

**Minutes
Town of Skowhegan
Regular Selectmen's Meeting
5:30 P.M.
Tuesday, February 28, 2023
Municipal Building – Council Room**

****Anyone wishing to view this meeting may also do so from the
Town of Skowhegan Facebook page****

Board of Selectmen:

Todd Smith, Chairman
Charles Robbins, Vice Chairman
Harold Bigelow
Steven Govoni
Paul York

Town Manager:

Christine Almand

Executive Secretary:

Cara L. Mason

Call Selectmen's Meeting to order.

Todd Smith called the meeting to order.

1. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Town Manager's Report

I am happy to report that all 2021 real estate tax accounts were paid in full on or before February 6th, and we had zero foreclosures this year. This is the first time we've been able to accomplish this, and I'd like to thank the staff in the Clerk's Office for their help. The 2nd tax payment for 2023 is due on March 15th.

Yesterday, I signed contracts for the Town's electricity supply. The current contract for 5 of our largest accounts was signed three years ago at a record low rate of \$0.06038 per kwh. Our street lights contract was signed last year at \$0.116 per kwh. These contracts will end in November 2023. Due to the higher rates we are seeing in the standard offer, we will now have one contract for all 36 accounts. Starting next month, our small accounts will change from the \$0.176310 standard offer rate to \$0.0833 per kwh. This contract will continue through November 2023. In November, all of the accounts will increase to a rate of \$0.1157 per kwh.

VHB, our consultants for the Village Partnership Initiative, were at the Skijoring event this past Saturday and kicked off the public engagement portion of the planning study with a survey. This survey is available at buildskowhegan.org and on the Town's website and Facebook page.

Bob Marley will be performing in the Opera House on Saturday, March 4th at 5:30 and 8:00 pm. Tickets are available at bmarley.com.

3. Items by the Public

Colin Quinn: Recreation Advisory Committee
Community Center
Baseball fields

Recording Time: 14:45

Garrett Quinn: Memorial Field
Baseball
Multi-use fields

Recording Time: 23:14

Corey Hight: Separate baseball field

Rick York: Middle School field is not a baseball field
Always fighting for time on multi-use fields
Need a designated baseball field

Recording Time: 29:10

Christine Almand: Responded to some of the comments.

Corey Hight: Plans need to be thrown out

Recording Time: 38:54

Chris Jarvais: 2024 we will have no field and no tennis court
Memorial field is the only full-size field in town

Todd Smith: Would love to see a stand-alone baseball field

Colin Quinn: Need to get businessmen involved
Baseball brings money to town

Recording Time: 47:12

Harold Bigelow: Need to keep kids interested in sports

4. Department and Committee Reports

Jeff Hewett: Broadband – info on website – finished by Dec. 2023

Chief Rodriguez: Fire department – best that there is
If not for their tactics – Giffords would be gone
Top notch eve when off-duty – firefighter attended to a snowmobile
accident while off-duty

Gail Pelotte: Nomination papers available March 3rd – due back April 14th
Higgins Loans

Recording Time: 01:00:17

5. Selectmen's Items

Charles Robbins: Selectmen are essential

Steven Govoni: Congrats – SnowFest events

Todd Smith: Congrats – basketball team
SnowFest

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve and sign Minutes from the following:

Special Selectmen's Meeting – February 14, 2023
Regular Selectmen's Meeting – February 14, 2023

2. Approve and sign Taxi Driver and Taxi Vehicle Permits for the following:

Passenger Taxi

Jeffrey A. Gordon – 9 Rosalie Way, Skowhegan
2007 Chevy Impala – VIN 2G1WT58N379251649

SkowTown Taxi

Earlene D. Thompson – 28 Thompson Lane, Skowhegan
Roger Stanley Vitalone – 44 Silver Street, Skowhegan
Logan Xavier French – 325 Main Street, Skowhegan
Sean D. Nichols – 431 Harmony Road, Athens
Michael Scott Marston – 484 River Road, Madison
Ronnie A. Caswell – P.O. Box 335, Norridgewock
Terri Lynn Foulkes – 125 North Avenue, Skowhegan
Karen A. Lancaster – 44 Austin Road, Athens
James Patrick Vaughan – 184 Lower Mills Road, Madison
Chelsea Amanda Davis – 23 Waterville Road, Skowhegan
2011 Chevy Impala – VIN 2G1WF5EKXB1102213
2006 Buick Lacros – VIN 2G4WD582161118116

2011 Chevy Impala – VIN2G1WGEK4B1225566

2006 Buick Lucern – VIN 1G4HP57276U199502

2011 Chevy Impala – VIN 2G1WF5EK2B1331470

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robins to approve the Consent Agenda as written.

Vote: 4/0/1 (Steven Govoni abstained)

Regular Agenda:

Item #6 taken out of order.

6. Discussion and decision to hold a Special Town Meeting on March 23, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. and to allow Jeff Hewett to hold a Public Hearing on March 14, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the proposed New Balance Municipal Development, Tax Increment Financing District and amendment to the Downtown TIF District.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Steven Govoni to hold a Special Town Meeting on March 23, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. and to allow Jeff Hewett to hold a Public Hearing on March 14, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the proposed New Balance Municipal Development, Tax Increment Financing District and amendment to the Downtown TIF District.

Vote: 5/0

Recording Time: 01:11:54

1. Discussion and decision to appoint one Selectman to the hiring committee for the Solid Waste Supervisor position.

A motion was made by Charles Robbins and seconded by Steven Govoni to appoint Harold Bigelow and Paul York to the hiring committee for the Solid Waste Supervisor position.

Vote: 5/0

2. Discussion and decision to approve the renewal Club Application for a Malt, Wine, Spirits license for:

Skowhegan-Madison Elks #2531
21 Silver Street

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Harold Bigelow to approve the renewal Club Application for a Malt, Wine, Spirits license for Skowhegan-Madison Elks #2531.

Vote: 5/0

3. Discussion and decision to approve the renewal Application for an On-Premises Malt, Wine, Spirits License for:

Barticus, Inc d/b/a Southside Tavern
1 Waterville Road

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to approve the renewal Application for an On-Premises Malt, Wine, Spirits License for Barticus, Inc d/b/a Southside Tavern.

Vote: 5/0

4. Discussion and decision to approve the letter to MDOT regarding Madison Avenue.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Todd Smith to approve the letter to MDOT regarding Madison Avenue.

Vote: 5/0

Recording Time: 01:15:13

5. Discussion and decision to approve the Cemetery Sexton contract from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to approve the Cemetery Sexton contract from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Vote: 5/0

6. Discussion and decision to hold a Special Town Meeting on March 23, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. and to allow Jeff Hewett to hold a Public Hearing on March 14, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the proposed New Balance Municipal Development, Tax Increment Financing District and amendment to the Downtown TIF District.

Item taken out of order. Voted before Item #1.

7. Discussion and decision to allow Brent Dickey to go out to bid for Polymer and Sodium Hypochlorite.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to allow Brent Dickey to go out to bid for Polymer and Sodium Hypochlorite.

Vote: 5/0

8. Discussion and decision to award the Landscape Services Bid. The following bids were received:

York's Landscaping, LLC \$36,500.00

One other bid was received, but they were not qualified to bid due to not attending the mandatory pre-bid meeting. The bid was not opened.

Stephen McDaniel recommends awarding the bid to York's Landscaping with a total bid price of \$36,500.00 and expending that amount as follows:

FY 2023 portion

\$6,000.00	Solid Waste General Repairs & Maintenance
\$4,500.00	Highway Roads Maintenance
\$2,000.00	Recreation Repair & Maintenance, Lawns

The FY 2024 portion will be expended from the Recreation Department Contract Services Account.

A motion was made by Charles Robbins and seconded by Steven Govoni to award the bid to York's Landscaping with a total bid price of \$36,500.00 and expend that amount as follows:

FY 2023 portion

\$6,000.00	Solid Waste General Repairs & Maintenance
\$4,500.00	Highway Roads Maintenance
\$2,000.00	Recreation Repair & Maintenance, Lawns

The FY 2024 portion will be expended from the Recreation Department Contract Services Account.

Vote: 4/0/1 (Paul York abstained)

Recording Time: 01:27:01

9. Treasurer's Warrants to be approved:

#67	\$	65,686.31 (Payroll #7)
#68	\$	64,996.99 (Payroll #8)
#69	\$	4,885.91 (State Payables)
#4	\$	28,899.10 (FY 2023 PSB Accounts Payables)
#70	\$	2,919,761.54 (FY 2023 Accounts Payables)
Total	\$	3,084,229.85

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to approve the Treasurer's Warrants as written.

Vote: 5/0

10. Unfinished Business

DEP PFAS Investigation
Fire Station
Hilton Bridge
Marketing/Celebrating Skowhegan
Policies and Ordinances
Public Safety Building
Skowhegan River Park/Economic Development
Solar Power
Village Partnership Initiative

Chief Bucknam: PSB update

Corey Hight: Fire station?

Christine Almand: Norridgewock lab doing PFAS testing

Recording Time: 01:34:02

11. Other Business

Item #6 – Steven Govoni should have abstained

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to rescind the previous motion.

Vote: 5/0

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to hold a Special Town Meeting on March 23, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. and to allow Jeff Hewett to hold a Public Hearing on March 14, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the proposed New Balance Municipal Development, Tax Increment Financing District and amendment to the Downtown TIF District.

Vote: 4/0/1 (Steven Govoni abstained)

Steven Govoni: Funding projections for the TIF
Mill Rate should be dropping

12. 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 performance appraisal.

A motion was made by Charles Robbins and seconded by Paul York to enter into Executive Session in accordance with M.R.S.A. Title 1 § 405 (6)(A) at 7:23 p.m. to discuss the Town Manager's annual performance appraisal.

Vote: 5/0

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Harold Bigelow to exit Executive Session at 7:33 p.m.

Vote: 5/0

Executive Session scheduled for March 3, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. to continue discussion.

Adjourn Selectmen's Meeting.

Approved and signed on March 14, 2023.

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