

Minutes
Town of Skowhegan
Regular Selectmen's Meeting
5:30 P.M.
Tuesday, January 28, 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, 56 of the accounts had paid off the 2018 taxes. Payments for 2018 taxes must be received by February 3rd at 4:30 pm.

Last week I signed a contract for electricity supply for our medium accounts for three years starting this November. Our new rate is \$0.06038 per kWh, down from our current rate of \$0.06553 per kWh. These accounts cover the Transfer Station, Community Center, Fire Station, Pollution Control Plant, and Municipal Building. The new contract should save us about \$3,000.00 per year.

On the February 11th agenda, we will have two items for discussion and decision on candidates for the Spirit of America Foundation award and the dedication of the Town Report. Selectmen should think about these items over the next couple weeks.

2. Items by the Public

Steve Govoni spoke about replacing North Elementary School. He has reservations about taxpayers paying for this. We had three schools that made the list to be replaced. If we build a new school, why would we build a school that handles only two grades? This should be built as a portion of Bloomfield. He does not agree that these should be separate schools, and he does not agree that MSAD 54 should be deciding this on their own.

Kristina Cannon introduced Main Street Skowhegan's new project coordinator.

Jason Gayne said he would like to have a sit-down conversation about how to make a more business friendly environment. We have a lot of issues right now. He said he didn't want to get into it right now, but there are a lot of concerns that should be discussed.

3. Selectmen's Items

Betty Austin said that another State Representative said her brother in law was in Skowhegan to buy a huge pizza oven for their business in Pennsylvania. We are known all over the place for the things that we do in our town.

4. Department & Committee Reports

Trisha Austin said that 2021 Budget information has been sent out. Audit is scheduled for the second week in March.

Gail Pelotte said she is gearing up for absentee ballots.

Brent Cook said that we are hosting the Harlem Wizards on February 10th at the High School.

Bryan Belliveau said there are several properties that have code violations that he is keeping his eye on. In particular there is one located at 605 Waterville Road. There is a family living in a camper. Building permit has been removed. He has until February 5th to get his building permit. Sub-surface wastewater disposal, plumbing permit, he is supposed to be building a house in the spring. This will potentially be coming back here.

Jeff Hewett said that next Friday he will be putting in a letter of intent for the Façade Program Grant. This will be open for applications town wide. We are applying for \$100,000.00, which would mean up to \$10,000.00 per project. Anybody interested in applying should contact his office 207-474-6905.

Chief Howard said that Daryl Wyman and Jason Frost passed their Investigator I certification. The guys have been doing a lot of training. It is a benefit to the Fire Department and the whole Town.

Walter Powell said that the project on Main Street will go out to bid in February. CMP has already agreed to move the poles. Hopefully the project will get started in May.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve and sign Minutes from the following:

Regular Selectmen's Meeting – January 14, 2020

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 set the date of June 8, 2020 for Annual Town Meeting and June 9, 2020 for Elections.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Roger Staples to set the date of June 8, 2020 for Annual Town Meeting and June 9, 2020 for Elections.

Vote: 5/0

Recording Time: 15:30

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

Bigelow Brewing Company
473 Bigelow Hill Road

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Roger Staples to approve the application for Malt, Wine License for Bigelow Brewing Company.

Vote: 5/0

3. Discussion and decision to approve the application for Malt, Wine and Spirits License for:

Washburn Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Central Maine Family Fun Bowling Center
414 Madison Avenue

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to approve the application for Malt, Wine and Spirits License for Washburn Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Central Maine Family Fun Bowling Center.

Vote: 5/0

4. Discussion and decision to approve the Application for License for Incorporated Civic Organization to allow Main Street Skowhegan to serve alcoholic beverages at the Skowhegan Fairgrounds on February 29, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. as part of the Skijor Skowhegan event.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Roger Staples to approve the Application for License for Incorporated Civic Organization to allow Main Street Skowhegan to serve alcoholic beverages at the Skowhegan Fairgrounds on February 29, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. as part of the Skijor Skowhegan event.

Vote: 5/0

5. Discussion and decision to approve the Application for License for Incorporated Civic Organization to allow the Lake George Corporation to serve alcoholic beverages on the West Side Island of Lake George Regional Park on February 29, 2020 and March 1, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. as part of the Somerset Snowfest event.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to approve the Application for License for Incorporated Civic Organization to allow the Lake George Corporation to serve alcoholic beverages on the West Side Island of Lake George Regional Park on February 29, 2020 and March 1, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. as part of the Somerset Snowfest event.

Vote: 5/0

6. Discussion and decision to write-off property taxes in the amount of \$177.76 for Nicholas Hayden (Map 9, Lot 79D – ON).

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to write-off property taxes in the amount of \$177.76 for Nicholas Hayden (Map 9, Lot 79D – ON).

Vote: 5/0

7. Discussion and decision to allow Brent Dickey to go out to bid for Polymer and Sodium Hypochlorite contingent upon Town Meeting Vote.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to allow Brent Dickey to go out to bid for Polymer and Sodium Hypochlorite contingent upon Town Meeting Vote.

Vote: 5/0

8. Discussion and decision to allow Christine Almand to accept tax payments in full, prior to the award of foreclosure sale bids, in order to sell any foreclosed property back to the previous owner.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to allow Christine Almand to accept tax payments in full, prior to the award of foreclosure sale bids, in order to sell any foreclosed property back to the previous owner.

Vote: 5/0

9. Treasurer's Warrants to be approved:

#57	\$	42,983.67 (Payroll #3)
#58	\$	44,747.58 (Payroll #4)
#59	\$	5,337.50 (State Payables)
#60	\$	1,021,143.08 (FY 2020 Accounts Payables)
Total	\$	1,114,211.83

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

Vote: 5/0

10. Other Business

There was no Other Business.

11. 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 about a Public Safety Building Meeting.

Paul York said that there hasn't been another meeting. There will be one scheduled soon.

Dennis Willette asked about a Second Bridge Meeting.

Christine Almand said that there will be a Study Team meeting on February 26th. We are running about a month behind...so the next Second Bridge Committee meeting will be in March.

Roger Staples asked if there was any movement on the solar project.

Jeff Hewett said that they will be making the first lease option payment. They are reviewing the engineering study. As soon as there is more information he will bring it to the Selectmen.

Christine Almand said that the current contract is for a 90 day due diligence period. We are expecting that they will want an extension on that. The \$2,000.00 for the extension is already written into that contract.

12. Sign Documents

The Selectmen signed documents.

Executive Session:

- 1. Executive Session in accordance with M.R.S.A. Title 1 § 405 (6)(F) to discuss a Poverty Abatement Application (Case #2020-1).

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)(F) at 5:52 p.m. to discuss a Poverty Abatement Application (Case #2020-1).

Vote: 5/0

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to exit Executive Session at 6:22 p.m.

Vote: 5/0

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to approve an abatement of \$2,873.93 for Poverty Abatement Case #2020-1.

Vote: 5/0

Adjourn Selectmen's Meeting.

Approved and signed on February 11, 2020.

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