

**Minutes  
Town of Skowhegan  
Regular Selectmen's Meeting  
5:30 P.M.  
Tuesday, July 9, 2019  
Municipal Building – Council Room**

**Board of Selectmen:**

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

**Town Manager:**

Christine Almand - Absent

**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

Judy York asked who is responsible for cutting the trees a shrubs in the triangle on Main Street. There are trees growing out of the shrubs.

Greg Dore said the Denise LeBlanc is responsible for that.

Paul York said that he would bring it to her attention.

3. Selectmen's Items

Betty Austin said she is happy to see, not only on Facebook, but out in the public...Police Officers interacting with the public.

Roger Staples said that Al's Pizza is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> year.

Gene Rouse asked about the landing on the island.

Greg Dore said he needs to find out who is responsible for it.

Gene Rouse asked about the tree that is supposed to be planted by the bench, in the park on the island.

Greg Dore said that the Gristmill has a tree that they need to have removed. We are waiting for Amber Lambke, and summertime is not a good time to transplant a tree.

Paul York thanked Greg Dore for getting the fountains running.

Paul York said that the parking lots and the park on the corner need to be maintained. It is starting to look like a jungle.

Paul York asked Jeff Hewett if we had someone to weed downtown this summer.

Jeff Hewett said that we usually have someone through a program. They have not been able to find anybody through that program. He said he would try to get ahold of them again.

Betty Austin asked about the program through the Sherriff's Department to have the prisoners do some of this work.

Greg Dore said that they still have the program. You have to hire a deputy to be with them while they are working.

#### 4. Department & Committee Reports

Greg Dore said that DOT has milled almost to Whittemore's on Route 201. They have to go back and fix the shoulders. They will be moving in the lights to start working on Waterville Road and West Front Street in about a week.

B&B Paving has moved onto the East Rover Road. They will be grinding and reclaiming that section of road.

The sweeper is fixed. They are not replacing it with a new machine, but they did extend the warranty on it.

The mower is being fixed. The parts came in today.

There was some significant damage to the swinging bridge over the weekend. He thanked the residents that took the time to fix what they could.

Paul York asked where we are with the turning lane.

Greg Dore said that they have met with the engineers and the utilities. CMP is looking at putting in three poles, because we couldn't get the easement for the guide wire. We are looking at the middle of August. We will definitely get it done before the end of the year.

Greg Dore said that the landowner would consider giving us the easement if we would install a sound-proof wall. The engineer is sending quotes on what that would cost. If it is feasible, we may want to do that.

Paul York asked if we are working with the State, so that this is completed before they come through to pave.

Greg Dore said if we can have it ready for the finish course, they will do it for the cost of the asphalt. If not, we will have to pave it.

Jeff Hewett said that On Target has been switching out the street lights on the north side of town. We have a few issues that we are working out. For the size of the project, it is going pretty good.

We are 30 to 45 days from finishing the major changes in the Municipal Building. The roof access has been installed. The heat pump/air conditioners need to be wired into the system.

Paul York asked if we were on schedule with the whole project.

Jeff Hewett said that we are a little behind schedule. We are moving along fairly well.

Recording Time: 15:51

**Consent Agenda:**

1. Approve and sign Minutes from the following:

Regular Selectmen's Meeting – June 25, 2019

2. Accept the resignation of Garrett Quinn from the Planning Board effective immediately.

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

**Vote: 5/0**

**Regular Agenda:**

1. Discussion and decision to appoint Tim Williams and Jacob Boudreau as Corporals with terms expiring June 30, 2020.

**A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to appoint Tim Williams and Jacob Boudreau as Corporals with terms expiring June 30, 2020.**

**Vote: 5/0**

2. Discussion and decision to appoint Kelly Hooper as Detective Sergeant with a term expiring June 30, 2020.

**A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to appoint Kelly Hooper as Detective Sergeant with a term expiring June 30, 2020.**

**Vote: 5/0**

The officers were sworn in and pinned.

3. Discussion and decision to appoint Timothy Malyk as Health Officer with a term expiring June 30, 2024.

**A motion was made by Betty Austin and Gene Rouse to appoint Timothy Malyk as Health Officer with a term expiring June 30, 2024.**

**Vote: 5/0**

4. Discussion and decision to appoint the following to the Planning Board:

Brady Chapman – term expiring June 30, 2021

Kris Laney – term expiring June 30, 2022

**A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Roger Staples to appoint the following to the Planning Board:**

**Brady Chapman – term expiring June 30, 2021**

**Kris Laney – term expiring June 30, 2022**

**Vote: 5/0**

5. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$41,522.00 from the Downtown TIF as match funds for the Efficiency Maine, Car Charging Grant.

**A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Roger Staples to expend an amount not to exceed \$41,522.00 from the Downtown TIF as match funds for the Efficiency Maine, Car Charging Grant.**

Paul York asked, why the change in price.

Jeff Hewett said that it is not a change in price from Revision. We have to guarantee that these are maintained for four years. The figures for the warranty didn't come in until after this had been submitted. He also had to up the internet connection for those because we intend to charge for use.

**Vote: 5/0**

6. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$306.25 from the DARE Reserve Account for Camp POSTCARD.

**A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to expend an amount not to exceed \$306.25 from the DARE Reserve Account for Camp POSTCARD.**

Chief Bucknam said that this has already been purchased. He made an error.

**Vote: 5/0**

7. Discussion and decision to award the Masonry Work – Municipal Building Bid. The following Bids were received:

|                             |                                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Buzzard Masonry             | \$18,500.00                       |
|                             | \$3,500.00 (North Entrance Steps) |
| Maine Highlands Contracting | \$19,870.00                       |
|                             | \$3,897.00 (North Entrance Steps) |

Jeff Hewett recommends awarding the Masonry Work – Municipal Building Bid to Buzzard Masonry with a total bid price of \$22,000.00 and expending that amount from the Municipal Building Reserve Account, Repairs Designation.

**A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Roger Staples to award the Masonry Work – Municipal Building Bid to Buzzard Masonry with a total bid price of \$22,000.00 and expend that amount from the Municipal Building Reserve Account, Repairs Designation.**

**Vote: 5/0**

Recording Time: 26:40

8. Discussion and decision to award the Loader Bid. Breakdown of bids is in the Selectmen's packets. The following base bids were received:

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Milton CAT            | \$198,900.00 |
| Beauregard            | \$179,900.00 |
| Northland JCB         | \$157,000.00 |
| Chadwick BaRoss       | \$170,207.00 |
| Central Equipment Co. | \$152,719.00 |
| Heavy Machines        | \$209,200.00 |

Greg Dore recommends awarding the Loader Bid to Central Equipment Co. with a total bid amount of \$162,639.00 and expending the first payment of \$56,174.65 from the Highway Department Reserve Account, Equipment Replacement Designation.

**A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Gene Rouse to award the Loader Bid to Central Equipment Co. with a total bid amount of \$162,639.00 and expend the first payment of \$56,174.65 from the Highway Department Reserve Account, Equipment Replacement Designation.**

Dennis Willette asked why there was a difference in the bid price and the recommended price.

Greg Dore said that the bid price is a base bid. He included a warranty and the bucket. The memo shows that these were added in to compare the bids apples to apples. This is a new company that we do not have experience with. He did some research. One of his seasonal guys runs one of these working for Pike during the summer. He likes this machine. The guys ran it and were impressed with it.

Paul York said he doesn't want to spend more money, but every time we go with the low bid with an unfamiliar company we seem to get burned. He doesn't want to buy equipment because the guys liked it. He wants to buy equipment that is going to do what we need it to do.

Greg Dore said we shouldn't overlook that when men operate a machine...if they like the machine they are going to take better care of it. Amos had been running a loader for 20 plus years. He has operated a lot of different loaders. He respects his judgement because he would know.

If money wasn't a factor he would buy Caterpillar and nothing else. He cannot justify that kind of money. He understands the concern. The Wacker Neuson has given us trouble and the Shwartz sweeper has given us trouble from day one. He thinks that this machine will be better.

Paul York asked if we would get the level of service if something goes wrong with this.

Greg Dore said that one thing about the Wacker Neuson...they have been here when we have trouble. They have been here on Saturday and at 4:00 a.m.

Roger Staples asked where they are located.

Greg Dore said that they are located in Hermon. Their mechanic lives in Newport. Central Equipment carries some of the parts that typically break. A lot of these companies don't stock parts, you have to wait for them to be ordered.

Paul York said he doesn't want to buy a piece of equipment because the guys like it. Whether they like it or not, they are taking care of it, he hopes. If they are not, it should be addressed. We have had such issues with equipment lately. He doesn't want us to end up getting burned.

Greg Dore said that we have had the John Deere since 2004. We haven't had many issues with it...but they are expensive. The John Deere is \$193,000.00. Is \$30,000.00 enough money to take a risk? When we buy these on a three year lease, we should trade it in the fourth year. When you get to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year, we are spending more money than the machine is worth.

He would love to buy a CAT or a John Deere, but he can't justify spending that much money.

Paul York asked about the JCB that we just bought.

Greg Dore said we have not had any trouble to speak of. Some minor things that they took care of. The guys like the JCB.

He opted not to buy the gravel bucket, he didn't feel that we would get enough use out of it.

Roger Staples asked why there is such a difference in the cost of the warranties.

Greg Dore said he isn't sure. They all are bumper to bumper and cover the same things.

**Vote: 5/0**

Paul York said if we get burned there will be a lot more scrutiny next time.

Greg Dore said that we can't lose sight of the bid process.

Paul York said cheaper isn't always better. He doesn't want to get into the habit of buying a piece of equipment because the guys like it. They are given what they are given. The taxpayers are buying it. He hopes they are taking care of everything. He doesn't buy equipment so that his guys like it.

9. Discussion and decision to allow Chief Bucknam to apply for and attend the 10-week FBI Academy in Quantico Virginia.

**A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by gene Rouse to allow Chief Bucknam to apply for and attend the 10-week FBI Academy in Quantico Virginia.**

Roger Staples asked what the benefit to the town is.

Chief Bucknam said that this is the premier leadership course. It teaches everything from the ground up. It is the most sought after leadership course in the United States. The State of Maine gets two spots per year. The opportunity is very slim. The ten week course is paid for by the FBI. The only thing the Town would pay is my paycheck.

Roger Staples said that there really is a cost to the Town. We are paying you.

Chief Bucknam said that the education and experience would benefit the Town.

Roger Staples said that it would also benefit Chief Bucknam's resume.

Chief Bucknam said that unless we plan on firing him, he plans to be here for the next 23 years.

Betty Austin asked if this happen at a specific time of year.

Chief Bucknam said that they run two classes per year...spring and fall. Most people are on the waiting list for a couple of years before they get an opportunity to go.

Paul York said that our employees need the right leadership at the top. This course will help the Chief to be able to guide those employees through those situations. We do have somebody here who can handle his responsibilities in his absence.

Betty Austin said that it seems that Chief Bucknam is really building a good force.

**Vote: 5/0**

Recording Time: 45:51

10. Discussion and decision to allow Chief Bucknam to go out to bid for a 2020 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor.

**A motion was made by Gene Rouse and seconded by Betty Austin to allow Chief Bucknam to go out to bid for a 2020 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor.**

Roger Staples asked if we were retiring a cruiser.

Chief Bucknam said that we are. It is four years old with over 100,000 miles on it.

Paul York asked about the Ford Taurus.

Chief Bucknam said that we do still have the Taurus. He has three vehicles that are hitting his budget pretty hard right now.

**Vote: 5/0**

11. Discussion and decision to approve the Agreement with MDOT for improvements to the intersection of Madison Avenue and Commercial Street.

**A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Roger Staples to approve the Agreement with MDOT for improvements to the intersection of Madison Avenue and Commercial Street.**

Dennis Willette asked what the improvement would be.

Paul York said he would not classify it as an improvement.

Greg Dore said that the State came to us three years ago because the intersection of Madison Avenue and Commercial Street is a high crash location. They have some money to correct some of these problems. They have offered to put in a traffic light to help take care of that intersection. There will also be pedestrian lights going in to help with pedestrians getting hit there.

Dennis Willette asked if it would be timed with the lights on High Street.

Greg Dore said that it will have to be. These discussions have taken place and will be in the design.

Paul York asked how much maintenance of these lights will cost.

Greg Dore said that the bulbs usually last 4 or 5 years. The cameras last about 8 to 10 years. Lights are about \$200.00 and Cameras about \$3,200.00. We probably spend about \$2,500.00 per year on all of the lights in town. Any major issues are taken care of by the State, because they own them. We just do the maintenance on them.

Roger Staples asked about logging trucks going into the other lane.

Greg Dore said that that will need to be addressed again in the design process. Ten years ago we were given a set of lights. In order to put them there we would have needed to take the corner at Hight's. The landowner wasn't amiable to it. The project ended because we didn't have the money to do it.

**Vote: 4/1 (Paul York opposed)**

Recording Time: 53:47

12. Discussion regarding the Mechanic Street School (Map 23, Lot 108).

Paul York said that it was built in 1855. Surveyed in 1991. It is not on the historical list. We currently have it assessed at \$50,100.00.

Gene Rouse asked if anyone has shown interest in this.

Paul York said if we are going to keep it we should be ready to put money into it. It is just sitting there empty and getting worse.

Gene Rouse asked how much it would cost to rehab it.

Paul York said that it would be a lot.

Jeff Hewett said that there is a foundation problem that would need to be taken care of. He has not looked at it. Not sure what the heating system is. It is pretty much just one room with a bathroom. There isn't a lot of room there. The roof is in fairly good condition. There is a bat problem.

Paul York wants to get rid of it. It doesn't fit into any current plans for the future.

Denis Willette asked how much land is there.

Cara Mason said that it is .12 acres.

Paul York said we can out it out o bid with a minimum. He feels that it should be sold to someone as a taxable property...not a non-profit.

Betty Austin said that this will give people time to get back to us if there is something that we are not considering...and give us time to decide how to write up the contract.

No vote taken. Selectmen agreed to look into selling it as a taxable property with a minimum bid amount.

13. Treasurer's Warrants to be approved:

|              |           |  |
|--------------|-----------|--|
| #105         | \$        | 38,280.58 (Payroll #26)                |
| #106         | \$        | 21,388.73 (State Payables)             |
| #1           | \$        | 55,303.77 (Payroll #27)                |
| #107         | \$        | 243,973.92 (FY 2019 Accounts Payables) |
| #2           | \$        | 138,974.91 (TY 2020 Accounts Payables) |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>497,921.91</b>                      |

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

**Vote: 5/0**

14. Other Business

Irene Daigle lives on Free Street. They have a new neighbor, Central Maine Septic. She is concerned with a business like that directly across from her home. Since she bought her home the Big Apple moved in on 201, a trucking company moved next door to her, now that has been sold and Central Main Septic has moved in. She is concerned with the noise and the property value of their homes.

She plans to see the tax assessor to have the assessed value lowered because of this.

They want to write reasonable zoning ordinances and get them put in place. She feels that this has been voted down in the past because people don't understand it. She didn't understand how serious this was until it happened to her. She just wants to sell her house and move. We don't have protection. God knows what will go in next to her on the other side of her property.

Paul York said he sympathizes. There is no zoning in Skowhegan. People do not want to be told what they can do with their property. We struggle to get people to come to Town Meeting to vote on these things. You have 120 people voting on stuff that they don't care about. People are all for things until it ends up in their neighborhood. Zoning is something that we can visit again. We could discuss it in our joint meeting with the Planning Board.

Paul York said if there are things that that particular business can do to help alleviate some of the noise or something. They are reasonable people. Maybe we could talk to them.

Vern Daigle asked what happens next in writing up a zoning ordinance.

Paul York said that goes to the Planning Board. That is a task that the Selectmen would put to the Planning Board. Once the Selectmen have looked it over and possible made changes, it then goes to Town Meeting for a vote. You can certainly go to Planning Board meetings and give your input.

Roger Staples said that they could do a citizens petition.

Paul York said that after that it still has to go through the Planning Board for the ordinance to be written.

Irene Daigle said that people in her neighborhood would be beneficial, so that this can be written for people to understand it.

Paul York said that Planning Board is going to write this. You have the opportunity to give your input. The more people that you can get involved...the better chance you have of getting it passed.

Rick Hines said that this residential neighborhood should not have a business where there will soon be 500 porta pottys where people are raising their kids. He doesn't know of anybody who would not be bothered by that. Only certain types of businesses should be allowed in a quiet little neighborhood.

Paul York said that people are going to differ whether that is a commercial area or a residential area. It is on the Waterville Road. If it was in the middle of Free Street then people may agree that is residential. This is why we have a Planning Board. He has no idea if you can differentiate between certain types of businesses in certain areas.

He encouraged them to attend Planning Board meetings.

Roger Staples said that there is power in numbers.

Audra Hines wanted to know why they were not notified that this business was moving in next door. They were notified when they lived in New Jersey.

Paul York said that we do not have zoning and there would be no reason to notify people of a new business moving. Even if we notified people of that, without zoning in place the business would still be able to move there. We would have no way to restrict them.

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

16. Sign Documents

The Selectmen signed documents.

**Adjourn Selectmen's Meeting.**

Approved and signed on July 23, 2019.

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