

**Minutes
Town of Skowhegan
Regular Selectmen's Meeting
5:30 P.M.
Tuesday, May 26, 2020**

**** 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.

1. Town Manager's Report

We are finalizing a reopening plan and are expecting to open June 1st.

The Fuel Pumps Bid closes on June 3rd at 1100 a.m. For more information, visit our website or contact Greg Dore.

The Cemetery Reconstruction Bid closes on June 4th at 9:00 a.m. For more information, visit our website or contact Gail Pelotte.

I received a request from the Bankery and Skowhegan Fleuriste for permission to use the sidewalk abutting their store fronts on Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to noon from May 30, 2020 through October 31, 2020. I'm seeking Selectmen discussion and decision on this matter.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to allow the Bankery and Skowhegan Fleuriste to use the sidewalk abutting their store fronts on Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to noon from May 30, 2020 through October 31, 2020.

Vote: 5/0

2. Selectmen's Items

Betty Austin said that Skowhegan has been in the paper several times. Main Street Skowhegan was accepted into the Entrepreneurship Program. Skowhegan Parks & Recreation Department was the winner of a sixteen county competition for their summer meals program. The Maine International Film Festival will be at the Skowhegan Drive-In. Skowhegan is wonderful!

Betty Austin said that we have so many businesses, restaurants and stores that are being innovative, and doing everything they can to get business into their stores. Our veteran's memorial was all fixed up for Memorial Day.

Christine Almand said that Mark Bossie with some family and friends got the flags on the veteran's graves this year.

Indiscernible talking...

Paul York said that the Recreation Department and all activities will remain closed at this time. This will be looked at again in July, unless something changes before then. Hopefully we can indulge in the fall sports. The summer food program will still happen, just in a different way. Hopefully we can get back to business as usual soon.

3. Department and Committee Reports

Chief Howard said that you must have a permit to burn. It is very dry. We have had some red flag days. It is just too dry and windy during the day. People should use extreme caution with camp fires.

Recording Time: 15:14

Gail Pelotte encouraged people to vote absentee for July 14th. Go online or call the office 474-6900.

Public Hearings:

1. Public Hearing: Discussion and decision to approve the Victualer/Innkeeper License renewals, as attached, with terms expiring May 31, 2021.

Paul York opened the Public Hearing at 5:47 p.m.

Christine Almand said that we have Facebook Live going and we have a conference call open since we started the meeting. There is a bit of a lag on Facebook, so we will wait a bit to give people the opportunity to call in if they have comments or questions. The list is in the Agenda packet which is on our website.

There were no comments.

Paul York closed the Public Hearing at 5:49 p.m.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to approve the Victualer/Innkeeper License renewals, as attached, with terms expiring May 31, 2021.

Vote: 5/0

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve the minutes from the following:

Regular Selectmen's Meeting May 12, 2020

2. Approve the Request for Extension of License On Premise for Bigelow Brewing Company.

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

Vote: 5/0

Regular Agenda:

1. Discussion and decision to approve the Applications for bowling Alley/Pool Table Licenses for the following:

Pool Tables & Bowling Alley:

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

Pool Tables:

Fraternal Order of Eagles #1457
164 Water Street

Skowhegan/Madison Elks #2531
21 Silver Street

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to approve the applications for Bowling Alley/Pool Table Licenses as written.

Vote: 5/0

2. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00 from the Police Department Reserve Account, Audio/Visual Equipment for the maintenance and replacement of downtown cameras as necessary.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Roger Staples to expend an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00 from the Police Department Reserve Account, Audio/Visual Equipment for the maintenance and replacement of downtown cameras as necessary.

Gene Rouse asked how many cameras need to be replaced.

Chief Bucknam said they were looking to install a couple of new cameras. We also have some cameras that have been taken down, that need to be put back up. This would allow him to fix and replace the equipment, as necessary, throughout the year. We have done some stakeouts and walk-throughs to determine where we need more cameras.

Vote: 5/0

Recording Time: 23:51

3. Discussion and decision to reallocate \$1,200.00 from the Police Department Reserve Account, Tasers Designation to the Police Department Reserve Account, Trailer Designation, and to expend an amount not to exceed \$2,700.00 from the Police Department Reserve Account, Trailer Designation to purchase an enclosed trailer.

A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to reallocate \$1,200.00 from the Police Department Reserve Account, Tasers Designation to the Police Department Reserve Account, Trailer Designation, and to expend an amount not to exceed \$2,700.00 from the Police Department Reserve Account, Trailer Designation to purchase an enclosed trailer.

Chief Bucknam said that the trailer that they intended to purchase last year had sold before they could get it. He has been keeping an eye out for one throughout the year. Charlie & Sons had the best quote.

Paul York asked about the money coming out the Taser Account.

Chief Bucknam said that the taser contract ended up being less than we had budgeted, after negotiations. The prices on trailers have gone up since we last looked at them.

Vote: 5/0

4. Discussion and decision to allow Chief Bucknam to work with the Planning board to establish a needle exchange program ordinance.

A notion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to allow Chief Bucknam to work with the Planning board to establish a needle exchange program ordinance.

Chief Bucknam said that he had received a letter from MAP (Maine Access Point) in Portland Maine. They are looking to come to Skowhegan to do a needle exchange program. He is on the board of a Redington Fairview Committee and also the Chair of Somerset Public Health.

We have been working and working on the issues caused by substance abuse. MAP needed a license in order to operate here. They have since received a certificate from the CDC saying that they have been approved to conduct a needle exchange program. He is not in support of the way they intend to conduct this program. MAP does not want to implement their program at a health care facility...they want to have an unmarked vehicle in neighborhoods where they believe there is an issue. That poses a problem, not only for the police department, but for the entire community. They don't want to listen to what he has to say.

He is supposed to meet with them next week to look at locations that supposedly have a needle problem in town. The Police Department receives very few calls about needles being left on the ground. They say that they have statistics for these locations...but when asked where they got their statistics, they said word of mouth.

In Baltimore they are having issues with these needle exchange programs. People are turning in their needles and the selling the new needles on the street.

Chief Bucknam does not believe that the residents are going to want needles being handed out in their neighborhoods. He feels that this should be done in a controlled environment. This way we can make sure that the people running the program have been properly vetted. That fully loaded needles aren't being sold. There are statistics where these things are happening in some of these programs.

We have a right to put an ordinance in place to control these programs. Chief Bucknam highly recommends that we do that. Right now the location they want to use is right behind Al's Pizza.

Roger Staples asked if they have the right to come in and do this without our authorization.

Chief Bucknam said that right now it is illegal for anyone to be in possession of more than 11 needles. It is a class E crime. The State has given an open door to the needle exchange programs, so that they can carry more than that. It does not cover the people who actually utilize the program. If they hand out more than 11 needles they are helping an individual to break the law.

Vote: 5/0

5. Treasurer's Warrants to be approved:

#87	\$	38,422.49 (Payroll #20)
#88	\$	39,032.98 (Payroll #21)
#89	\$	871,135.82 (FY 2020 Accounts Payables)
Total	\$	948,591.29

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

Vote: 5/0

5. Other Business

Roger Staples asked about the signs.

Christine Almand said that they had been ordered and the payment for those is on the Warrant.

7. 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
- Second Bridge
- Solar Power
- Foreclosure Sales

No discussion on any of these items.

8. Sign Documents

The Selectmen signed documents.

Adjourn Selectmen's Meeting.

Approved and signed on June 9, 2020.

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_____	_____

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