

**Minutes
Town of Skowhegan
Regular Selectmen's Meeting
5:30 P.M.
Tuesday, January 14, 2020
Municipal Building – Council Room**

Board of Selectmen:

Paul York, Chairman
Gene Rouse, Vice Chairman
Betty Austin
Roger Staples
Dennis Willette

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 20th on 114 accounts. As of 4:30 pm today, 27 of the accounts had paid off the 2018 taxes. Payments for 2018 taxes must be received by February 3rd at 4:30 pm.

We recently received a public notice from Maine Water Company for their intent to file a permit application with the Maine DEP for the installation of a new water intake in the Kennebec River, a pump station, and 12" water main between the Great Eddy and their treatment plant. The notice has been placed on the bulletin board in the hallway of the Municipal Building. Written public comments may be sent to MDEP in Augusta.

2. Items by the Public

Lynda Quinn, representing the MSAD School Board, spoke about a survey that they would like people to participate in regarding the selection of a new mascot/logo for the Skowhegan Area High School.

Jason Gayne said that he is working with Somerset Public Health to get the word out about opiate addiction. If any area businesses would like information, contact them and they will set something up.

3. Selectmen's Items

Betty Austin said that she is proud to live in Skowhegan, where people care about one another. One of our police officers did something wonderful the other day and someone wrote a letter about it.

Gene Rouse said that in the last six weeks he has had the misfortune of driving in snow storms in three different states. Greg Dore's crew has done the best job of any of the towns that he has driven through.

Paul York said that he has also traveled through other places. Our highway department does a great job. People don't understand what goes into keeping the roads clear.

4. Department & Committee Reports

Steven McDaniel said that the ice rink is open. During the week it is open from 4:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. for night skating.

Chief Howard said that Matt Winters, the newest firefighter, is progressing well. Matt Quinn finished his fire inspector training. He is now certified in life/safety inspection.

Chief Bucknam talked about the crash with a police cruiser. That vehicle is totaled. Looking at \$16,000.00 from the insurance company. That puts us two cars down right now. We ordered a vehicle in September, but Ford is backed up.

Officer Cummings took the full-time police officer position at the hospital. Chief Bucknam met with hospital officials last week. A second full-time police officer position was negotiated in order to increase the police presence. In the future we hope to have 24/7 police coverage there.

Greg Dore said that he is at full staff for the first time in six years. We have had a couple break downs, but nothing serious.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve and sign Minutes from the following:

Regular Selectmen's Meeting – December 23, 2019

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

Vote: 5/0

Regular Agenda:

1. Discussion and decision to appoint Billie Hatfield as a full-time Police Officer with a term expiring June 30, 2020.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rose to appoint Billie Hatfield as a full-time Police Officer with a term expiring June 30, 2020.

Vote: 5/0

Billie Hatfield was sworn in by Gail Pelotte.

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

Meeplang, Inc. d/b/a M Thai Restaurant
105 Water Street

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Roger Staples to approve the application for Malt, Vinous License for Meeplang, Inc. d/b/a M Thai Restaurant.

Vote: 5/0

3. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$1,248.34 from the Recreation Department Reserve Account, Building Repairs Designation to repair the exhaust vents.

A motion was made by Roger Staples and seconded by Betty Austin to expend an amount not to exceed \$1,248.34 from the Recreation Department Reserve Account, Building Repairs Designation to repair the exhaust vents.

Vote: 5/0

4. Discussion and decision to approve the Pole Location Permit to allow Central Maine Power and Northern New England Telephone Operations to place a pole on the East Ridge Road 3,855 north of where the road intersects with Route 2.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Roger Staples to approve the Pole Location Permit to allow Central Maine Power and Northern New England Telephone Operations to place a pole on the East Ridge Road 3,855' north of where the road intersects with Route 2.

Dennis Willette asked if this was a replacement pole or a new pole.

Greg Dore said that it is a new pole. There is a new house going in there.

Vote: 5/0

5. Discussion and decision to approve the annual contract with Somerset Humane Society and authorize Christine Almand to sign the contract.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to approve the annual contract with Somerset Humane Society and authorize Christine Almand to sign the contract.

Christine Almand said that there were no changes.

Vote: 5/0

6. Discussion and decision to approve the Mutual Aid Agreements with the towns of Fairfield and Pittsfield and authorize Chief Bucknam to sign the agreements.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to approve the Mutual Aid Agreements with the towns of Fairfield and Pittsfield and authorize Chief Bucknam to sign the agreements.

Vote: 5/0

7. Discussion and decision to approve the Industrial Wastewater Discharge User Agreement with Gifford's Ice Cream through February 10, 2022 and authorize Christine Almand to sign the agreement.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to approve the Industrial Wastewater Discharge User Agreement with Gifford's Ice Cream through February 10, 2022 and authorize Christine Almand to sign the agreement.

Gene Rouse asked if there have been any problems in the three years since they put this together.

Brent Dickey said that it has been ten years. We have not had any issues.

Vote: 5/0

Recording Time: 18:36

8. Treasurer's Warrants to be approved:

#52	\$	47,264.10 (Payroll #52)
#53	\$	45,102.46 (Payroll #1)
#54	\$	47,108.03 (Payroll #2)
#55	\$	25,864.45 (State Payables)
#56	\$	1,182,434.89 (FY 2020 Accounts Payables)
Total	\$	1,347,773.93

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

Vote: 5/0

9. Other Business

There was no Other Business.

10. 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
- Second Bridge
- Solar Power

Betty Austin asked how things were going with the Public Safety Building.

Paul York said that we are waiting on one more thing and then we will have another meeting.

Chief Howard said that Cart Architectural Services got back to him regarding when he and Chief Bucknam had met with them. Those notes went out to the committee members for comments and questions. Now they are working on some of the proposed locations to determine whether they would work or not. We should be meeting again in the next few weeks.

Roger Stapes asked if there had been any movement on the second bridge.

Christine Almand said that the next meeting would be scheduled for February.

Betty Austin said that there are some commercial outfits that use our roads that would be glad to come to a meeting to give some input.

11. Sign Documents

The Selectmen signed documents.

Executive Session:

1. Executive Session in accordance with M.R.S.A. Title 1 § 405 (6)(A) to discuss the Town Manager's annual evaluation.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to enter into Executive Session in accordance with M.R.S.A. Title 1 § 405 (6)(A) at 5:54 p.m. to discuss the Town Manager's annual evaluation.

Vote: 5/0

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to exit Executive Session at 6:00 p.m.

Vote: 5/0

Nothing to report.

Adjourn Selectmen's Meeting.

Approved and signed on January 28, 2020.

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_____	_____

A True Copy Attest: _____
Cara L. Mason, Executive Secretary