

**Minutes
Town of Skowhegan
Regular Selectmen's Meeting
5:30 P.M.
Tuesday, February 26, 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

Reminder: The second property tax payment is due on March 15th.

Reminder: There is a joint meeting with the Budget Committee tomorrow at 5:30 pm.

Bee Line Cable sent us a notice about rate increases that will be effective April 1st. Increases range from \$1.20 to \$3.68 per month depending on the subscriber's package.

I signed the contract for heating oil with Snowman's Oil for a fixed price of \$2.297 per gallon for the next two fiscal years. The current year's rate is \$2.295. I also signed a contract for propane with Dead River for a price of \$1.5702 per gallon for the next two and a half fiscal years.

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.

2. Items by the Public

Kristina Cannon said that we broke the world record for the most people moose calling simultaneously. Main Street purchased a certificate for Skowhegan.

Betty Austin read the Legislative Sentiment regarding the Guinness World Record for 1054 people moose calling simultaneously set at the Skowhegan fairgrounds on June 9, 2018. She presented the Legislative Sentiment to Kristina Cannon.

Jason Gayne said that this Friday through March 12th is Maine Restaurant Week. Business After Hours will be at the Old Mill Pub on March 13th.

3. Selectmen's Items

Betty Austin spoke to about 100 students about the chickadee bill and how government works.

Paul York asked if any of the Energy Audit work had been started.

Jeff Hewett said that there is a kickoff meeting scheduled. We are still finalizing the financing. Siemen's is ready to go as soon as the financing is signed.

4. Department & Committee Reports

Greg Dore said that the sweeper will be delivered this week. The Western Start will be ready in about five weeks.

Chief Howard reminded everyone to check around their home to make sure that exhaust vents are clear of snow and ice. If windows are snowed in, please get that cleaned up...especially in bedrooms where that may be your means of egress in an emergency.

Jeff Hewett said that the Housing TIF will need to be placed on the Town Meeting Warrant. Maine State Housing wants different language in the warrant article.

The web mapping is now available to the public.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve and sign Minutes from the following:

Regular Selectmen's Meeting – February 12, 2019

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

Vote: 4/0

Regular Agenda:

1. Discussion and decision to create a nine member Second Bridge Committee and appoint the following with terms expiring June 30, 2019:

Christine Almand	Christian Savage
Betty Austin	Roger Staples
Greg Dore	Rodney Whittemore
Jason Gayne	Mark Wilson
Sam Hight	

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Roger Staples to create a nine member Second Bridge Committee and appoint the members as written with terms expiring June 30, 2019.

Vote: 4/0

2. Discussion and decision to appoint Beverly Fitzsimmons as a member of the Recreation Advisory Committee with a term expiring June 30, 2019.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to appoint Beverly Fitzsimmons as a member of the Recreation Advisory Committee with a term expiring June 30, 2019.

Vote: 4/0

3. Discussion and decision to appoint Gene Rouse as a member of the Public Safety Building Committee with a term expiring June 30, 2019.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Roger Staples to appoint Gene Rouse as a member of the Public Safety Building Committee with a term expiring June 30, 2019.

Vote: 4/0

4. Discussion and decision to accept a donation in the amount of \$200.00 from Joe Wyman for the Police Department Donations Account.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Roger Staples to accept a donation in the amount of \$200.00 from Joe Wyman for the Police Department Donations Account.

Vote: 4/0

5. Discussion and decision to schedule Town Meeting on June 10, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. and Elections on June 11, 2019 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Roger Staples and seconded by Betty Austin to schedule Town Meeting on June 10, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. and Elections on June 11, 2019 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Vote: 4/0

6. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$4,500.00 from the Pollution Control Reserve Account, New Equipment Designation to comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration fall protection standard.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Roger Staples to expend an amount not to exceed \$4,500.00 from the Pollution Control Reserve Account, New Equipment Designation to comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration fall protection standard.

Vote: 4/0

7. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00 from the Community Center Reserve Account, Ballfield Compound Designation for engineering services.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene rouse to expend an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00 from the Community Center Reserve Account, Ballfield Compound Designation for engineering services.

Vote: 4/0

8. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$3,400.00 from the Sale of Town-Owned Property for a survey of the lot located at 11 Main Street (Map 23, Lot 52) for the MPI Project.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Roger Staples to expend an amount not to exceed \$3,400.00 from the Sale of Town-Owned Property for a survey of the lot located at 11 Main Street (Map 23, Lot 52) for the MPI Project.

Vote: 4/0

9. Discussion and decision to award a Downtown TIF Grant in the amount of \$7,500.00 to Maine Grain Alliance and expend that amount from the Downtown TIF Account.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to award a Downtown TIF Grant in the amount of \$7,500.00 to Maine Grain Alliance and expend that amount from the Downtown TIF Account.

Paul York said that said that this is taxpayer money that we are giving. His opinion is that it should not be used for this.

Jeff Hewett said that this is from the guidelines that the Selectmen approved when this was set up.

Paul York said that he doesn't disagree that they are following the guidelines. He just doesn't think it is right to give out taxpayer money.

Vote: 3/1 (Paul York opposed)

10. Discussion and decision to award a Downtown TIF Grant in the amount of \$47,000.00 to Crooked Face Creamery and expend that amount from the Downtown TIF Account.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to award a Downtown TIF Grant in the amount of \$47,000.00 to Crooked Face Creamery and expend that amount from the Downtown TIF Account.

Roger Staples said that he thinks this is a great fit for that location. This will also create a couple of jobs.

Betty Austin seconded what Roger Staples said.

Paul York said he feels the same about this. He asked if there was a stipulation that this has to remain in business for a certain period of time. We give them \$47,000.00 and then they decide in six months that they are not doing it.

Jeff Hewett said that \$35,000.00 will be given initially. The remaining \$12,000.00 will be disbursed if there are overrun directly related to that project.

Paul York said that it has happened before that we gave money and then the business went back to where they were previously.

Jeff Hewett said that it can happen. There is no 100% in what we do. We are always looking at ways to improve things.

Amber Lambke said that the Downtown TIF was created in 2006...capturing that tax money for the improvement and reinvesting back into Skowhegan. It is a state sanctioned tool for economic development that the Town approved. They will allow up to 30 years. Right now we are capturing about \$85,000.00. It is a pot that keeps filling up. It is not in our best interest to hold onto that money. It is in our best interest to deploy it for these projects so that in 30 years we have that improved tax base in Skowhegan. It is our job to reinvest that money. Skowhegan is supposed to have an oversight committee to assist in these requests. It is a reasonable risk and fear to invest in entrepreneurs. She went through two-years-worth of struggle just to purchase the jail building. The concern was the same...what happens if it fails. This has resulted in 12 jobs at the mill, 20 at the café and 4 jobs in the yarn shop. This is a young person who grew up here, who started a successful business that is growing. She wants to keep it here. We should do everything we can to help her grow here.

Paul York said that there are a lot of people who would like to see that money used to lower their taxes.

Amber Lambke said that is not a situation that can happen.

Recording Time: 25:49

Betty Austin said that she thinks it is awesome that we are reinvesting. She will continue to buy this cheese...it is delicious.

Gene Rouse agreed.

Vote: 3/1 (Paul York opposed)

Paul York said that he does wish them luck.

11. Discussion and decision to accept \$12,000.00 from Redington Fairview General Hospital/Somerset Public Health, administrators of the New Balance Foundation, Move More Kids Grant.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to accept \$12,000.00 from Redington Fairview General Hospital/Somerset Public Health, administrators of the New Balance Foundation, Move More Kids Grant.

Vote: 4/0

12. Discussion and decision to allow Jeff Hewett to apply for the Community Building Application 2019 grant in the amount of \$8,322.00. There is an In-kind (staff hours) match for this grant in the amount of \$1,723.20.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to allow Jeff Hewett to apply for the Community Building Application 2019 grant in the amount of \$8,322.00. There is an In-kind (staff hours) match for this grant in the amount of \$1,723.20.

Vote: 4/0

13. Discussion and decision to reject the bid received on February 20, 2019 in the amount of \$249,231.60 from Pratt & Sons, Inc. for the Route 2 Bypass Lane Bid, permission to negotiate with Ranger Construction (they bid \$186,868.00 on November 21, 2018), or, if they refuse to negotiate to put the project back out to bid and eliminate the bond requirement.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to reject the bid received on February 20, 2019 in the amount of \$249,231.60 from Pratt & Sons, Inc. for the Route 2 Bypass Lane Bid, permission to negotiate with Ranger Construction (they bid \$186,868.00 on November 21, 2018), or, if they refuse to negotiate to put the project back out to bid and eliminate the bond requirement.

Roger Staples asked Denise LeBlanc which option she preferred.

Denise LeBlanc said the second round of bids, after changing the specs, came back higher than the first. Ranger has been contacted...but we have not heard back yet. We don't even know if that is an option. She recommended waiting to see if Ranger will negotiate...then we will figure out what to do from there.

Christine Almand said that the reason it was on the agenda this way was so that if they won't negotiate we wouldn't have to wait for another meeting to put it back out to bid.

Paul York said he isn't comfortable doing it without a bond. If we run into an issue with this project we've got nothing.

Greg Dore said that in larger projects a bond is very important. This is a \$100,000.00 project. The chances of them not completing it is pretty slim. With partial completion they only get part of the money. We really aren't opening ourselves up to a great loss.

Paul York asked if DOT would allow us to do that.

Greg Dore said he talked to Mark Hume at DOT about it.

Christine Almand said that each time we put this out to bid, we only got one bidder. What we are hearing is that the contractors aren't bidding because they have bids out on other projects and bonding for all of those bids. Some of them are over-bonded. These companies are waiting to release their current bonds in order to be able to bid on other projects. They are all very busy right now and the boning seems to be an issue.

Greg Dore said the bonding would be part of the negotiations with Ranger. We did away with the traffic control because it is within the compact and we can take care of that. We also did away with the permit requirements, because they are not necessary within the compact.

Vote: 4/0

Recording Time: 33:34

14. Discussion and decision to award the Paving Bid. The following bids were received:

Wellman Paving	\$828,339.27
Hagar Enterprises, Inc.	\$921,701.00
B&B Paving	\$753,221.55**
Northeast paving	\$1,105,357.80
Thibodeau II, Inc.	\$820,818.45
Hopkins Paving LLC	\$862,801.10
Pike Industries	\$823,966.30
Roundy's Paving	\$769,298.96

Greg Dore recommends awarding the paving bid to B&B Paving with a total bid price of \$753,221.55 and expending an amount not to exceed \$780,000.00 from the Highway Department Streets and Sidewalks Reserve Account, Road Resurfacing Designation.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to award the paving bid to B&B Paving with a total bid price of \$753,221.55 and expend an amount not to exceed \$780,000.00 from the Highway Department Streets and Sidewalks Reserve Account, Road Resurfacing Designation, contingent upon Town Meeting vote.

Paul York asked why the bids were all over the place.

Greg Dore said that the low bidders are small companies with very little overhead. The middle bidder are good size companies that pay benefits and more overhead. The million dollar companies probably don't really want the work.

Paul York asked if Greg Dore if he was comfortable with B&B even though we had issues with them before.

Greg Dore said he spoke with the Public Works Director in Winslow. They have used them for three years and haven't had any problems. They have made some crew changes within the company. He thinks that we will be ok. We will have a bond.

Vote: 4/0

15. Treasurer's Warrants to be approved:

#67	\$	39,089.23 (Payroll #7)
#68	\$	43,260.73 (Payroll #8)
#69	\$	9,943.75 (State Payables)
#70	\$	<u>972,204.30 (FY 2019 Accounts Payables)</u>
Total	\$	1,064,498.01

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

Vote: 4/0

16. Other Business

There was no other business.

17. 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

Still working on these.

18. 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 a union negotiations.

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 6:12 p.m. to discuss a union negotiations.

Vote: 4/0

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to exit Executive Session at 6:38 p.m.

Vote: 4/0

Nothing to report.

Adjourn Selectmen's Meeting.

Approved and signed on March 12, 2019

_____	_____
_____	_____

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