

**Minutes
Town of Skowhegan
Regular Selectmen's Meeting
5:30 P.M.
Tuesday, January 8, 2019
Municipal Building – Council Room**

Board of Selectmen:

Paul York, Chairman
Gene Rouse, Vice Chairman
Betty Austin
Roger Staples
Vanessa York - Absent

Town Manager:

Christine Almand

Executive Secretary:

Cara L. Mason

Call Selectmen's Meeting to order.

Paul York called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited.

1. Town Manager's Report

Foreclosure notices were mailed out December 21st on 104 accounts. As of 4:30 pm today, 29 of the accounts had paid off the 2017 taxes. Payments for 2017 taxes must be received by January 28th at 4:30 pm.

The Financing Request for Proposals for the Energy Savings Performance Contract closes on January 11th at 1:00 pm. For more information, visit our website or contact Jeff Hewett.

2. Items by the Public

There were no Items by the Public.

3. Selectmen's Items

Betty Austin said that ere will be a legislative tour here on Friday with approximately 60 people. They will be touring the town, going to the Grist Mill and then to Sappi.

Roger Staples asked about the hole at the Plaza shopping center.

Randy Gray said that there are plans, they just couldn't get them permitted because it was so late in the season last year. The design was done by Wentworth & Associates. There will be a small park with tables and chairs.

Gene Rouse asked if there would be sidewalks.

Randy Gray said that there will be a stairway to the existing sidewalk.

4. Department & Committee Reports

Chief Bucknam said that care #2 is being stripped right now...the new cruiser is in.

The Police Department is dealing with vehicle accidents and roll overs. Everybody needs to slow down. If you go off the road it is because you are going too fast.

We caught up with the suspect from the New Year's Eve incident. Mr. Monroe is in custody in Rhode Island. We are working on extradition paperwork to get him back up here.

Greg Dore said that the salt budget is getting very expensive. We have used more than 1,400 ton already. That is more than half of what we typically use in a year. With that and the overtime it is going to be tight.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve and sign Minutes from the following:

Regular Selectmen's Meeting – December 26, 2018

2. Approve an emergency expenditure not to exceed \$7,000.00 from the Pollution Control Reserve Account, Equipment Replacement Designation to purchase two programmable logic controllers.

3. Approve using Option #2 for funding the direct fund contribution for the energy audit capital improvements project. This was voted at the last meeting without a motion and second.

4. Approve a Taxi Driver Permit for:

Joyce A. Caron

5. Accept the resignation of Rod Stevens from the Recreation Advisory Committee effective immediately.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Roger Staples to approve the Consent Agenda as written.

Vote: 4/0

Recording Time: 08:34

Regular Agenda:

1. Discussion and decision to appoint the following with terms expiring January 1, 2021:

Gail Pelotte – Registrar of Voters
Joan Farnsworth – Deputy Registrar of Voters (Resignation letter received 01/07/2019)
Alice Souther – Deputy Registrar of Voters
Tonja Lary – Deputy Registrar of Voters
Mary Jane Clifford – Deputy Registrar of Voters
Judith Bowzer – Deputy Registrar of Voters
Patricia Horine – Deputy Registrar of Voters
Jennifer Tenan – Deputy Registrar of Voters

Paul York said that one resignation was received on January 7, 2019, from Joan Farnsworth.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded Betty Austin to approve the following with terms expiring January 1, 2021:

**Gail Pelotte – Registrar of Voters
Alice Souther – Deputy Registrar of Voters
Tonja Lary – Deputy Registrar of Voters
Mary Jane Clifford – Deputy Registrar of Voters
Judith Bowzer – Deputy Registrar of Voters
Patricia Horine – Deputy Registrar of Voters
Jennifer Tenan – Deputy Registrar of Voters**

Roger Staples asked if the position would be filled.

Gail Pelotte said that Joan was Registrar. Gail Pelotte will now be Registrar.

Betty Austin asked how long Joan had done that.

Gail Pelotte said that at the end of July it would have been 40 years.

Vote: 4/0

2. Discussion and decision to approve the application for Malt, Vinous License for:

Bigelow Brewing Company
473 Bigelow Hill Road

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to approve the application for Malt, Vinous License for Bigelow Brewing Company.

Vote: 4/0

3. Discussion and decision to approve the amended Traffic Ordinance.

A motion was made by Roger Staples and seconded by Betty Austin to approve the amended Traffic Ordinance.

Gene Rouse asked if in the future the Selectmen could receive these documents redlined.

Christine Almand said that there were a lot of changes made to this document. Changes that were made throughout the years and just never updated.

Vote: 4/0

4. Discussion and decision to choose one Selectmen for union negotiations for each of the following unions:

Fire Department

AFSCME – Highway, Pollution Control and Transfer Station

General Government

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Roger Staples to appoint Paul York as the Selectman Representative for the Fire Department and the AFSCME union negotiations and Gene Rouse as Selectman Representative for the General Government union negotiations.

Vote: 4/0

Recording Time: 13:32

5. Discussion regarding repairs to the 1999 pumper truck (Engine 13).

Chief Howard said the truck is a 1999. We lost the computer that runs the pump. We were able to repair it enough that we can get water out of it. Anything to do with safety is gone. It is not something we can use to fight a fire. We can carry the guys, and equipment in it. The cost to repair it is \$3,300.00 for the part and \$1,500.00 in labor.

It was on the schedule for replacement this year. He backed that off a little because we ended up replacing the pickup truck.

We will be down a pumper for a year or year and a half. He feels that we can continue without it. It isn't smart to put that money into this truck.

Paul York asked what the value of that truck without the repairs when it is time to trade it in or sell it.

Chief Howard said that the truck doesn't have a lot of value to begin with. Another fire department isn't going to buy that truck.

Betty Austin asked, if we really need something, how can we go a year and a half without it? If we really need a pumper truck, then we should have a pumper truck. Why are we getting another new one in a year and a half...if we can go a year and a half without it?

Chief Howard said that they are not replacing that truck. When we buy a new truck the plan is to replace two with one. The last new truck was a pumper, so that added a pumper to our fleet. The plan is to replace two pumpers with one. The difference in what we have and the new one will be seating. The two trucks that we will be replacing are engines 12 and 13. Engine 12 only seats two firefighters. He feels comfortable that we can still do our job effectively with the pump being down on one truck. We can still use it to get firefighters to the calls. The new trucks carry a little bit more water and carry all of the people. We may have to use standby departments a little bit more often during that timeframe.

Betty Austin asked if the pumper that will be used now, will have the same water capacity as the new truck.

Chief Howard said that the size is comparable.

Roger Staples asked if it is working now.

Chief Howard said that it is working, but the safety features are questionable. He would never use that as a class A firefighting pumper. You can't have a pump fail if you have guys inside a structure. We could use it to shuttle waster to a scene. We could use it for a nuisance fire.

No action taken.

6. Treasurer's Warrants to be approved:

#53	\$	40,815.81 (Payroll #52)
#54	\$	41,681.86 (Payroll #1)
#55	\$	3,060.15 (State Payables)
#56	\$	<u>1,107,591.58 (FY 2019 Accounts Payables)</u>
Total	\$	1,193,149.40

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Roger Staples to approve the Treasurer's Warrants as written.

Vote: 4/0

7. Other Business

There was no Other Business.

Recording Time: 21:52

8. Unfinished Business

- Review Policies and Ordinances
- Run of River/Economic Development
- Utilizing Outside Services
- Marketing/Celebrating Skowhegan
- Vehicle Charging Station
- Public Safety Building
- Sidewalks and Bike Trails/Lanes

Christine Almand said that she has some information from Jeff regarding vehicle charging stations. She still needs to look at that. She told Betty Austin that she has not received the contact information for the woman who may come in to talk about that.

Gene Rouse said that West Front Street sidewalk needs to be done. It is miserable. The kids have to walk in the street.

Betty Austin said that there is a list that the Sidewalk Committee has of which sidewalks are planned to be worked on. We could get that list and look at it.

9. Sign Documents

Adjourn Selectmen's Meeting.

Executive Session:

1. Executive Session in accordance with M.R.S.A. Title 1 § 405 (6)(A) to discuss upcoming union negotiations.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Roger Staples to enter into Executive Session in accordance with M.R.S.A. Title 1 § 405 (6)(A) at 5:55 p.m. to discuss upcoming union negotiations.

Vote: 4/0

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Roger Staples to exit Executive Session at 6:25 p.m.

Vote: 4/0

Nothing to report.

