

**Minutes
Town of Skowhegan
Regular Selectmen's Meeting
5:30 P.M.
Tuesday, April 23, 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

The AR-15 Rifle and Accessory Bid closes on April 30th at 10:00 am. For more information, visit our website or contact Chief Bucknam.

The Business Expo is being held at T&B's Celebration Center on April 25th from 3:00 to 7:00. For more information, contact the Skowhegan Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Dance Express dance recital will be on April 27th at 6:00 pm in the Opera House.

The Top Hat School of Dance recital will be on May 11th at 4:00 pm in the Opera House.

2. Items by the Public

There were no Items by the Public.

3. Selectmen's Items

Betty Austin said that April is Family Violence Prevention Month. There was a ceremony held outside of the Municipal Building. Lots of blue pinwheels around town.

Betty Austin said that the write-up in the newspaper about Denise LeBlanc was fantastic. There is also a State House sentiment coming.

Betty Austin said that Jason Gayne is in the hospital. They found what was wrong. It is on Facebook and his wife says that he is on the mend.

Roger Staples thanked the highway department for fixing Madison Avenue.

Gene Rouse said that SkowPendus was extremely well attended. It was the first time in 13 years that we had really good weather.

Meet your local hero was the week prior. Chief Bucknam read a story to a group of children.

4. Department & Committee Reports

Jeff Hewett said hopefully next week the orders on the energy project should be coming in. They should start being here full time next week.

Chief Howard reminded people that if you own the property and you would like to burn brush, a permit is required. You can get them online, or they are free at the fire station. Burning in April and May is only after 5:00 p.m. when the weather is good. If you do not own the land, you must have written permission from the property owner. If you own the property you are allowed to have camp fires and you do not need a permit for that on your own property.

Greg Dore said all of the new equipment has been received. Working the bugs out on the new sweeper. We started picking up brush and leaves...that will continue for the next few weeks. The schedule is posted on the website.

Recording Time: 09:08

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve and sign Minutes from the following:

Regular Selectmen's Meeting – April 9, 2019

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

Vote: 4/0

Regular Agenda:

1. Discussion and decision to approve the Pool Tables permits for the following through May 1, 2020:

Skowhegan/Madison Elks Lodge #2531
21 Silver Street

Fraternal Order of Eagles
164 Water Street

Washburn Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Central Maine Family Fun Center
414 Madison Avenue

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Roger Staples to approve the Pool Tables permits through May 1, 2020 as written.

Vote: 4/0

2. Discussion and decision to approve the Bowling Alley Permit for the following through May 1, 2020:

Washburn Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Central Maine Family Fun Center
414 Madison Avenue

A motion was made by Roger Staples and seconded by Gene Rouse to approve the Bowling Alley Permit for Washburn Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Central Maine Family Fun Center through May 1, 2020.

Vote: 4/0

3. Discussion and decision to approve the application for Malt, Spirituous, Vinous License for:

Chapters Restaurant LLC d/b/a Whits End Grill & Bar
123 Madison Avenue

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Roger Staples to approve the application for Malt, Spirituous, Vinous License for Chapters Restaurant LLC d/b/a Whits End Grill & Bar.

Vote: 4/0

4. Discussion and decision to approve the Small Business Week Proclamation.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to approve the Small Business Week Proclamation.

Vote: 4/0

5. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$650.00 from the Cemetery Reserve Account to purchase grave markers/flag holders for the graves of veterans.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Roger Staples to expend an amount not to exceed \$650.00 from the Cemetery Reserve Account to purchase grave markers/flag holders for the graves of veterans.

Vote: 4/0

6. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$1,500.00 from the Police Department Reserve Account, Training Designation to send Chief Bucknam and Dep. Chief Gardiner to an Internal Affairs training.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to expend an amount not to exceed \$1,500.00 from the Police Department Reserve Account, Training Designation to send Chief Bucknam and Dep. Chief Gardiner to an Internal Affairs training.

Vote: 4/0

7. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$1,500.00 from the Police Department Reserve Account, Drug Forfeiture Designation to purchase a flat screen television and surround-sound system for the Council Room for training purposes.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Roger Staples to expend an amount not to exceed \$1,500.00 from the Police Department Reserve Account, Drug Forfeiture Designation to purchase a flat screen television and surround-sound system for the Council Room for training purposes.

Betty Austin asked if other people would be able to use it.

Chief Bucknam answered, absolutely. That is why it will be in the Council Room.

Roger Staples asked if it would be permanently mounted somewhere.

Chief Bucknam said that it would be mounted where the white-board is now.

Roger Staples asked if it would require an external antenna.

Chief Bucknam said that it would not. It will be a smart TV.

Vote: 4/0

Recording Time: 12:45

8. Discussion and decision to authorize Christine Almand to accept or reject bids for surplus vehicles and equipment through the auction process with Auctions International. (The list of items to be auctioned and which reserve accounts the proceeds will be deposited into is included in the Selectmen's agenda packets. Selectmen may decide to set bid minimums.)

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to authorize Christine Almand to accept or reject bids for surplus vehicles and equipment through the auction process with Auctions International.

Christine Almand said there was one piece of equipment that the Selectmen may want to set a minimum bid on...the Tandem Axle truck.

Paul York just wanted to make sure that we know what the value is...not just what we thought it was worth.

Christine Almand said if the Selectmen want to set a minimum, Greg can give an idea of what he thinks it is worth. She will be meeting with David from Auctions International next week. He hasn't looked at it yet.

Last time we set a minimum for one piece of equipment. Either way, before bids are accepted it is discussed with the department head, as well as with David from Auctions International. Sometimes he has a good idea of whether or not he can get more. He sells equipment on a regular basis. Last time he suggested that we counter-offer on a couple items, and we were successful.

Betty Austin said that we should have Greg's input on all of the equipment.

Vote: 4/0

9. Discussion and decision to schedule a Public Hearing for the following on May 14, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.:

- Amended Parades and Processions Ordinance
- Amended Special Amusement Ordinance
- Obscenity and Adult Entertainment Ordinance
- Amended Budget and Finance Committee Bylaws
- KVCAP Housing TIF (subject to the Municipal Affordable Housing Development Districts Statute, 30 M.R.S.A. §§ 5250-1 (TIF Statute)

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to schedule a Public Hearing for the following on May 14, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.:

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- Amended Special Amusement Ordinance**
- Obscenity and Adult Entertainment Ordinance**
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Vote: 4/0

10. Discussion and Decision to appoint a Selectman for the Code Enforcement Officer hiring process.

Christine Almand said she has someone from the Fire Marshall's Office who has offered to help. There will be a panel for the process.

Betty Austin asked when the interviews would be.

Christine Almand said approximately the second week of May.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to appoint Roger Staples as the Selectman Representative for the Code Enforcement Officer hiring process.

Vote: 4/0

Recording Time: 18:12

11. Discussion and decision to install three-way stop signs at the intersection of Greenwood Avenue and Cleveland Street.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to install three-way stop signs at the intersection of Greenwood Avenue and Cleveland Street.

Paul York said he is not for this. He said if there is an issue with the right-of-way, then we could put a stop sign there. People will just go through the stop signs. It will be a cluster with as many cars as go through there.

Greg Dore said that additional traffic is not the only reason that motivated this decision. We have widened Greenwood Avenue several times now. What happens is that people coming down Cleveland Street don't slow down so they end up in the other lane...so people coming up Greenwood Avenue end up being forced off of the pavement. This also breaks up the pavement on that corner. Every intersection on Greenwood Avenue and Dane Avenue have a four-way stop. This would be consistent with the rest of that road. Putting in the three stop signs will alleviate the need to put the speed tables back in. This will alleviate more than one issue on the intersection. He feels that this is the right thing to do. Each of these streets were designed to go all the way through. It is an intersection...a 90 degree turn...the intersection should have stop signs. Now that the mobile home park is expanding to 30 homes...the right-of-way into that intersection will be more heavily used...especially with the improvements planned for that road. We will do some public education. We won't put them up tomorrow and start writing tickets.

Roger Staples asked if there are a lot of accidents there now.

Chief Bucknam said that there are not really accidents. People are going off the road on the right hand side. It is a common occurrence. You can drive up there and see the ruts now.

Roger Staples said he has seen some scary times there.

Chief Bucknam said that with the expected additional traffic it would be better to have the three-way stop...rather than just one.

Jeff Hewett said he travels that area often and he cannot support this. It doesn't make any sense. If people are speeding...give them tickets. To put everyone through a three-way stop there is ridiculous.

Betty Austin said she goes through there a lot and she feels that it would be helpful. She often ends up in the ruts because somebody is on her side of the road on that corner. She feels that the other four-way stop signs in that area have made it safer. People get used to it. She thinks it is a good idea.

Paul York said that he thinks it will get congested. There is a lot of traffic through there. We are going to create another issue. We can't compare those other side streets because they don't have close to the volume of cars that Cleveland and Greenwood have. That corner is what it is. It is not an intersection. If the volume increases because of the mobile home park...put a stop sign there.

Randy Gray said it would make sense to see how the community around there feels about it. It was quite a big issue when we tried the one-way streets.

Gene Rouse asked how to go about getting the input.

Randy Gray said if it is on the Agenda and advertised you will get the input.

Christine Almand said that it is on the Agenda. The only other way we put it on the Agenda and advertise it differently is to have a Public Hearing.

Paul York said maybe a Public Hearing wouldn't be a bad thing.

Greg Dore said that there is no comparison between putting in stop signs and one-way traffic. The one-way traffic was an inconvenience to people in that neighborhood. A stop sign isn't anywhere close to that. It's not just speed. There is going to be more traffic there. There is an ongoing issues of people going around that corner and cutting off oncoming traffic. It is not a curve...it is a 90 degree turn. He doesn't feel that we should wait until somebody has a head on collision before we fix this. Stopping at a stop sign is not that big of an inconvenience. It will only make that area safer. Greg Dore said that nobody drives down that street as much as he does. Stop signs help to remind people to pay attention. They are not on Madison Avenue... they are in a neighborhood.

Jeff Hewett asked if Greg Dore has ever considered redesigning that curve to take out the 90 degree turn.

Greg Dore said that he has not considered straightening the road, taking the curve out so that people can go faster. It never entered his mind, especially in a residential neighborhood.

Betty Austin asked if it would be a problem if we waited two weeks. We could put this on the next agenda and give people time to have some input.

Roger Staples said that he agrees with Greg Dore. Anything to make things safer in a residential neighborhood is a good thing. If you can slow down most people it will make everything safer for pedestrians and the driving public. He is in favor of the stop signs.

Betty Austin said that she is in favor of the stop signs, but she doesn't mind waiting.

Motion rescinded.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to table this item until the next meeting.

Gene Rouse said that he will try to get some input.

Betty Austin said that it is on this agenda, and will be on Channel 11. The two weeks will give people time to give their opinion.

Greg Dore said that you would need to assess why someone would be opposed to it. People don't want to stop at an intersection because it is going to take so much time?? There is going to be some opposition. How much weight can you really put in that opposition. The only people who are going to be opposed to it are the people who drive through there because they are in a hurry and trying to save time.

Paul York said he, sort of, disagrees with that. We tend to do things and spend money and then... We bought speed tables and we don't have any speed tables up. It is spring...so I get that. We are just going to create another whole issue. We have traffic backed up on Gem Street and North Avenue because it is sometimes hard to get out onto North Avenue. Now we are going to be backed up on Cleveland Street? Now we will have this big congestion. Now we've got highway trucks trying to get out and all of these cars stopping. Nobody knows who is supposed to go.

Greg Dore said to look at the intersections at Walmart and Hannaford. Everybody is pretty good about taking turns.

Paul York said they don't stop.

Greg Dore said that can be an issue with every four-way stop. Some people roll right through them. We are getting them to at least come close to a stop, and pay attention to their surroundings. There are a lot of children in that neighborhood.

Betty Austin said that we had to stop for a speed bump...we will have to stop for a stop sign.

Vote: 4/0

Recording Time: 39:59

12. Discussion regarding the disagreement between Lou Silver, Inc. and Laney's Construction.

Paul York said he asked that this be put on the Agenda. Some feel that this is a disagreement between Lou Silver and Laney. Lou Silver is a contractor that we hired to do a project in town. Now there are some unpaid bills. There is a disagreement as to why he is not paying it. He wanted the Selectmen to know what was going on because in the long run this could hurt us. It makes us look bad, since it is a contractor that we voted on to do this portion of the sewer project.

Paul York talked about the letters that were submitted. Silver took this gravel, and it is not being paid for. It could be a civil issue...but it is still a contractor that we hired.

Roger Staples said if he used the material or took the material, then it should be paid for.

Gene Rouse asked if he had the option to say it did not meet spec and for them to come and get it.

Paul York said that he did not have to take it. He went to Laney and wanted to purchase gravel. This project has been going on for two years. The gravel passed at one point. He was using the gravel and then it didn't pass. Laney tried to get it to pass and then it didn't pass again.

Christine Almand said that there were five tests done on the gravel before it finally passed. After it was used an out into the trenches it did not pass the on-site test. At that point Silver took it upon themselves to add rock to the gravel in order for it to pass. It had taken five tests and a month to get that gravel to pass spec. He put work and product into it to make it work. There is a legitimate beef on both sides. The hope is that these two companies will work it out amongst themselves. She is staying out of it.

Paul York said that the letter states that he was not in a position to stop work so he kept using the failing gravel until he could get it to pass. If it failed, he shouldn't have been using it...period. He obviously didn't feel that buying gravel someplace else was an option. He got 300 yards of gravel...not sure where that is...but Laney doesn't have it. It doesn't make sense that it passed and then didn't pass on-site.

Gene Rouse said that there were other spots to buy gravel...is that correct?

Christine Almand said that Laney is not the contractor that sells gravel.

Recording Time: 45:22

13. Treasurer's Warrants to be approved:

#83	\$	39,346.00 (Payroll #15)
#84	\$	12,471.60 (State payables)
#85	\$	38,703.77 (Payroll #16)
#86	\$	<u>928,510.12 (FY 2019 Accounts Payables)</u>
Total	\$	1,019,031.49

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

Vote: 4/0

14. Other Business

There was no Other Business.

15. 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

Christine Almand said that Efficiency Maine is doing the pre-bid bidders conference on the vehicle charging stations on Friday. KVCOG will be in on that. She and Jeff Hewett intend to attend the webinar as well.

16. Sign Documents

The Selectmen signed documents.

Adjourn Selectmen's Meeting.

Approved and signed on May 14, 2019.

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