

**Minutes
Town of Skowhegan
Regular Selectmen's Meeting
5:30 P.M.
Tuesday, June 22, 2021
Municipal Building – Council Room**

****Anyone wishing to view this meeting may also do so from the
Town of Skowhegan Facebook page****

Board of Selectmen:

Todd Smith, Vice Chairman
Harold Bigelow
Charles Robbins
Paul York

Town Manager:

Christine Almand

Executive Secretary:

Cara L. Mason

Call Selectmen's Meeting to order.

Todd Smith called the meeting to order.

1. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Town Manager's Report

The Municipal Building Masonry Repairs Bid closes on June 30th at 10:00 am. For more information visit our website or contact Jeff Hewett.

The 2021 CSO Phase 3.6 Bid closes on June 30th at 2:00 pm. For more information visit our website or contact Brent Dickey.

I will be out of the office June 25th – 28th for vacation. If you need assistance, you may contact Jeff Hewett.

The Town offices will be closed on July 5th in observation of Independence Day.

There is a Celebration of Life for Winton "Tom" Keene on Saturday, June 26th at 2:00 PM at the Skowhegan Fairgrounds.

3. Items by the Public

Kristina Cannon said that on Friday she was contacted by the national Main Street Center. We are one of the organizations in five states that have been selected to be partners with to provide support to local businesses. We will be announcing this week the awarding of \$6,500.00 to 14 local businesses. This is the second year. In total we have awarded nearly \$30,000.00. We have been conducting a need assessment. If you are a business owner and have not been contacted, you will be soon. We are putting together a plan to bolster support for our businesses.

We raised \$35,000.00 from the Maine Community Foundation to launch and operate an entrepreneurial facility. This could be a business incubator, a co-working space, a place that would provide business support. We are in discussions with a property owner in the downtown, to use their second-floor space for this.

We have partnered with the Central Maine Growth Council in Waterville to host a spoke of a regional accelerator program...providing support for business growth.

We finalized an industry trends study...local food and outdoor recreation. That information is on the Main Street Skowhegan website.

We are addressing housing needs in the downtown. Historic downtown buildings that are sitting vacant at the moment. If they were filled with people, it would provide more foot traffic for our downtown businesses. We have commissioned a study with grant funds to figure out some creative financing solutions. We are in talks with another property owner to do a case study. Through grant funding we would pay the developer fee for the to work on developing their second and third floors.

She feels honored to be asked to partner with them on this grant funding. We were told we could get optional letters of support from our community leaders. She asked the Selectmen to sign a letter of support on their behalf.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to sign the Letter of Support for Main Street Skowhegan for the SBA Community Navigators Program.

Vote: 4/0

Jason Gayne said that the first cookoff was last weekend. We had several community leaders as judges. There were only three teams from Maine. We had three world professionals competing in the tournament. Word definitely got out about Skowhegan and they want to come back. We will have a second annual tournament which will be much bigger. There are 15 to 20 teams that want to come from Canada.

We are working with Kristina, pushing forward with RiverFest. There will be a Parades and Processions for the Rotary Lobster Bake. Some of the advertising will go out in the next week or so.

4. Selectmen's Items

Charles Robbins welcomed Harold to the Board and congratulated Todd on his reelection.

Todd Smith thanked the voters for reelecting him. He said that the Chamber cookoff was a phenomenal event. If you didn't go, mark your calendar for next year. He became a certified state judge in this and he can now go worldwide. He was also a celebrity judge for the KCBS cookoff. You have never eaten BBQ until you have eaten from these world-renowned BBQ people.

5. Department and Committee Reports

Gail Pelotte said that the recount was completed today. She said, I told you so. The machines are right on. It definitely was the auxiliary ballots that determined the winner. She called Julie Flinn today and told her how thrilled she is with those machines. She has always had faith in them. They have done the job that they needed to do for us. She feels that our local elections are top notch.

Todd Smith said he witnessed the recount. It went very smoothly and Gail did a great job. He thanked Bill Laney and Roger Renfrew for helping to count ballots.

Jeff Hewett said that he is almost finished with the Phase 2 paperwork for the Façade grant. By the first of next week, we will be submitting that to the State.

The shrubs at the front of the Municipal Building have been taken down. Tomorrow we will be taking the roots out. This is to try and make it look a little better and keep it more manageable.

Public Hearing:

1. Public Hearing. Discussion regarding the CDBG 2021 Community Enterprise Program Grant.

Todd Smith opened the Public Hearing at 5:41 p.m.

Jeff Hewett said that when the program first started it was only for the downtown businesses. In 2015 the Selectmen wanted it opened up to all town businesses. In 2015 we had 19 applicants. 17 projects were approved. 9 of those were outside of the downtown and 8 were in the downtown. We had \$150,000.00. There was a little over \$200,000.00 in matching funds from the businesses. In 2018 we received \$100,000.00, which went out to 14 businesses.

We had \$186,000.00 in matching funds. In 2020, the world fell apart. The Selectmen voted to do a town Façade Program in the amount of \$100,000.00. That has not been completed. It is so hard to get contractors for these projects right now. Three have finished and paid. One just finished and we are waiting to make payment to them. Six are waiting for contractors to finish up their grants.

April 9th we out in for the new Façade Grant. We received approval on May 12th for \$100,000.00. We have six businesses that have expressed interest. We have a mandatory meeting for any business that is interested in the new Façade Grant tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. If they come it does not mean that they have to go through with the grant. However, if they have not attended this mandatory meeting they cannot apply for the grant. We have reached out directly to those who have expressed interest. We have also done new flashes to get the word out about it.

The Façade Program is for improvements to the outside of businesses. It is not for residential or apartments. We can do siding, windows, doors, ADA improvements, signage, exterior lighting. We have done roofs, but it is not high on our priority. We do prioritize new businesses before businesses that have applied before. If there is money left over, we will look at businesses that have gone through the program previously. There is a minimum of a one-to-one match. The easiest part is coming up with the match. Businesses are always doing some type of improvement. We are pretty liberal on what we can take as matching funds. Each property has to have a slum and blight declaration. Basically, this just says that it needs improvements. We had a slum and blight that covered the whole downtown. Now that we have gone town-wide, we have to do a slum and blight declaration for each business that applies. We also have to do historical clearance on each project. Those are done internally. The businesses work with us to come up with exactly what they want to do and we take that to Historical Preservation. So far, we haven't had any problems getting approval.

Todd Smith closed the Public Hearing at 5:48 p.m.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve the Minutes from the following:

Regular Selectmen's Meeting – May 25, 2021
Regular Selectmen's Meeting – June 8, 2021

2. Approve a Cemetery Deed in the East Skowhegan Cemetery for:

Timothy Knowles – Lot 178, 5th South Grave

3. Accept the resignation of Brady Chapman from the Planning Board effective June 30, 2021.

A motion was made by Charles Robbins and seconded by Paul York to approve the Consent Agenda as written.

Vote: 4/0

Regular Agenda:

1. Discussion and decision to appoint one Selectman as a member of the Hiring Committee for the Deputy Fire Chief/Inspector position.

A motion was made by Charles Robbins and seconded by Todd Smith to appoint Paul York as a member of the Hiring Committee for the Deputy Fire Chief/Inspector position.

Vote: 4/0

2. Discussion and decision to accept a donation in the amount of \$40.00 from Donald Gage for the police department.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to accept a donation in the amount of \$40.00 from Donald Gage for the police department.

Vote: 4/0

3. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$25.00 from the Benjamin Sawyer Prize Fund for the 2021 recipient.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to expend an amount not to exceed \$25.00 from the Benjamin Sawyer Prize Fund for the 2021 recipient.

Vote: 4/0

4. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$889,664.00 from the Highway Department Reserve Account, Roads and Sidewalks/Road Resurfacing Designation; \$690,000.00 for paving and \$199,664.00 for other work pertinent to paving.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to expend an amount not to exceed \$889,664.00 from the Highway Department Reserve Account, Roads and Sidewalks/Road Resurfacing Designation; \$690,000.00 for paving and \$199,664.00 for other work pertinent to paving.

Vote: 4/0

Recording Time: 24:38

5. Discussion and decision to waive the bid process, contract with Norridgewock Aerial Survey & Photo and expend an amount not to exceed \$13,000.00 from the Assessing Reserve Account, Tax Maps Designation to for AutoCAD file tax maps.

A motion was made by Charles Robbins and seconded by Todd Smith to waive the bid process, contract with Norridgewock Aerial Survey & Photo and expend an amount not to exceed \$13,000.00 from the Assessing Reserve Account, Tax Maps Designation to for AutoCAD file tax maps.

Charles Robbins asked if this was a one-time fee, and if there would be an annual fee.

Jeff Hewett said that this is a one-time fee. We are going away from the old mylar tax maps which have been done for the last fifty years or more through Sacket & Brake. They have been wanting to phase this out. They do it all manually. We have been working with NASP on the electronic tax maps for the website. There then will be an annual fee of about \$1,000.00.

Christine Almand said that this went through the budget process to put those funds into the Assessing Reserve Account for this.

Todd Smith said he appreciated Jeff listing the reasons why we should do this. That is important when asking to waive the bid.

Vote: 4/0

6. Discussion and decision to award the Jewett Street Engineering Proposal. The following proposals were received:

Haley Ward	\$18,500.00
Dirigo Engineering/Barton & Logudidice	\$35,000.00
Plymouth Engineering	\$38,500.00

Greg Dore recommends awarding the Jewett Street Engineering Proposal to Haley Ward with a total amount of \$18,500.00 and expending that amount from the Highway Department Reserve Account, Roads and Sidewalks Resurfacing Designation. Tabled from the last meeting.

A motion was made by Charles Robbins and seconded by Paul York to award the Jewett Street Engineering Proposal to Haley Ward with a total amount of \$18,500.00 and expend that amount from the Highway Department Reserve Account, Roads and Sidewalks Resurfacing Designation.

Harold Bigelow said that he is totally against this whole project. He said this is a total waste of money. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. This is just the start at \$18,000.00. Why? Gasoline has gone up \$1.00, in six months. Plowing roads and maintaining roads, asphalt, everything to do with petroleum. You can't get anybody to work. He said he is all for hunkering down. He can't see spending money. That is just engineering. Somebody is going to sit back with a big cigar, sit back and haul their equipment in and they've got \$500,000.00. They are not going to do it. That is a lot of work. CMP relocating everything. We've got other fish to fry here. We've got a lot of roads. You just can't skin these roads anymore. You've got to resurface them. Put that money into rebuilding the roads.

Paul York said that this project is an improvement to the intersection. No different than any other road in town that people are screaming for improvement. What we are asking for at this point is for a design. This is a state-initiated project. The state is paying for a portion of this project. The Selectmen need to keep in mind that this project was in the reserve accounts that were approved at Town Meeting. Article 24 authorized the Selectmen to approve or disapprove this...there was no opposition at Town Meeting. Now we are having an issue just to get a design. At any give time we can change that design. It is bigger than...changing lights, changing sidewalks, improving the whole intersection. That intersection is pretty rough. We don't even have a design, so we don't even know what we are arguing yet.

Don Kinney said he had looked at the intersection. His opinion is that we need to have it engineered. It's not just the corner. It's the sidewalk across the street. There is a pole on the south side of Jewett Street that they are going to take out. They will put lights on Park Street with an arm out there. There is a lot more to it. Everybody has got to look at the whole picture.

Charles Robbins said that the business owner is clearly concerned about his right-of-way and losing his land. What if we can't avoid taking that right-of-way and making it an illegal parking lot?

Don Kinney said that once we have it engineered then we have to make the decision whether the work is done or not. We have the final say. There might not be anything we can do about the corner, but the other stuff...the lights on Park Street...will be an improvement.

Harold Bigelow said that \$18,000.00 right off the bat...

Paul York said that the question of taking land, has been answered several times. Nobody is looking to take anybody's land. We are certainly not looking to take a parking lot. We have heard that concern. Again, we are arguing something that we don't even know if it is in the proposal. We don't have it yet. Once we get the design, it is going to come back to this board. He said it is unfortunate that we are just going to scrap the whole thing. We don't even know what we are arguing.

Don Kinney said that it is not a State program. It is a Town project. The State is going to pay half on it, if we end up doing it. After they engineer it, there may not be anything that we can do. The last thing we want to do is to take State Farm's land.

Charles Robbins said that numerous times we have talked about a right-hand turn onto Jewett Street. Have we considered a right-hand turn off of Jewett Street? There is a telephone pole right on that corner.

Don Kinney said that they are going to move the sidewalk towards Wal-Greens. He has been trying to find out as much as he could the last three or four days. Everything he has found is a positive on it. He said he had the State guy in his office. He has talked to everybody he could think of. Some of them can't give many answers. This is a Town project.

Charles Robbins said he thought that the State came to us and said that this is a dangerous intersection.

Don Kinney said he was told that it is a Town project.

Todd Smith said that he has a letter from Senator Farrin who serves on the Transportation Committee. "This project is a Municipal Partnership Initiative." It is a Town project, led by the Town. Engineered and managed by the Town. All DOT contributes is funding. Todd Smith said that in Greg Dore's presentation, he mentioned Jon Moody's proposal with the movement of the bus garage, that this would be a good thing. Todd Smith attended the School Board Meeting last Thursday. He talked to David Leavitt, who is the support services manager. He said that there have been no complaints from bus drivers or accidents on that

corner with school buses...for a school that has been there for 66 years. If that is what we are using to justify the project, we are wrong. Todd Smith does see merit in this project in that the lighting could be enhanced. He looked at the bid specs, he would entertain a motion to change the scope of this project to eliminate any right-hand turn lane. Let's work on improving that road and our lighting, but he doesn't see any factual data that we need to make any changes to that right-hand turn.

Don Kinney said that it is \$18,000.00 but it might change a lot of things for the good.

Harold Bigelow said that we have \$5 million school coming in. They are going to modify the streets. There will be a lot of different traffic. He doesn't feel that that will be a focus point. He thinks it will be getting across the bridges and... We might be spending a lot of money right now on something...we ought to be looking at other fires. Five years is going to go by quick. With that school coming in, that is another reason to hold back on that spendage. There will be a lot of changes with that school coming in downtown. We will be reassessing all of our thoughts in a couple years.

Todd Smith talked about a prior discussion, where moving the center line over was discussed. That would prevent people from thinking that it is two lanes and would provide more room for a right-hand turn. It seems like there are things that we can do to alleviate any issues without having to tear up that corner.

Don Kinney said he thinks there is too. There are somethings that we need the engineering, and some things that we don't need.

Todd Smith said he thinks that we should scrap the parts that don't make sense.

Paul York said we don't even have anything, so we are arguing something that we don't know. We don't know what is was going to look like. He assumes that the engineers will take all of this into account and come up with what the best solution would be. Nobody has said that we are taking any corner. We are talking about something that is not even in front of us. What is on the table is to go out for a design, which is bigger than just widening the intersection. Sidewalks and lights will be a big improvement. We are always looking to improve. Now we don't want to improve this spot. Madison Avenue is the busiest spot we have in town.

Harold Bigelow asked what problem we were trying to improve. We have sidewalks. Two weeks ago, it was all about making corners for truck-drivers. Carrier said that they never take that corner. You don't make a corner that you know you can't make. If you made a mistake, you would go up and turn around. That is a lot of money for an engineer. There are so many other problems coming up.

Recording Time: 43:38

Don Skillings said he thinks there are some improvements that can be made to that intersection. He thanked the Selectmen for allowing him to speak. He is disheartened by some previous statements made on June 11th. The Town Manager made comments that he had no new information and that this is not a situation where she wished to answer hypothetical questions about a plan that we haven't even started yet.

Don Skillings said that this has started. This two-week timeframe, which some of you felt was unnecessary...and I would not find any new information, you were mistaken. During this time period he has done countless hours of research. He has had numerous conversations with engineers, school district employees and our new Road Commissioner. He has been incredibly helpful. Moving forward he would like for the Selectmen and the Town Manager to hear some of his findings.

The information that this has no yet begun is false and misleading. As a taxpayer and a community member, the transparency of our Town Manager and former Road Commissioner have to be called into question. He is now questioning the impartiality of our Town Manager. She makes statements such as "there is no new information this business owner can provide this Board". "There is nothing different tonight than what will be in two weeks, besides, Betty will no longer be on the Board. So, what that could be, at the two weeks is a stale mate, which this does not pass." Essentially urging this Board to make a decision that night. Thankfully there were three of you that allowed this opportunity.

We were all directly misled by our former Road Commissioner, Greg Dore. He states, on the record, that there were no plans or drawings of this intersection. On February 11th, Greg Dore received six drawings, from Erin Dwyer at Dirigo Engineering. He has these with him tonight.

Don Skillings said that he had asked at the May 11th meeting to be copied on all correspondence. The Selectmen agreed that he would be copied. He has yet to receive anything, other than a meeting notice from Dena Rich. He was forced to go find the facts himself. He found three bid packages, six drawings dated February 11th and he is waiting for the grant application that Greg submitted. Is this the transparency that you are speaking of?

In the State of Maine, you have the right to take his Right-of-way. He is asking for leniency, that you not do that. If you choose to take that right-of-way, the State's need supersedes that of a landowner, in a right-of-way dispute. Essentially, there is no remediation for that loss. The parking lot becomes inoperable.

The design of the corners...there is a difference between a WB40, WB62 and WB50 truck when it comes to corners. WB40 is your standard box truck...school bus. A WB 52, which is in fact what Greg put on the application for the grant, is larger than the WB40. Anything larger than the WB40 would require a grab of the land beyond the right-of-way. That would be an eminent domain situation. He spoke to two engineers. This would not pass on eminent domain, because you couldn't demonstrate enough need to have the State step in to take that property.

Erin Dwyer (who designed this intersection for Greg in six different ways) and John Whitten with the firm in Bangor...that you are proposing to accept right now, \$18,500.00...have stated that they will be taking all of the right-of-way. One of them stated that you cannot widen this turn without taking the right-of-way. The rear wheels of a truck will not be back in the travel lane until the light pole at Steve's Snacks. Across the entire driveway, not just the corner.

There is a drawing by Erin Dwyer that does shift things over. When you look at the drawings, they are doing the turns from travel lane one, which is the left-hand lane on Madison Avenue. You can't make that turn in front of other traffic.

The bus garage situation...Don Skillings talked to Mr. Leavitt and Terry (who is in charge of the busses). Bus 27 that occasionally does not take Dyer Street, and takes Jewett Street instead. That person states that although the corner is not fund, it is absolutely manageable.

Mr. Leavitt told Don Skillings that there is no problem in that intersection.

Don Skillings said he asked Mr. Leavitt what would happen if the bus garage was placed on the Jewett Street/North Elementary site.

Mr. Leavitt told him that there is no problem with that intersection.

Don Skillings said that he checked on accidents at that intersection. This came from the engineers from the Town's bid package. Traffic control is provided by actualized traffic signal with video-based vehicle detection. The traffic signal is a 3-phase single with an advanced left-turn phase provided for the Route 201 southbound traffic. A crosswalk is provided on the intersection. There were 13 total crashes in the last 3 years...none rear end/sideswipes, three intersection movements, and one involving a pedestrian. Your traffic counts are 5,942,200 vehicles pass through the 201 intersection per year. This does not count Jewett Street. The accidents do count Jewett Street. In three years, you have 17,826,600 vehicles pass through that intersection with only 13 accidents. You have a 99.28% chance of making it through this intersection unscathed. You have a better chance of catching one of those funny diseases and not making it through.

Don Skillings said if you want to change the lighting, change the sidewalks, move the yellow line, move the white line...no problem...put it out to bid. If you are putting in that bid that you want to widen that intersection...he will be back and we will have these discussions over and over and over.

Recording Time: 55:42

He does not feel that it is needed. We haven't talked to Tykes or Walgreens on the other side, or to Steve's Snacks. If you do that end...what happens on the Route 150 side? There is a phone pole on the side of the road, if you take a right onto 150. Now you have trucks swinging into the other lane on 150. That hasn't been thought through yet. The truck route is up 150, no right hand turns for trucks. If the rare one does make it...where the pole is now, they are safe. He sat there for 5 hours today waiting for a truck to turn right. Not one truck made that turn. This does not need to happen.

The engineer says in the bid package that adding the Park Street light will significantly reduce the flow of traffic and cause significant backups without doing a multitude of things to free that traffic up. You are potentially creating another hazard. Page 3 of the Barton proposal.

Todd Smith said that Mr. Leavitt had told him that it makes much more sense for buses to not take that right-hand turn...they would have to use the rotary. They don't want to take school buses around the rotary. They would go up North Avenue to Jewett Street.

Todd Smith suggested rejecting these bids and going out to bid with new specs, eliminating the right-hand turn portion of the project.

Charles Robbins said that it needs to be clear in the bid packet that we are not focused on the right-hand turn and taking any of that right-of-way. He would support the lights and the sidewalks.

Christine Almand said that nowhere in the bid packet does it mention right-hand turn, Don Kinney would need to come up with some language to accomplish what they are talking about. She also said that school buses were a small part of the conversation. There were many other matters. This is an MPI project with the State. Yes, it is a Town project. However, our Road Commissioner works in conjunction with Maine DOT for many years on these types of projects. If the Maine DOT did not see a benefit in moving forward with this, would not fund it. What has been brought to you from the Road Commissioner, past and present, was discussed with the DOT.

Christine Almand said that she would touch base with the Road Commissioner to make sure that Don Skillings is copied on all communications.

Don Skillings cautioned the Selectmen to check the facts on all of these issues. If you put a light at Park Street, look what it does to 201. It was explained to him by the engineer in Bangor that it is a 2-phase intersection...Jewett Street will go green, left and right...then the light at Park Street will go green, left and right...then Madison Avenue. You are doubling the time for traffic to flow on your major artery. As we look at these broad scope projects, sometimes that puts us at a detriment. It wouldn't hurt you at a detriment if you took his corner and made a commercial corner and allowed everything to flow. If you want to buy the building, come see him. He will walk away and relocate.

These drawings were on Greg's desk and Don Skillings asked on a number of occasions...the Town Manager, Greg Dore and the Selectmen, and he was assured that there were no drawings.

Paul York said that anything that is going to happen is going to come through the Selectmen. Paul York said he doesn't know what is on Chief Howard's desk, he doesn't know what is on Don Kinney's desk right now.

Don Skillings said that this was a question from a concerned citizen, directly to you both. He had to go find them.

Paul York said that until it come through this Board and is approved or disapproved...nothing is happening.

Don Skillings said that Paul York told him that something would be done, if communication didn't work...on May 11th. Don Skillings said that he is telling him tonight that there was no communication. He will wait for the response.

Paul York said that once again he is arguing something that we don't even know yet.

Don Skillings said that there was information within the Town that was requested and was not given.

Paul York said that it hasn't gone across this Board to have this engineered...to see what the design would be.

Charles Robbins asked...if we didn't approve the engineering, then who did the engineering.

Christine Almand said that she has never seen those drawings.

Don Skillings said that Dirigo Engineering was asked to do drawings for the grant application that Greg Dore has to submit. He was given six drawings. Erin from Dirigo Engineering told Don Skillings that this is a very odd procedure. Typically, the engineers submit the application right from their office. Greg Dore wanted the drawings and wanted to submit the application himself. It is in the bid package as the WB50. This was not transparent at all. There is a lot of work that has been done...that he requested and was never provided. You told me at a meeting, where I couldn't represent myself, that there was nothing new he could present. He got a lot of information in the last two weeks, that he was never given when asked.

Todd Smith said that he is feeling a little bit misled with the information that they just recently learned. This information actually did exist on May 11th, when we asked for that information. We should have a follow up conversation at some point.

Don Skillings thanked Don Kinney.

Vote: 1/3 (Charles Robbins, Todd Smith and Harold Bigelow opposed)

7. Discussion and decision to approve the KVCOG Contract for Planning Services from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

A motion was made by Charles Robbins and seconded by Harold Bigelow to approve the KVCOG Contract for Planning Services from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Christie Almand said that the current rate is \$63.00 per hour. The new rate is \$64.00, which is a 1.6% increase.

Vote: 4/0

8. Discussion and decision to allow Christine Almand to sign the Amendment to Professional Services Agreement with Haley Ward and expend an amount not to exceed \$15,500.00 from the Public Safety Building Bond to add the engineering for the sewer line.

A motion was made by Charles Robbins and seconded by Harold Bigelow to allow Christine Almand to sign the Amendment to Professional Services Agreement with Haley Ward and expend an amount not to exceed \$15,500.00 from the Public Safety Building Bond to add the engineering for the sewer line.

Todd Smith asked if this was included in the previous study that they provided.

Chief Howard said that when they did the contract for services for the engineering, they gave us a quote that included engineering for a private septic system. Once they were told that we wanted to connect to a public sewer line...they did that, and then they sent a bill. We had a discussion with them that this cannot happen. If we are starting to have discussion that will change the fee...we need to know that up front. They are aware of that, and it shouldn't be an issue again.

Christine Almand said this is just the design. Not for the actual project.

Todd Smith said the bid for that will come forward at a later time, he assumes.

Chief Howard said that none of the work has gone to bid. He assumes that would be part of the project bid.

Charles Robbins asked about the bill.

Chief Howard said that previously the contract for services and fees was approved.

Christine Almand said that \$650,000.00 was already approve for the engineering. That included \$1,000.00 for the design of a septic system. This is additional design work. In the end, the project is expected to be lower, with better service and lower perpetual costs.

Chief Howard said that we haven't paid all of that out yet. We get bills every couple weeks or so. This is an increase to the fee for the sewer line connection design.

Paul York said he doesn't ever recall us saying that we were doing a private septic. We knew that it wasn't feasible, because of what we would need.

Chief Howard said that in the very beginning there was a very brief discussion about septic. We felt that public sewer was a much better option. At no time were we in favor of a septic system. We did not request that from them. Somewhere that communication got lost.

Paul York said he doesn't know how much engineering is necessary to hook into a public sewer system.

Todd Smith agreed.

Paul York said there is not a lot of thought process...they need the flows and they have to come out of the building at a certain elevation...we have to go from point A to point B.

Chief Howard said he isn't an engineer. He would hope that it is more than that. We do have a bit more of a breakdown, but he doesn't have that in front of him.

Christine Almand said that task one is survey for sewer connection for \$3,000.00...task two is sewer system design for \$11,000.00, she assumes that is not only the line, but also at the building. Task three is provision of highway opening permit for sewer installation for \$1,500.00. That may not even be necessary.

Paul York said it is going to be designed either way...whether it is going into a private or public it still has to be designed coming out of the building. Sounds like a lot of extra money to hook into a public sewer line.

Chief Howard said that he and Christine had a lot of discussions with them on our displeasure. The fact that we come to the Selectmen with an amount, we get permission, you guys approve a certain amount...and then for something like that to happen. We certainly don't want to come to you with things like this. We don't like surprises like that. We have made them very aware of what the situation is and what our expectations are. That does nothing for this situation, but he certainly hopes that we don't see a situation like this in the future.

Charles Robbins asked what happens if we don't approve this.

Chief Howard said he didn't know. He would assume that it would be a civil issue, since the work has been done.

Todd Smith asked if the sewer system work has been done, can we get a better understanding of what the design is rather than just a flat dollar amount. Can we see what the actual design is? Is this from the building or just from the property to the line? We don't want them coming back and saying that it didn't include the design for the building portion.

Chief Howard said that this is a change to the overall project. It's not like they will be coming back and billing us for different things. This is a small percentage of the overall project.

Paul York said if we are going to have extra costs, we need to be aware of it before it happens. Change Orders happen on a lot of big projects. We see that a lot, but we need to know ahead of time.

Chief Howard said they have had a lot of conversations and emails. He and Christine had a very frank conversation with the civil engineer, the lead architect and the project manager.

Christine Almand said it was made very clear that this will not happen again. If we start having conversation that are going to cost more money, they have to tell us first.

Charles Robbins said it sounds like our hands are tied...we have a bill and we have to pay it.

Vote: 4/0

Recording Time: 01:22:50

9. Discussion and decision to approve a Pole Location Permit to allow Central Maine Power and Consolidated Communications of Northern New England to place one pole on the Back Road, 7,955 feet south of the intersection of Back Road and Palmer Road.

A motion was made by Charles Robbins and seconded by Paul York to approve a Pole Location Permit to allow Central Maine Power and Consolidated Communications of Northern New England to place one pole on the Back Road, 7,955 feet south of the intersection of Back Road and Palmer Road.

Vote: 4/0

10. Discussion and decision to approve the pay-scale for non-union employees.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to approve the pay-scale for non-union employees.

Christine Almand said that this is to add the Deputy Chief/Inspector position to the pay scale. She put it in the hourly pay-scale for non-union employees under the same class as the Deputy Chief of Police.

Vote: 4/0

11. Discussion and decision to approve the Appointments, Selectmen Appointments and Selectmen Sub-committee Appointments.

Gai Pelotte said she forgot to add Steve Govoni to the Second Bridge Committee.

A motion was made by Charles Robbins and seconded by Paul York to approve the Appointments as amended.

Vote: 4/0

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to approve Selectmen Appointments and Selectmen Sub-committee Appointments as amended.

Vote: 4/0

12. Discussion and decision to schedule a Workshop to discuss Selectmen's goals.

Scheduled for July 13, 2021 @ 4:30 p.m.

13. Discussion and decision to schedule a special election to fill the vacant Selectman seat.

There was discussion with Gail Pelotte about the nomination process and potentially shortening the process for a special election. There was some discussion about not getting much voter turnout with a special election. There was consensus that the Selectmen didn't want to wait until the November elections.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to tentatively set the date for August 24, 2021 and for Gail Pelotte to have the paperwork to shorten the nomination process for the July 13, 2021 meeting.

Vote: 4/0

14. Treasurer's Warrants to be approved:

#96	\$	52,559.40 (Payroll #23)
#97	\$	43,545.69 (Payroll #24)
#98	\$	12,079.26 (State Payables)
#99	\$	899,258.87 (FY 2021 Accounts Payables)
Total	\$	1,007,443.22

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to approve the Treasurer's Warrants as written.

Vote: 4/0

Cara Mason read a question from Kim Gray on Facebook. What is the other special meeting for? It has been mentioned several times.

Christine Almand said that was for the Solar Ordinance and to solidify an agreement for a solar field on our landfill.

15. Unfinished Business

- Review Policies and Ordinances
- Run of River/Economic Development
- Utilizing Outside Services
- Marketing/Celebrating Skowhegan
- Public Safety Building
- Sidewalks and Bike Trails/Lanes
- Second Bridge
- Solar Power

No Unfinished Business discussed.

16. Other Business

Jason Gayne said that it has been discussed before to try to come up with ways to make the town more business friendly. He would like to do that prior to the joint meeting with the Planning Board.

Todd Smith said that is something we are going to schedule during our goal setting workshop.

Todd Smith said that there is a vacancy on the Planning Board. With the new application process, we had listed it for 30 days last time. He was thinking more like two weeks...so we could vote sooner, rather than leaving it vacant.

Christine Almand suggested three weeks.

There was a consensus to list the vacancy for three weeks.

17. Sign Documents

Adjourn Selectmen's Meeting.

Approved and signed on July 13, 2021.

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