

**Minutes
Town of Skowhegan
Regular Selectmen's Meeting
5:30 P.M.
Tuesday, March 24, 2020**

****This meeting took place via conference call. Public wishing to listen to this meeting may do so from the Town of Skowhegan Facebook page****

Board of Selectmen:

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

Town Manager:

Christine Almand

Executive Secretary:

Cara L. Mason

Call Selectmen's Meeting to order.

Paul York called the meeting to order.

1. Town Manager's Report

Christine Almand said that she had received an email from a resident asking for a Local Food & Self Governance Ordinance.

All agreed to hold off on this until the next joint meeting with the Planning Board.

2. Selectmen's Items

Paul York said that we will assess where we are at every two weeks regarding budget. We have until May 2nd to complete the budget in order to have it ready for June Town Meeting. We will play it by ear and hope that we can have Town Meeting.

Christine Almand said that we closed the buildings down through March 29th. She is looking to push that back to April 12th. We do have employees working, some are working staggered shifts and we are doing our best to social distance.

Paul York said that we have a lot of behind the scene s things going on during this crisis. We are all in this together. It is affecting everyone in some way. He thanked everyone for doing everything that is necessary to get things done while also trying to social distance.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve the minutes from the following:

Regular Selectmen's Meeting	February 25, 2020
Regular Selectmen's Meeting	March 10, 2020

2. Approve and sign Quit Claim Deeds for the following foreclosure sales:

Thomas W. Harville	51 Milburn Street (Map 27, Lot 11)
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Harvey Austin Jr and Trisha L. Austin	33 Milburn Street (Map 27, Lot 15-2)
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3. Accept the resignation of Amber Damon as a full-time police officer effective March 31, 2020.

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

Vote: 5/0

Regular Agenda:

1. Discussion and decision to appoint Jacob Boudreau as a full-time police officer effective April 1, 2020 with a term expiring June 30, 2020, and approve the expenditure of \$19,000.00 for the buyout.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to appoint Jacob Boudreau as a full-time police officer effective April 1, 2020 with a term expiring June 30, 2020, and approve the expenditure of \$19,000.00 for the buyout.

Vote: 5/0

2. Discussion and decision to approve the Application for Parades and Processions to allow KVCAP to hold Skowpendous on April 24, 2020 from 3:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Parking Lot, contingent upon the Governor lifting the current State of Emergency.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Roger Staples to approve the Application for Parades and Processions to allow KVCAP to hold Skowpendous on April 24, 2020 from 3:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Parking Lot, contingent upon the Governor lifting the current State of Emergency.

Vote: 5/0

3. Discussion and decision to approve the Declaration of the Board of Selectmen, Town-wide State of Emergency.

A motion was made by Roger Staples and seconded by Gene Rouse to approve the Declaration of the Board of Selectmen, Town-wide State of Emergency.

Vote: 5/0

Recording Time: 08:51

4. Discussion and decision to allow the Town Manager to open bids without public participation until the Governor lifts the current State of Emergency.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to allow the Town Manager to open bids without public participation until the Governor lifts the current State of Emergency.

Roger Staples asked if there was another way to do this to include the public.

Christine Almand said that typically bid opening are in this building at a scheduled time and then public are welcome to attend. With the building being closed to the public...we will still open the bids at the scheduled time with three municipal employees present. The only difference is that the public will not be in the room.

We do keep all bids and record that information. Cara Mason also puts the information on the website.

Roger Staples asked if we could allow people to conference call in.

Christine Almand said that the bridge that we currently have is so much per minute, per participant. We have a maximum of 20 participants.

Betty Austin asked if we could go Facebook Live for the bid openings.

Christine Almand said that we could if we can get it figured out. We couldn't get it to work on our page tonight...so we are using Channel 11's page for this meeting.

Betty Austin suggested just taping it...so that if people had questions they could watch it.

Christine Almand said that we could also email the documents if people wanted to see them.

Vote: 5/0

5. Discussion and decision to allow the SEDC to suspend payments on Micro Business Loans and Revolving Loan Fund Loans until 30 days after the current State of Emergency has been lifted by the Governor.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to allow the SEDC to suspend payments on Micro Business Loans and Revolving Loan Fund Loans until 30 days after the current State of Emergency has been lifted by the Governor.

Roger Staples asked what the reasoning is behind this.

Christine Almand said that communities are considering doing this because of the financial hardships for some of the small businesses.

Betty Austin said that all of the SEDC members were in favor of this. There are small businesses that are greatly affected by all of this. There are currently about a dozen loans...not all of them will need to ask for this.

Vote: 5/0

Recording Time: 30:33

6. Discussion and decision to allow Central Maine Power Company and Northern New England Telephone Operations, LLC to place a pole on the East Ridge Road, 149 feet north of the intersection of East Ridge Road and Route 2.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Roger Staples to allow Central Maine Power Company and Northern New England Telephone Operations, LLC to place a pole on the East Ridge Road, 149 feet north of the intersection of East Ridge Road and Route 2.

Cara Mason said she heard back from Bryan on this...she did not hear back from Greg. They are the two that typically look at these.

Dennis Willette asked if this was a replacement pole or a new pole.

Paul York said that he believed that the paperwork said that it was a new pole.

Vote: 5/0

7. Treasurer's Warrants to be approved:

#73	\$	44,047.19 (Payroll #11)
#74	\$	45,188.65 (Payroll #12)
#75	\$	10,130.98 (State Payables)
#76	\$	1,268,051.68 (FY 2020 Accounts Payables)
Total	\$	1,367,418.50

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

Vote: 5/0

8. Other Business

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to expend an amount not to exceed \$38,889.00 (\$16,217.00 from the Police Department Reserve Account, Cruiser Replacement Designation and \$22,672.00 from the MCJA Account) to purchase a 2020 Ford Interceptor SUV from Hight Ford.

Vote: 5/0

9. Unfinished Business

- Review Policies and Ordinances
- Run of River/Economic Development
- Utilizing Outside Services
- Marketing/Celebrating Skowhegan
- Vehicle Charging Station – Jeff getting lease info.
- Public Safety Building – Meeting postponed.
- Sidewalks and Bike Trails/Lanes
- Second Bridge – Postponed until further notice.
- Solar Power – Haven't heard back from Dirigo lately.
- Foreclosure Sales – Need to look at this.

10. Sign Documents

Adjourn Selectmen's Meeting.

Approved and signed on April 14, 2020.

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