

TOWN OF PEACHAM
Wednesday, December 4, 2024
Selectboard Meeting

Location: Hybrid In-person at the Peacham Library Community Room and via Zoom

Attendance

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

Via Zoom: Molly Willard, Selectboard, Rebecca Washington, Town Clerk

Minutes

1. Call to order by Alfred at 6:31pm, on Wednesday, December 4th, 2024
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. Moving the interim Selectboard appointment up.
3. Interim Selectboard appointment
 - a. Due to a medical condition, Andrea Kane needed to resign.
 - b. **Peter moved to appoint Christian Snow to fulfill the vacant seat on the board until Town Meeting, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
4. Highway Department update from Jeremy Withers
 - a. Grants-in-Aid paperwork submitted. He is working on a lot of paperwork that needs to be done.
 - b. Called around to contractors to look at the 700ft of road on the Danville-Peacham Rd. He called an asphalt company too, and he was given an estimate of \$35,000 for amount needed for that stretch. He also inquired about the stretch of pavement in South Peacham as well, which would be similar in price.
 - c. Sam Mcleod wrote a letter asking about turning the intersection in front of the library into a four way stop to slow down traffic through the village. It would require a lot of discussion, hearings, and research before approval. They would want advice from the State, but it would ultimately be a Selectboard decision. The board agrees that it would likely be met with a lot of resistance and is not necessarily the best place for a stop sign. They will not take action at this time.
5. Town Clerk/Treasurer update from Rebecca Washington
 - a. The town office fire alarm system has a communication error over the phone system due to two phone lines being connected, one of which was a post office number that has been deactivated. It has caused a loud ringing in the building every morning. The alarm company is coming on Monday to switch it to a town number.
 - b. The tent has arrived. It's in the boiler room. Selectboard needs to get a waiver written up, make an announcement about its availability, and decide how to organize scheduling its use.
 - c. Question about appropriations. Any new appropriation request or change in appropriation amount requires a petition. An organization asked if the town would accept digital signatures. Selectboard is ok with this.
 - d. Town office needs a new copier and intends to use the restoration land records fund to pay for it. Quotes are only good until the end of the month. Rebecca requested going ahead with the purchase this year.

- i. Peter moved to purchase a printer/copier using the restoration land records fund, not to exceed \$7,000, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
 - e. Selectboard stipends are paid at the end of the calendar year. Rebecca asked about how to divide the stipend between Andrea and Christian. Selectboard agrees to divide it by the number of months served. Christian will get paid at the end of his 3 months.
6. Budget Discussion
 - a. Selectboard Clerk’s laptop is broken. Rebecca is attempting to get it fixed, but she may need to budget for a new one if it can’t be fixed. Town usually spends about \$1000 per laptop. Selectboard agrees to up the budget item for computer expenses from \$1000 to \$1500 in case it needs to be replaced.
 - b. An outstanding item for the budget is the renovation. Rebecca reached out to the town clerk in Barnet for leads on grants, as they recently completed a renovation. Alfred will be meeting with Rusty Barber and Dick Browne to discuss this.
 - c. Rebecca is expecting a response from VLCT about obligating the remaining ARPA funds.
 - d. Rebecca and Jeremy started working on a schedule for equipment budgeting, but they have not completed it yet.
 - e. The fire department expenditure shows a reserve fund for equipment, but Rebecca needs to dig to find when that fund was established, otherwise it will need to be approved by voters.
 - f. FEMA spending (not including payroll and truck time) is already at \$485,000. Rebecca explained that if those expenses are covered by the line of credit, we will actually be under budget for the year. However, how much we are under won’t be certain until the end of the month. We have not borrowed from the line of credit yet, so Rebecca suggested rewriting it so that the deadline can be pushed back to December 2025, giving more time for FEMA funds to come in. Our budget for next year is already showing a huge increase, so she suggested holding onto any excess funds to offset the increase next year. The reasons for the increase (some of which are still being discussed) include purchasing the dump truck, paving, and contribution to the fire equipment capital fund. Molly is going to reach out about potential new funding for fire equipment. Rebecca clarified some general budget questions.
7. Public Comment
8. Approve minutes
 - a. **Peter moved to approve the minutes for Wednesday, November 20th, 2024, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.**
9. 9. Review and approve bills
 - a. **Peter moved to approve the bills as presented by the treasurer, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.**
10. 10. Review correspondence
 - a. NEKWMD email to Peter because there was a box full of contaminated (unsorted) material when they picked up. Reminding folks to sort it correctly. Molly asked about zero-sort, but Peter and Alfred explained that it was discussed previously, but it was much more expensive. Discussion of limitations of our current system.
 - b. Regarding last week’s Worchester Rd correspondence, Molly will finalize the response shortly.
 - c. Molly responded to Laurie Kozar correspondence from last meeting, which continued the discussion about the historical society taking up her proposal.
11. Peter moves to adjourn at 7:25pm, seconded by William, all in favor, so moved.