

**Minutes
Town of Skowhegan
Regular Selectmen's Meeting
5:30 P.M.
Tuesday, March 15, 2018
Municipal Building – Council Room**

Meeting took place on March 15, 2018 due to the weather.

Board of Selectmen:

Paul York, Chairman
Darla Pickett, Vice Chairman
Betty Austin
Gene Rouse
Soren Siren

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 was due today.

The President of Maine Water Company called me today to inform me that their parent company, Connecticut Water is merging with SJW Group. We can expect business as usual at the local level.

Bob Marley will be performing in the Opera House on Friday, March 16th at 8:00 pm. Tickets are available at bmarley.com.

March 22nd is the 5th Annual Abner Coburn Day in Skowhegan. A tribute will be held at the Skowhegan Free Public Library from 4:00 to 6:00. Many thanks to the Skowhegan Heritage Council for hosting this event.

Skowhegan's Annual Maple Festival will be March 23rd to 25th. For more event details visit Main Street Skowhegan's website or the Maple Fest Community Facebook page.

2. Items by the Public

Jason Gayne said that the business after hours was pushed back from last week to Wednesday of this week. Thursday after the Abner Coburn event the Chamber will have their annual meeting. Next Friday there will be a ribbon cutting for Kennebec Stitchery.

3. Selectmen's Items

Soren Siren thanked local law enforcement for the help last week with the situation at school. They did a phenomenal job in a very timely fashion.

Soren Siren said he is involved in the planning of the Moose Festival. Things are looking very good for the festival this June.

Betty Austin said that Heart Health is concerned about under-age alcohol use.

Betty Austin said that she spoke with someone from DOT. They said that our town is the only town in Maine that has as much traffic and has only one bridge. We might want to think about that.

Darla Pickett said she had spoken to Greg Dore about the sneakers on the wires. He is still trying to get them removed.

Darla Pickett said somebody had asked about the administration of the snowmobile grants. We do get paid to administer that grant.

Darla Pickett said she had asked about the Fire Department revenues.

Christine Almand said that the revenue coming in from insurance companies from accidents goes into a revenue account. Eventually they filter into the general fund. He (Chief Howard) budgets revenues which offset his budget. Expenses and revenues are budgeted separately.

Darla Pickett said that Greg Dore would explain the insurance for the truck when he presents his stuff.

Darla Pickett said that someone had asked her about putting a pet of the week from the Humane Society in Channel 11. They are looking into it.

Paul York thanked the highway department for their work in these last two storms. A lot of time was put in and it was not easy.

Darla Pickett and Gene Rouse agreed.

4. Department & Committee Reports

Greg Dore said he has now been trained on the sidewalk machine. He said he also ran the Western Star truck. He said it is a nice truck.

He said he was thinking that it was taking a long time to open up the sidewalks. What he learned is that he can't do it any faster. We don't have someone to come in during the storm to keep up with it. When we are doing the sidewalks it is the whole storm.

Chief Howard wanted to remind everybody to be shoveling their roofs, and keeping entrances clear. Doors that aren't normally used, or windows that are used for egress...in the event of a fire we can't get to them.

Gail Pelotte said that nomination papers are still available. They are due back April 13th. Nobody has taken out papers for the two Selectman positions.

Jeff Hewett said that anybody interested in participating in the Façade Grant should contact his office.

Jeff Hewett said that the State of Maine had sent out notice to see if there was interest in a Opportunities Zones Program. This is a new program to help with economic development. He submitted for two tracks...north and south. The State was happy with what we sent in. They sent what we sent in to the other towns because they liked what we sent.

Chief Bucknam said that the High School had a 17 minute walk-out today. 11 students participated. This was handled very, very well within the school. We sat down with them in the gymnasium, talked with them about the issues and told them how they could help makes changes.

Christine Almand said that the auditor was scheduled to be here for three days. They were only here for two. That shows how well prepared we were this year. She thanked Gail Pelotte and Trisha Austin.

She thanked Jeff Hewett. We were the first municipality to put in for the Opportunity Grant.

Soren Siren thanked the school and law enforcement for how well they handled last week's situation.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve and sign Minutes for the following:

Regular Selectmen's Meeting

February 27, 2018

2. Approve and sign Taxi Driver Permit for the following:

Mr. J's Taxi

William A. Baker, Jr.
Skowhegan, ME

3. Approve and sign Taxi Vehicle Permit for the following:

Mr. J's Taxi

1998 Buick Lasabre VIN 1G4HP52K3WH414583

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

Vote: 5/0

Recording Time: 6:48

Regular Agenda:

1. Discussion and decision to place the Skowhegan Building Safety Ordinance on the Town Meeting Warrant and to hold a Public Hearing on April 10, 2018.

A motion was made by Soren Siren and seconded by Gene Rouse to place the Skowhegan Building Safety Ordinance on the Town Meeting Warrant and to hold a Public Hearing on April 10, 2018.

Darla Pickett asked when corrections were needed.

Brining changes to Christine Almand before the Public Hearing would be fine.

Darla Pickett asked if the Police Chief should be added to the people in section 8.

Randy Gray said that the Police Chief wouldn't typically be involved in building safety.

Vote: 5/0

2. Discussion and decision to award the Foreclosure Sale Bids. The following bids were received:

Bid #1 - Map 10, Lot 39-11 (East River Road)

Randall Franck & Patsy Miller	\$12,551.00 (High Bid)**
Josh Harris	\$7,300.00
Joe Wyman	\$12,300.00
David Spencer	\$5,510.00
Harvey Austin	\$3,105.28
Richard Lacasse	\$8,100.00

Bid #2 – Map 33, Lot 206 (39 North School Street)

Josh Harris	\$7,300.00
Joe Wyman	\$14,300.00 (High Bid)**
Harvey Austin	\$6,209.47

Bid #3 – Map 29, Lot 105 (80 North Avenue)

Joe Wyman	\$14,300.00 (High Bid)**
Harvey Austin	\$2,109.99
Margaret Almand & Joe Almand	\$5,000.00
Matthew Smith	\$5,531.64
Tom Harville	\$6,150.00

A motion was made by Darla Pickett and seconded by Soren Siren to award the Foreclosure Sale Bids to the highest bidder for each property as written.

Vote: 5/0

3. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$10,400.00 from the Administrative Reserve Account, Information Technology Improvements Designation to purchase 12 desktop computers and 9 monitors.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to expend an amount not to exceed \$10,400.00 from the Administrative Reserve Account, Information Technology Improvements Designation to purchase 12 desktop computers and 9 monitors.

Vote: 5/0

4. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$26,683.00 from the Highway Department Equipment Reserve Account, Vehicle Purchases Designation for transfer of plow equipment for the new one-ton truck.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to expend an amount not to exceed \$26,683.00 from the Highway Department Equipment Reserve Account, Vehicle Purchases Designation for transfer of plow equipment for the new one-ton truck.

Paul York said we got a check for some of this, but we are being asked for the full amount.

Greg Dore said that the insurance check gets deposited into the reserve account. We need permission to expend the full amount to pay the invoice. The insurance company sent the check to us, not to H.P. Fairfield.

Christine Almand said that this is covered in the memo.

Greg Dore said that our equipment policy is a separate policy from our vehicles policy. Any equipment that was damaged was covered. Anything to put that equipment on the new truck, hoses, wiring, labor, etc. was not covered. It is costing us \$15,900.54 after what insurance paid.

Vote: 5/0

Recording Time: 25:46

5. Treasurer's Warrants to be approved:

#73	\$	39,862.99 (Payroll #9)
#74	\$	38,761.47 (Payroll #10)
#75	\$	17,787.38 (State Payables)
#76	\$	1,525,395.29 (FY 2018 Accounts Payables)
Total	\$	1,621,807.13

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

Vote: 5/0

6. Other Business

There was no Other Business.

7. Unfinished Business

- Review Policies and Ordinances
- Run of River/Economic Development
- Utilizing Outside Services

These are being out on hold until we get through the budget.

8. Sign Documents

The Selectmen signed documents.

Adjourn Selectmen's Meeting.

Approved and signed on March 27, 2018.

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