

**Minutes
Town of Skowhegan
Regular Selectmen's Meeting
5:30 P.M.
Tuesday, February 25, 2020
Municipal Building – Council Room**

****These Minutes contain motions and votes only, due to
office time constraints caused by COVID-19.**

An audio recording of the full meeting is available from the Town Manager's office**

Board of Selectmen:

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

The second property tax payment is due on March 16th.

Reminder: There is a joint meeting with the Budget Committee on March 10th following the Regular Selectmen's Meeting.

The Foreclosure Sale Bids close on March 4th at 11:00 am. For more information, visit our website or contact the Town Manager's Office.

The Phone System Bids close on March 10th at 10:00 am. For more information, visit our website or contact Jeff Hewett.

Last week Paul, Jeff, and I met with Jason Gayne to discuss ways to be more business friendly. We also discussed possibly holding a Business Forum for current and prospective business owners to come in to discuss any issues or ideas and to ask questions. We agreed that mid-September would make sense for any ideas that would require ordinance changes.

Somerset SnowFest is February 28th – March 1st. For more information, contact Main Street Skowhegan, Lake George or see the Somerset SnowFest Facebook page.

There is a grand opening for T-K Fitness Training Studio on February 29th from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm with a ribbon cutting at 10:00 am.

Skowhegan Area Chamber of Commerce is holding Business After Hours at Skowhegan Free Public Library on March 4th from 5:30 to 7:00.

Bob Marley will be performing in the Opera House on Saturday, March 14th at 5:30 and 8:00 pm. Tickets are available for the 5:30 show at bmarley.com.

2. Items by the Public

Philip Shadan spoke about an incident with Chief Bucknam in 1996.

Paul York said that this was not the place for that type of discussion. He then asked Mr. Shadan to leave.

3. Selectmen's Items

4. Department & Committee Reports

Public Hearing:

1. Public Hearing – Discussion and decision to approve the Application for Victualer License for 201 Nutrition and Energy, located at 6 Main Street, contingent upon approval by the Code Enforcement Officer.

Paul York opened the Public Hearing at 5:40 p.m.

Christine Almand read three emails that she received regarding 201 Nutrition. They did not think that the license should be approved, because they could potentially take business away from High Powered Nutrition.

Jasmin Gordon spoke against the approval of this license. Her parents owned a small business. She witnessed them going through bankruptcy due to lack of business. High Powered Nutrition is owned by a mother and daughter who are trying to keep it open. They are afraid that they will lose business s and may have to close.

Vitoria Keene spoke against the approval of the license for 201 Nutrition. Somebody is going to go out of business. We should support the businesses that we already have.

Paul York closed the Public Hearing at 5:52 p.m.

Paul York read the Town Ordinance for Victualer's Licenses.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to approve the Application for Victualer License for 201 Nutrition and Energy, located at 6 Main Street, contingent upon approval by the Code Enforcement Officer.

Betty Austin asked if High Powered Nutrition is open every day.

Jasmin Gordon said that they are currently closed on Sunday and Monday. Starting in March they will be open Monday through Saturday. They are open from 7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. They also offer fitness classes. They serve the exact same products as 201 Nutrition. High Powered is making just enough to break even right now.

Dennis Willette asked where 207 is located.

Cara Mason said that they are located at 6 Main Street.

Dennis Willette asked where the current one is located.

Located in the same mall as Tractor Supply next to the Chinese restaurant. They have been there almost a year.

Paul York said that we have a lot of businesses in town that are similar. People go to one or the other because they like the location or the people. We are creatures of habit...if people are going there now, most likely they will continue to go there. We are ultimately trying to promote business.

Vote: 4/0

Recording Time: 23:24

3. Public Hearing – Jeff Hewett will discuss the 2020 CDBG, Community Enterprise Grant Program (Façade Grant).

Paul York opened the Public Hearing at 5:53 p.m.

Jeff Hewett said that coming up in April we will be submitting the grant application for \$100,000.00. He showed a map of the proposed projects and where they are located. Any business in Skowhegan is eligible to apply for these funds.

He invited anybody who is interested to come in and he would walk them through the application process. First time projects are ranked higher than those who have participated in the past. Each business may apply for up to \$10,000.00. There is a minimum \$10,000.00 match it is a dollar to dollar match. The match may be higher if it is a roof or something that is not visible from the road.

Anything from awnings to signage to windows to siding to window displays...pretty much anything on the exterior of the building. Any improvements done since January on the inside of the building can be used as match. If you replaced carpets, that can be used as match for the exterior work with this grant.

There is a mandatory meeting on March 26th at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room. You have to be at that meeting in order to be eligible for funds. Applications will be available at that point and must be turned in as soon as possible.

We have to have slum and blight applications approved on each of these before they can move forward.

Application will be available online. Anyone who has questions can come in to see him or Dena. We are here to work with anybody that is interested in the program.

He had pictures of some of the past projects that have been done with this grant.

Paul York closed the Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve and sign Minutes from the following:

Regular Selectmen's Meeting – February 11, 2020

2. Approve and sign Quit Claim Deeds for:

Barbara Libby, 22 Waye Street

Dennis A Prevost – Life Estate Jessica M Prevost and Jason A Prevost, 10 South Street

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

Vote: 4/0

Regular Agenda:

1. Discussion and decision to allow Brian Belliveau to take legal action regarding the property located at 338 Madison Avenue for violation of NFPA 25 (sprinkler system inspection and maintenance).

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to allow Brian Belliveau to take legal action regarding the property located at 338 Madison Avenue for violation of NFPA 25 (sprinkler system inspection and maintenance).

Vote: 4/0

2. Discussion and decision to allow Greg Dore to move forward with the repairs to the hopper sander.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to allow Greg Dore to move forward with the repairs to the hopper sander.

Vote: 4/0

3. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$100.00 from the Planning Reserve Account, Heritage Council Designation to purchase additional Boston Post canes.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to expend an amount not to exceed \$100.00 from the Planning Reserve Account, Heritage Council Designation to purchase additional Boston Post canes.

Vote: 4/0

4. Discussion and decision to award the Polymer and Sodium Hypochlorite bids. The following bids were received:

Polymer

Polydyne, Inc	\$1.33 per pound
GAC Chemical	\$2.18 per pound

Sodium Hypochlorite

Harcros Chemical	\$1.43 per gallon
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Discussion and decision to award the Polymer Bid (8,100 pounds) to Polydyne, Inc. and the Sodium Hypochlorite Bid (7,000 gallons) to Harcros Chemical and to expend an amount not to exceed \$20,800.00 from the Pollution Control Account, Supplies/Chemicals Designation.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to award the Polymer Bid (8,100 pounds) to Polydyne, Inc. and the Sodium Hypochlorite Bid (7,000 gallons) to Harcros Chemical and to expend an amount not to exceed \$20,800.00 from the Pollution Control Account, Supplies/Chemicals Designation.

Vote: 4/0

5. Discussion and decision to allow Greg Dore to put the Main Street Intersection out to bid.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to allow Greg Dore to put the Main Street Intersection out to bid.

Vote: 4/0

6. Discussion and decision to allow Chief Bucknam to put the Cruiser Upfit out to bid.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to allow Chief Bucknam to put the Cruiser Upfit out to bid.

Vote: 4/0

7. Discussion and decision to approve the increase in pay for the Deputy Chief position effective March 2, 2020.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to increase in pay for the Deputy Chief position effective March 2, 2020.

Vote: 2/2 motion failed

8. Treasurer's Warrants to be approved:

#65	\$	45,488.62 (Payroll #7)
#66	\$	46,538.77 (Payroll #8)
#67	\$	6,536.74 (State Payables)
#68	\$	874,997.52 (FY 2020 Accounts Payables)
Total	\$	973,561.65

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

Vote: 4/0

9. Other Business

Bo 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 – Study Team meeting tomorrow.
- Solar Power – Land Lease extension check has been received.

11. Sign Documents

The Selectmen signed documents.

Adjourn Selectmen's Meeting.

Approved and signed on March 24, 2020.

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