

**Minutes  
Town of Skowhegan  
Regular Selectmen's Meeting  
5:30 P.M.  
Tuesday, September 22, 2020**

**\*\*Public wishing to see this meeting may do so from the  
Town of Skowhegan Facebook page\*\***

**Board of Selectmen:**

Paul York, Chairman  
Betty Austin, Vice Chairman  
Charles Robbins  
Roger Staples

**Town Manager:**

Christine Almand

**Executive Secretary:**

Cara L. Mason

Call Selectmen's Meeting to order.

Paul York called the meeting to order.

1. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Town Manager's Report/Department & Committee Reports

Pete Lachapelle from Waste Management has asked for an updated letter of support for the Crossroads Landfill expansion. The Board signed a letter two years ago. Maine DEP is holding a public hearing October 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm. I ask for Selectmen discussion and decision to approve and sign the letter of support to the State for the proposed expansion of Crossroads Landfill.

**A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Roger Staples to approve the Letter of Support for the proposed expansion of Crossroads Landfill.**

**Vote: 4/0**

The first half of taxes is due October 13<sup>th</sup>. Now through October 13<sup>th</sup> taxpayers can sign up for the Tax Club, which allows eight tax payments on your primary residence if your taxes are current. For more information, contact the Clerk's Office.

## Department Reports:

## Jeff Hewett:

- Update on the façade program – We will be reviewing the first 10 applications on Wednesday and hope to have them started in the next couple of weeks. These 10 have applied for \$77,271.95 with a match of \$146,765.14. Of the 10 applicants, 8 are first time applicants.
- The office is in the process of setting up a mapping-based tracking system for work orders for the streetlights for any future problems with the new led lights. This should be available in the next couple of weeks.

## Bryan Belliveau:

**Transfer and Recycling Center**

- Reminder that hazardous waste day is October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7 to noon. Register by calling the Code/Planning Office at 207-474-6904. Registration closes on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:30PM.
- We have seen an increase in contaminated cardboard coming in from local businesses and health facilities via commercial haulers. I would like to remind everyone that all cardboard and other recyclables must be source separated. Trash and other wastes shall be put into appropriate containers and disposed of properly.

**Code Enforcement & Planning**

- We have gained compliance on three property maintenance violations within the last week. We have several others that are making progress.
- In an effort to educate contractors, business owners and the public of the complex building, plumbing and life safety codes, we will be posting weekly snippets on the Town of Skowhegan Facebook page. I am currently compiling a list of the most frequently overlooked code issues and those will be the focus of these snippets. We hope to start posting sometime next month.

## Greg Dore:

- The turn lane into the Community Center is ready for paving. We don't have a definite date yet.
- We have completed the sidewalk reconstruction on West Front Street.
- The adjuster came to the garage and looked at the Wacker Neuson again and did mention that the arms were damaged. We still haven't got word yet on whether they are going to repair or replace the machine.
- Reggie Faulkingham of Simard and Sons contacted me and let me know he has tentatively scheduled the installation of the new fuel dispensing system for the week of October 12<sup>th</sup>.
- I'm still waiting on word back from the insurance company about the status of the damage to the garage wall.
- Paint it Right painters have completed the first coat of paint on the garage and started the second. I feel it looks very nice.
- I have met with Pike Industries and the plan is to start the milling Thursday on the intown streets then reclaiming Crescent Street. The paving will begin October 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Matt Quimby has accepted the position that Charlie left and will be starting October 5<sup>th</sup>. Matt had worked for us as a seasonal truck driver/laborer last winter.

- Have a great evening – Greg Dore

Denise LeBlanc:

- This summer the Rec. Dept prepared and distributed 6,800 meals to kids thru the State Summer Food Program.
- Fall Registrations opened up last week for Flag Football Grades K-6, Field Hockey K-6 and Soccer Ages 3-Grade 6. Registrations are still being accepted through tomorrow Wednesday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>. You can register in person tonight and tomorrow 5:30-6:30pm at the Community Center, by mail, a drop box is located at the Community Center 24/7 or email at [skowrec@skowhegan.org](mailto:skowrec@skowhegan.org). Registration Forms are available on the town website at [www.skowhegan.org](http://www.skowhegan.org) on the parks & recreation department page , the Skowhegan Parks & Recreation Facebook page, you can request by email and forms are also available at the drop box at the Center. For more information check our Facebook page or call 474-6901.
- The Community Center will be re-opening Monday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am. The opening will consist of a soft opening with modifications and limitations. The following Community Center programs will be offered – Walking, Pickleball, Open Gym & Exercise Room. Re-Registrations must be received prior to first visit and/or participation. Information, forms and guidelines can be found on our Facebook page or you can call 474-6901.

3. Selectmen's Items

Betty Austin n said it was a pleasure working with the American Legion Women's Auxiliary on Saturday.

Roger staples said that the highway garage looks much better. The West Front Street sidewalk looks nice. He would like to see the curbing spruced up at some point. The turning lane at the Community Center is coming along. They have added some fencing around the hole in the Plaza parking lot, so that looks better.

Roger staples asked about signage for the charging stations.

Christine Almand said that she is working with Greg Dore and Jeff Hewett on signage. Those spaces will be only for use of the charging stations. We may need to adjust the ordinance as well.

Paul York said that a lot of sweeping has been being done. Things look nice.

**Consent Agenda:**

1. Approve the minutes from the following:

Regular Selectmen's Meeting                      September 8, 2020

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

Douglas & Annette Boardman – Lot 178 (4<sup>th</sup> South Grave)

**A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Charles Robbins to approve the Consent agenda as written.**

**Vote: 4/0**

Recording Time: 12:34

**Regular Agenda:**

1. Discussion and decision to appoint E. Gene Rouse as a member of the Budget & Finance Committee with a term expiring June 30, 2021.

**A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Roger Staples to appoint E. Gene Rouse as a member of the Budget & Finance Committee with a term expiring June 30, 2021.**

**Vote: 4/0**

2. Discussion and decision to accept criminal forfeiture funds in the amount of \$552.00 and deposit those funds into the Police Department Reserve Account, Drug Forfeiture Designation.

**A motion was made by Roger staples and seconded by Betty Austin to accept criminal forfeiture funds in the amount of \$552.00 and deposit those funds into the Police Department Reserve Account, Drug Forfeiture Designation.**

**Vote: 4/0**

3. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$5,496.00 from the Municipal Building Reserve Account, Building Repairs Designation for flooring in five offices in the police department.

**A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Charles Robbins to expend an amount not to exceed \$5,496.00 from the Municipal Building Reserve Account, Building Repairs Designation for flooring in five offices in the police department.**

Charles Robbins asked why, if we are voting on a new Public Safety Building.

Paul York said that we have been in this process. The offices are in poor shape.

Christine Almand said that the hallway flooring has been replaced. We want them to match the hallway. If and when we get a new building, that space will be utilized in different ways. We still want to make sure that we are keeping up with the building.

**Vote: 4/0**

4. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$2,430.00 from the Transfer Station Reserve Account, Recycling Building Alterations Designation to replace the railing at the demolition bin.

**A motion was made by Roger Staples and seconded by Betty Austin to expend an amount not to exceed \$2,430.00 from the Transfer Station Reserve Account, Recycling Building Alterations Designation to replace the railing at the demolition bin.**

**Vote: 4/0**

5. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00 from the Police Department Reserve Account, Drug Forfeiture Designation to purchase an industrial shredder.

**A motion was made by Charles Robbins and seconded by Betty Austin to expend an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00 from the Police Department Reserve Account, Drug Forfeiture Designation to purchase an industrial shredder.**

**Vote: 4/0**

6. Discussion and decision to allow Greg Dore to go out to bid for a trailer mounted air compressor.

**A motion was made by Roger Staples and seconded by Betty Austin to allow Greg Dore to go out to bid for a trailer mounted air compressor.**

**Vote: 4/0**

7. Discussion and decision to waive the bid process, approve the Contract for Services with KVCOG for the update to the Comprehensive Plan, and expend an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 from the Planning Account, Contract Services Designation.

**A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Charles Robbins to waive the bid process, approve the Contract for Services with KVCOG for the update to the Comprehensive Plan, and expend an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 from the Planning Account, Contract Services Designation.**

**Vote: 4/0**

Recording Time: 16:41

8. Discussion and decision to set the rates for the electric vehicle charging stations at \$0.20/kWh and \$0.55/hour after charging is complete.

**A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Roger Staples to set the rates for the electric vehicle charging stations at \$0.20/kWh and \$0.55/hour after charging is complete.**

Charles Robbins asked where we got these numbers from. He said he didn't see any of the Skowhegan charging station prices in the paperwork.

Christine Almand said that those figures are in the memo. One of them charges \$20.00 per hour after charging is complete. You could choose to set something higher to discourage people from staying in the spaces after charging. Those spaces are limited to two hour parking currently.

**Vote: 4/0**

9. Discussion and decision to hold a Public Hearing on October 13, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the General Assistance Ordinances.

**A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Roger Staples to hold a Public Hearing on October 13, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the General Assistance Ordinances.**

**Vote: 4/0**

10. Discussion and decision to move that the Board of Selectmen will select a Public Safety Building Project Option based upon the results of an advisory ranked choice referendum Article submitted to the voters of the Town on November 3, 2020.

**A motion was made by Roger Staples and seconded by Charles Robbins to move that the Board of Selectmen will select a Public Safety Building Project Option based upon the results of an advisory ranked choice referendum Article submitted to the voters of the Town on November 3, 2020.**

Charles Robbins asked exactly how this ranked choice is going to work. He said there are a lot of people very confused by this.

Christine Almand said that we are looking for what a majority of the voters want.

Charles Robbins said if 49.9% of the voters say "none of the above".

Christine Almand said that we then go to the second choice to be added to the fir choice votes.

Charles Robbins said that ranked choice is set up so that losers win.

Christine Almand said, no. Those first choice votes stay and the second choice is added to that. If one of the options gets more than 50% of the vote on the first choice, then we are done. If less than 50%, then the second choice votes get added to those first choice votes. She encouraged people to go the Secretary of States website. The State will be using ranked choice voting in the presidential election as well. Voters do have the option to only vote for one, if that is what they choose.

Charles Robbins asked if we had to use ranked choice voting for this.

Betty Austin said that is what we are voting on.

Christine Almand said that this is what she and the Bond Counsel prepared, based on a previous recommendation from the PSB Committee. This was given to the Selectmen at the last meeting as well.

Betty Austin said that if there is an option that she doesn't want, she doesn't give it any vote.

Paul York said it actually gives you more options. If your first choice doesn't get the majority, your second choice may.

Christine Almand said that we went with ranked choice voting, because of how the survey results went. There were four locations in the survey. One was removed, because such a low percentage wanted it. The three remaining options had 27%, 33% and 34% in the survey. That was based on 340 responses. She understands that 49.9% might make you feel better about one option over another, but that is problematic for us. This is where ranked choice comes into play. Those second choices help determine what the majority of the people want. The majority of the voters wanted ranked choice voting...so that's the way we vote in Maine.

**Vote: 3/1 (Charles Robbins opposed)**

Recording Time: 29:54

11. Discussion and decision to move that the "order to Call Referendum on Issuance of \$8,900,000 (If Option A) or \$10,700,000 (if Option B or C) in Bonds for Public Safety Building Project," be approved in form presented to this meeting, and that a copy of said Order be filed with Town records and with the minutes of this meeting.

**A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Roger Staples to move that the "order to Call Referendum on Issuance of \$8,900,000 (If Option A) or \$10,700,000 (if Option B or C) in Bonds for Public Safety Building Project," be approved in form presented to this meeting, and that a copy of said Order be filed with Town records and with the minutes of this meeting.**

**Vote: 3/1 (Charles Robbins opposed)**

12. Discussion and decision to approve the Secret Ballot and Referendum Warrant for November 3, 2020.

**A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Charles Robbins to approve the Secret Ballot and Referendum Warrant for November 3, 2020.**

**Vote: 4/0**

13. Discussion and decision to hold a Public Hearing on October 1, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom to discuss referendum Articles 3 through 7 of the Secret Ballot Election and Referendum Warrant, which will be voted on November 3, 2020.

**A motion was made by Roger Staples and seconded by Betty Austin to hold a Public Hearing on October 1, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom to discuss referendum Articles 3 through 7 of the Secret Ballot Election and Referendum Warrant, which will be voted on November 3, 2020.**

Christine Almand said that she is working with Chief Howard and the Architect and engineering team to come up with an open-house style meeting, so that people can come in and ask questions in-person. Hoping that will be within a couple days of the Public Hearing.

**Vote: 4/0**

14. Treasurer's Warrants to be approved:

#104	\$	677.12 (FY 2020 Accounts Payables)
#21	\$	42,859.72 (Payroll #37)
#22	\$	45,601.62 (Payroll #38)
#23	\$	9,903.50 (State Payables)
#24	\$	<u>1,162,474.99 (FY 2021 Accounts Payables)</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,261,516.95</b>

**A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Charles Robins to approve the Treasurer's Warrants as written.**

**Vote: 4/0**

15. Other Business

There was no Other Business discussed.

16. 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

Nothing discussed.



17. Sign Documents

The Selectmen signed documents.

**Adjourn Selectmen's Meeting.**

Approved and signed October 13, 2020

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