District
 - i. Fire District– State requires a service line inventory requirement. Discovered 3 unknown service lines. Two were just inaccessible, but the third one is the hydrant by the ball field, which doesn't surface anywhere, so he can't find it to check. State/Feds will likely come back and require him to dig it up. He requested that if a decision is made about fixing it (which was being considered in past Selectboard meetings), he asked to be involved in that process, so he could get the information he needs in the process. He will likely have to dig it up anyway, but if the Selectboard acts first, he wouldn't necessarily need to. It is leaking in one spot, which might be a simple fix, but he won't know until he sees it. However, if they want to get the hydrant working again, there is a concern that a child could turn it on, but not turn it off, so the Fire District could use a certain spigot that would allow it to be safer and more effective.
 - b. Resolution for ARPA Funds Allocation
 - i. Anna spoke with Rebecca, so she clarified the information in Rebecca's email, explaining that the ARPA funds can legally be used for payroll if they have not yet been allocated.
 - ii. **Peter moved to approve the Resolution to expend SLFRF funds in an amount up to \$86,241.87 for the purpose of municipal workforce retention to pay for payroll expenses for the period 1/1/2024 through 12/31/2024, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
3. Highway Department Update from Jeremy Withers
 - a. Danville-Peacham Rd project– estimating just under \$126,000 for 700ft stretch for all the work that would hopefully take about a week. He will need to finalize the plan with contractors, but it needs to be done. Because of the wetness of the area, Jeremy is not sure what they might find, so he's anticipating different scenarios.
 - b. VLCT did an insurance loss prevention inspection of the garage. Jeremy was not there, but he received some pointers. One concern is the water-system source. He is waiting to see the report before he tries to figure out a plan of action, but he wanted to give the Selectboard a heads up.
 - c. Radio issues due to both the radios themselves and our location. He is researching some better options.
 - d. One truck is being repaired for the exhaust system. Another truck is being inspected tomorrow.
 - e. The new truck is still expected to be here before the end of December.
4. Town Clerk/Treasurer Update via email from Rebecca Washington
 - a. Information about the resolution for the ARPA funds
 - b. New line of credit is set up. Plan to borrow \$829,078.25 for the amount spent so far on flood repairs, which will be reimbursed by FEMA for the unpaved roads, and the State for the paved sections in South Peacham.
 - c. Selectboard member needs to review appropriations. William volunteered. Christian can help.
 - d. Rebecca asked about a time for the December 30th final budget meeting. The Selectboard agreed on 3:45pm. The outstanding budget items include: Road Capital Equip contributions/spending, renovation budget, and deciding what to do with any unexpended funds from 2024.

5. Mowing Bids
 - a. We received 2 bids.
 - i. JM Yard Services LLC out of Cabot for \$34,500 – does not include Peacham/Groton Cemetery.
 - ii. Precision Lawn Care LLC - \$37,500 – includes Peacham/Groton Cemetery.
 - b. Adjusted to include the Cemetery, the prices are about the same. Matt is familiar with the property. Alfred commented that the spring cleanup could be improved, but the quality of services improved over the course of the year. Peter commented that everything got done in a timely manner.
 - c. **Peter moved to accept Precision Lawncare’s bid, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
6. Budget Discussion
 - a. Road crew will need a grader in the next 2-3 years, other than purchasing the 10-wheeler next year. The following year we will need to decide if we will buy the 6-wheeler. Need to determine the amount to be put in the Capital Equipment Fund. Discussion about length of time we can get out of equipment. In the past, we have put \$45,000. Peter noted that they had discussed putting in some extra because of the extra amount for the 10-wheeler next year.
 - b. Renovation budget. Alfred met with Dick Browne and Rusty Barber. He figured approximately 3300 sq ft of work to be done to varying degrees. At \$150/sq ft it would be about \$500,000. There is about \$135,000 in the capital building fund, plus the ARPA funds. The town has already agreed to get a line of credit at town meeting. Christian asked about the heat pump set up. Alfred clarified that it hasn’t gone out to bid yet, and it would be a separate bid from the rest of the project. Alfred plans to meet with a rep from VT Heating and Ventilating to look at the project to get some perspective. Christian will join. Discussion about some of the improvements that will be included in the project.
7. Public comment
8. Approve minutes
 - a. **Peter moved to approve special meeting minutes from Monday, December 2nd, 2024, and the regular meeting minutes from Wednesday, December 4th, 2024, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
 - b. **William moved to approve special meeting minutes from Monday, December 9th, 2024, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
9. Review and approve bills
 - a. **Peter moved to approve bills as presented by the treasurer, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
10. Review correspondence
 - a. Got a request for a job at the transfer station, but Alfred replied that we have a complete staff at the moment.
 - b. Email about hunting around Ewell’s mill. Selectboard presumed it has resolved itself.
 - c. Jeff Berwick, fire chief, explaining a payroll mistake occurred that has been corrected. The line item will be over, but the overall budget should still be under overall.
 - d. Susan Rhodes email – VTEM funds to clean up some flood debris for the stream on her property. She cannot apply as a resident. Molly will look into it.
 - e. Virginia Bell – road concern. Road crew has done some patching, but it won’t be completely fixed until it can be repaved.
11. **Peter moved to adjourn at 7:35pm, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**