

**Minutes
Town of Skowhegan
Regular Selectmen's Meeting
5:30 P.M.
Tuesday, February 12, 2019
Municipal Building – Council Room**

Board of Selectmen:

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

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

We are looking for people interested in the town budget process. We have three vacancies on the Budget Committee. For questions or to submit a letter of interest, contact my office.

The Town offices will be closed on February 18th in observation of Presidents Day.

2. Items by the Public

There were no Items by the Public.

3. Selectmen's Items

Betty Austin said she is excited about all of the things that have been going on...dog sled races, ice bars, skijoring, etc. It has brought so many people to our town.

Roger Staples said that New Balance just got a contract from the military for 92,000 pair of sneakers. They hope to expand that to 250,000 pair. They are a major employer for this area.

Paul York thanked the highway department employees for doing what they do. It has been a tough year with all the ice. He thanked all of the departments and everything that they do every day to keep things going.

4. Department & Committee Reports

Chief Howard said that the tanker is out of service. There is a hole in the fuel tank. The new tank is supposed to be here tomorrow...with the snow storm that may be delayed.

We are getting to the end of the heating season. There are a lot of folks burning fire wood that are running out of wood. He cautioned people about burning green fire wood. It generally leads to chimney fires. If that is all you have, you need to burn it very hot and keep an eye on it. Check your smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and inspect your chimney. Limit using propane and other oil heaters inside the home.

If you do not have smoke detectors...please call the fire station. We have them. We will give them to you. We will install them if you would like.

Chief Bucknam said that with the snow coming in tomorrow...if you don't need to be on the roads please stay off of them. If you do need to be on the roads, watch your speed. If you go off the road or hit another vehicle it is because somebody is driving too fast for the conditions.

Greg Dore said that the Sterling is not here yet. It should be here on Friday. He ordered a new style sander for the sidewalk machine.

Gail Pelotte said she is working on Audit items.

Brent Cook said that fun camp is coming up next week at the Community Center for the kids on vacation.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve and sign Minutes from the following:

Regular Selectmen's Meeting – January 22, 2019

2. Accept the resignation of Randy Gray as Building Inspector, Code Enforcement Officer and Plumbing Inspector and as a committee member of the Community Development Review Board and the Public Safety Building Committee effective June 14, 2019.

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

Paul York said that it is a regret of the Board that Randy Gray is resigning. He will be leaving in June. He thanked Randy Gray for all of his years of service to the Town.

Vote: 4/0

Recording Time: 09:34

Regular Agenda:

1. Discussion and decision to appoint Joshua York as a full-time Police Officer with a term expiring June 30, 2019.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to appoint Joshua York as a full-time Police Officer with a term expiring June 30, 2019.

Vote: 4/0

2. Discussion and decision to appoint Matthew Winters as a Reserve Officer with a term expiring June 30, 2019.

A motion was made by Roger Staples and seconded by Betty Austin to appoint Matthew Winters as a Reserve Officer with a term expiring June 30, 2019.

Vote: 4/0

Joshua York and Matthew Winters were sworn in by Gail Pelotte.

3. Discussion and decision to appoint Barry Sites as a member of the Conservation Commission with a term expiring June 30, 2024.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to appoint Barry Sites as a member of the Conservation Commission with a term expiring June 30, 2024.

Vote: 4/0

4. Discussion and decision to approve the Application for License for Incorporated Civic Organization to allow the Rotary Club of Skowhegan to hold the 8th annual Beer Wine and Food Tasting at the Skowhegan Armory on March 23, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Roger Staples and seconded by Gene Rouse to approve the Application for License for Incorporated Civic Organization to allow the Rotary Club of Skowhegan to hold the 8th annual Beer Wine and Food Tasting at the Skowhegan Armory on March 23, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Vote: 4/0

5. Discussion and decision to write off the following taxes:

Map 4, Lot 4-5-ON22 \$402.91

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to write off the taxes as written.

Vote: 4/0

6. Discussion and decision to determine when to hold the election to fill the Board of Selectmen vacancy.

Paul York said that our Guidelines state that we will hold a special election within 90 days of the vacancy. Those are just guidelines. By the time we complete the process there might be two meeting left before June Elections. He feels it should be filled at the June Election.

Betty Austin said that this has happened in the past. By the time a people would be able to run for the office and get their signatures, it would be time for June Elections.

Gail Pelotte said that Town Meeting and Elections will be set at the next Selectmen's Meeting. Nomination papers will be available March 1st. They have to be back 60 days before the date of Election. We would have to shorten the process to do a special election. It would be the cost of an election with a low voter turnout. Ballots would have to be counted by hand. It would cost somewhere between \$500 to \$1000.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to fill the Board of Selectmen vacancy at the election in June.

Vote: 4/0

Recording Time: 17:24

When it goes out it will be for two Selectmen for three-year terms and one Selectman for a two-year term. People will need to specify which term they are taking papers out for.

7. Discussion and decision regarding Spirit of America award.

8. Discussion and decision regarding dedication of the Town Report.

Christine Almand said that she had emailed some recommendation that she had received to the Selectmen.

There will also be a memorial page in the Town Report for Vanessa York.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to give the Spirit of American award to Lynda Quinn and to dedicate the Town Report to Randy Gray.

Vote: 4/0

9. Discussion and Decision to allow Christine Almand to put 10 tax foreclosure properties out for sales bids.

Christine Almand said that Bid #4 was paid in full yesterday...so that will be removed from the bid documents.

Three of Doug Barrett's properties are on that list..some of them have tenants. Two of the others have people living in them. She has been in contact with one of them. The other one she has had trouble getting in touch with. She is going to mail another letter tomorrow and attempt to go there at night. All of the attempt during the day, including early in the morning, have failed. She did leave a note on the door.

There are new laws for seniors...that do not pertain to this foreclosure process. Neither of these people are seniors.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Roger Staples to allow Christine Almand to put 9 tax foreclosure properties out for sales bids.

Vote: 4/0

Recording Time: 23:25

Christine Almand said that we decided years ago to advertise them twice in the newspaper. This makes it legal for a Selectman to bid on the properties.

10. Economic and Community Development Warrants to be approved:

#117	\$	132.48
Total	\$	132.48

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to approve the Economic and Community Development Warrant as written.

Vote: 4/0

11. Treasurer's Warrants to be approved:

#61	\$	40,315.60 (Payroll #4)
#62	\$	44,907.00 (Payroll #5)
#63	\$	3,378.25 (State Payables)
#64	\$	40,495.68 (Payroll #6)
#65	\$	18,756.76 (State Payables)
#66	\$	323,129.75 (FY 2019 Accounts Payables)
Total	\$	470,983.04

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

Vote: 4/0

12. Other Business

There was no Other Business.

13. 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 two individuals at KVCOG are on the list for grant funding information. She will be contacting the woman that Betty Austin had mentioned later this week.

Paul York said that we probably want to get going on this with summer coming.

Gene Rouse wanted to know if the charging stations would be paid or free.

Christine Almand said that those discussions have not happened yet.

Betty Austin said that Cloe could help us with that information.

Christine Almand said it also depends on what the grant looks like.

Christine Almand said that there is a Public Safety Building Meeting next week.

14. Sign Documents

The Selectmen signed documents.

Adjourn Selectmen's Meeting.

Approved and signed on February 26, 2019.

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_____	_____

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