

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

There was no Town Manager's Report.

2. Items by the Public

Beverly Fitzsimmons said that the Community Center 30th Anniversary flyer is very nice. Even nicer this time because it is in color.

Jason Gayne said that Hospice is celebrating its 30th year as well. April 6th will be the dinner and auction at T&B's. The office is housed temporarily at the Methodist Church on the Dr. Mann Road.

There will be an open house at the Career & Tech Center next Wednesday night. There are also a couple of grand openings and business after hours.

3. Selectmen's Items

Roger Staples thanked everybody for attending the Maple Sunday events downtown. It was very windy.

Gene Rouse said that Greg Dore's crew did a good job setting up the parking lot and picking up after.

He said he also appreciates the sidewalk by the swinging bridge. He was able to walk there without being ankle deep in mud.

4. Department & Committee Reports

Gail Pelotte said that nomination papers are still available. We only have three that have been turned in. April 12th is the deadline. Nobody has taken out papers for the Assessor vacancy.

Greg Dore said that the sweeper was delivered...then they came and got it because of some recalls. He would like to get started in April.

The paving contractor plans to start paving North Avenue May 15th.

The water company will be starting on the Island the end of April. The State will come in to do the re-decking the first of second week in May. Hopefully this is all done before fair week.

The State bids have gone out for the Routes 2 and 201 paving from Fairfield to Norridgewock. They are hoping to start sometime in June.

Denise LeBlanc said that the brochures are out.

She asked the community to fill out the survey on the Recreation Department Facebook page. This helps them get federal funding. She has applied for LWCF Funding. The tennis court construction was done with that funding...the multi-purpose court, the skate park, South Factory Street recreation area, Memorial playground.

Once the snow melts we will be doing maintenance to get the courts open. The summer crew comes on in mid-May. It will be posted when everything is open.

Jeff Hewett said that the online tax maps are up on the website.

Chief Howard said that it is spring and there is a potential for flooding. We are at an above average potential for flooding. Things are melting slowly...the river looks pretty good. As of yesterday it was open water down through to about the boat launch on Route 2. The snow pack is holding about as much water as it can. If we have a rain event it will be releasing that water. If we have a sudden warm up and a rain event the potential for flooding is greater.

The Skowhegan wrestling team took first place in the Pine Tree Championships last weekend.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve and sign Minutes from the following:

Regular Selectmen's Meeting – March 12, 2019

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

Joseph Wyman – Map 24, Lot 9 - ON25

Joseph Wytman – Map 22, Lot 75
Joseph Wyman – Map 29, Lot 21
Dana Turcotte – Map 27, Lot 15 – 3
Richard Parks, Sr. – Map 27, Lot 11 – 1
Robert McGowan – Map 35, Lot 1C
Sondra Sill – Map 22, Lot 7 – ON
Lucille Bouchard – Map 14, Lot 53 – 4
Alex Bolduc and Mira Picardi – Map 17, Lot 33F
Francois Rodrigue – Map 23, Lot 92

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

Vote: 4/0

Recording Time: 10:47

Regular Agenda:

1. Discussion and decision to increase the Second Bridge Committee to 10 members and appoint Joel Greenwood to the committee with a term expiring June 30, 2019.

A motion was made by Roger Staples and seconded by Gene Rouse to increase the Second Bridge Committee to 10 members and appoint Joel Greenwood to the committee with a term expiring June 30, 2019.

Steve Govoni asked how these members were chosen. He had asked to be on the committee. Somebody decided that they only wanted a nine member committee. Now a tenth member is being added. This is questionable at best.

Paul York said that it was thought originally that he would be involved in this process as part of DOT. That did not end up being the case...being in the Planning Board we feel that he needs to be there. We want to keep this committee smaller than the last time.

Steve Govoni said that as part of that committee he would be the only technical adviser. There are no other professionals on that committee. Most of them are from an economic standpoint. Joel would be the only one that has municipal planning...some background.

He just watched this happen in Wiscasset where the committee like this got eaten alive. The committee as it stands does not have the fire power to go up against the bridge department. He argues with them a lot. They are a very different group.

Christine Almand said that when the committee was asked if they wanted to expand to eleven members instead of ten...they said no.

Roger Staples said that there were seventeen members last time...we thought that was too many. He and Betty Austin are on the committee as Selectmen. Betty Austin is on the Transportation Committee as a State Representative.

Steve Govoni said that once the committee comes to a decision...they bring that decision back to the Selectmen?

Betty Austin said that there will be public meetings for taxpayers as well.

Steve Govoni said that the question is...are you a voting member on that committee as well as on the Board of Selectmen and then at the Transportation Committee in Augusta?

Betty Austin said that the Transportation Committee is not going to vote specifically on this bridge.

Christine Almand said that Selectmen serve on almost all of our committees...so they do have a vote at both levels.

Paul York said he doesn't want to step on the committee's toes. Let the committee decide what they want to do. If they want to add an 11th person, we will go from there.

Jason Gayne asked if the committee could do an email vote and then bring it back to the Selectmen at the next meeting.

Christine Almand said that she could reach out to the committee. Christine Almand asked Steve Govoni to provide his request in writing.

Recording Time: 19:18

Vote: 4/0

2. Discussion and decision to approve the union contract between the Town of Skowhegan and the International Association of Firefighters from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to approve the union contract between the Town of Skowhegan and the International Association of Firefighters from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022.

Vote: 4/0

3. Discussion and decision to accept a donation to the Fire Department in the amount of \$7,708.75 from Brookfield Renewable to purchase communications headsets for engine 10.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Roger Staples to accept a donation to the Fire Department in the amount of \$7,708.75 from Brookfield Renewable to purchase communications headsets for engine 10.

Chief Howard said these are headsets with microphones so that they can communicate with each other and with dispatch. It is very loud in a fire engine. They cannot really communicate without screaming.

Roger Staples asked is this is something that Brookfield normally does for us.

Chief Howard said that they donated the money for us to purchase a boat a few years ago. They like to give back to the community.

Vote: 4/0

4. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$3,830.00 from the Administrative Reserve Account, Information Technology Improvements Designation for conduit and cable upgrades at the Municipal Building and the Community Center.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to expend an amount not to exceed \$3,830.00 from the Administrative Reserve Account, Information Technology Improvements Designation for conduit and cable upgrades at the Municipal Building and the Community Center.

Vote: 4/0

5. Discussion and decision to award the Rt. 2 Bypass Lane Extension Bid. The following bids were received:

Ranger Contracting	\$179,952.50
Manter Construction	\$185,734.00

Denise LeBlanc recommends awarding the bid to Ranger Contracting with a total bid amount not to exceed \$179,952.50, allow Denise LeBlanc to negotiate with them and expend an amount not to exceed \$179,952.50 from the Ballfield Reserve Account.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to award the bid to Ranger Contracting with a total bid amount not to exceed \$179,952.50, allow Denise LeBlanc to negotiate with them and expend an amount not to exceed \$179,952.50 from the Ballfield Reserve Account.

Vote: 4/0

6. Discussion and decision to allow Chief Bucknam to put 15 AR-15 rifles out to bid.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Roger Staples to allow Chief Bucknam to put 15 AR-15 rifles out to bid.

Roger Staples asked why we need 15 of these.

Chief Bucknam said that that gives each of the officers their own rifle. They qualify and train on that one particular piece of equipment. It removes the 1960s Vietnam era rifles that we currently use. Currently officers share those rifles. This will cut down liability in the event that there are any issues. Each individual officer is assigned to that one weapon system.

Roger Staples asked what is being used now.

Chief Bucknam said that we are using 1960s vintage Vietnam AR-15. We will be returning those to the U.S. government and replacing them with the new ones.

Betty Austin asked why this kind of rifle.

Chief Bucknam said that it is replacing what we have now with an updated, more durable and newer weapon system.

This rifle operates at about 3000 feet per second. When we use this rifle it is not going through walls. It is not going through car doors. It is well tested and well proven. For years it has been used by law enforcement and military. They are very accurate. The officers can use this with the utmost confidence that the bullet is going to go where they intend it to.

Vote: 4/0

7. Discussion regarding the following draft ordinances:

- Obscenity and Adult Entertainment Ordinance
- Parades & Procession Ordinance
- Special Amusement Ordinance

Christine Almand said that, as discussed at the joint meeting with the Planning Board, the Obscenity Ordinance was going to be combined with the Adult Entertainment Ordinance.

She said that she discussed this with Joel Greenwood about the request to add the ability for businesses to sell obscene devices. If the intention was to allow businesses, certain promotional events and private homes to sell these devices...as written this still does not allow that. The way it is currently written it may still restrict some of the businesses and activities that might want to be allowed.

Christine Almand said that this is still the intent that the Selectmen had asked for at the joint meeting. The initial intent was to combine the two ordinances and to remove the offence if an individual possesses six or more.

Gene Rouse asked about paragraph 5 (1)(C).

Christine Almand said that with that paragraph somebody would not be able to sell obscene devices...as well as the paragraph before it. As a matter of fact, all three paragraphs.

Christine Almand asked of the Selectmen wanted to put this forward to Town Meeting as it is, or if they wanted to allow the Planning Board to work on it to allow for individuals and/or businesses to be able to sell obscene devices.

Paul York said he would present it as is and let the town's people tell us what they want.

Betty Austin said she thinks there were questions, not being sure what this meant for some businesses.

Jason Gayne said that he had met with Christine and with Joel. He asked if the Selectmen would be inclined to allow the Planning Board to look at this again at their next meeting. Let them work on it one last time before it goes to Town Meeting. If we address a couple of these issues it will help the businesses and the individuals in the community.

Christine Almand said she believed that Jason Gayne had requested some changes to this ordinance as well as the Special Amusement Ordinance.

Jason Gayne said that there was a misunderstanding. He would like to see this kicked back to the Planning Board for their next meeting.

Joel Greenwood said they would need to act quickly in order to get it back to the Selectmen for their next meeting. Any changes would need to be back to the Town Manager by April 4th, two days after the Planning Board meeting.

Roger Staples and Betty Austin said that they would be ok with that.

Christine Almand said that Jason Gayne had asked to allow these applications to be approved in a quicker manner than at a Selectmen's Meeting. Section 6 allows a designated agent (Assuming that would be the Town Manager) to call the Selectmen to approve an application that is not received in a timely manner.

Jason Gayne said that last year the Island Dairy Treat received confirmation on Thursday that the car show would be coming to town that weekend. They would need to use the parking lot by the on Island Avenue (owned by the Town) in order to accommodate that.

Paul York said he doesn't have a problem with that. He doesn't want it to get to a point that people think that we are just going to bypass the process that we have. There are things that the Town needs to plan for.

Christine Almand said that quite often with these things there is a discussion with Greg Dore and the Police Chief. There are several things in the process for approval of these applications. These things are typically ironed out before it gets to the Selectmen.

Jason Gayne said that a simple "no" would solve that.

Betty Austin said that it says "a reasonable need for expediting it"...she thinks that everybody isn't going to have that need. That is the way to tell people that they can't do that unless it is an emergency.

Christine Almand said that fir instance, if every year the Chamber does a certain event it would not be approved this way. It needs to be in, in a timely manner. Not getting it in on time would not be a reason. Just an example.

Jason Gayne said this is for those certain instances where we don't know about it in time.

Christine Almand said that we will ask at the next meeting to put that and the other amended ordinances forward for Public Hearing.

8. Treasurer's Warrants to be approved:

#75	\$	42,116.84 (Payroll #11)
#76	\$	38,921.15 (Payroll #12)
#77	\$	11,717.79 (State Payables)
#78	\$	1,310,839.16 (FY 2019 Accounts Payables)
Total	\$	1,403,594.94

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

Vote: 4/0

9. Other Business

There was no 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

Betty Austin said that Campaign Earth offers seed funding and networks to jumpstart local renewable energy projects and new installation of vehicle charging stations. She said she would send an email to Christine Almand.

Paul York said that this is something that we should jump on sooner rather than later.

Randy Gray said the project is supposed to start this spring to install 10 charging stations at Hannaford.

11. Sign Documents

The Selectmen signed documents.

Adjourn Selectmen's Meeting.

Approved and signed on April 9, 2019.

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