

**TOWN OF CASTLETON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2015
TOWN OFFICES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: J. Bruno, R. Combs, J. Hale, R. Spaulding, T. Etori

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Shea, see attached listing

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman J. Bruno with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION

R. Combs made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by B. Spaulding. All in favor. So voted.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL- JANUARY 12, 2015 (2 SETS)

MOTION

B. Spaulding motioned to approve the minutes of January 12, 2015 (2 sets). Seconded by R. Combs. All in favor with correction. So voted.

WARRANTS FOR APPROVAL

MOTION: T. Etori made a motion to approve warrants # 0126 for \$46,988.23, #0126R for \$110,781.65, #0122 for \$5,710.22, # 0115 for \$8,748.10, # 0122P for 13, 027.03, # 0115P for \$21,215.81. Seconded by R. Spaulding. All in favor. So voted.

MOTION: T. Etori made a motion to approve warrant # 0126.1R for \$339.00. Seconded by R. Combs. R. Spaulding abstained. All in favor. So voted

MOTION: T. Etori made a motion to approve warrants # 0122.1P for \$565.02 and #0115.1P for \$565.02. Seconded by R. Spaulding. All in favor. So voted. R. Combs abstained.

POLICE DEPT. UPDATE- CHIEF MANTELLO

Chief Mantello reported total calls for Nov. 2014 was 127 & December 109. There was a ride along with a State's Attorney. There is a possible new lead in the 9/14/14 Tinney Brook robbery. The investigation of the fatal accident on Rte. 30 is about 10 days from completion. There was another incident at 97 South Street, 7 minors were caught consuming alcohol. The Chief has been unsuccessful in reaching the landlord after several attempts they have not responded to his calls.

The new police vehicle should arrive the first week of March.

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CONFIRMATION OF FIRE DEPT. OFFICERS

MOTION: T. Ettori made a motion to confirm the Fire Dept. Officers as elected on 1/15/15 for a period of one year. Seconded by R. Spaulding. All in favor. So voted.

RE-APPOINTMENT OF HEALTH OFFICER- JAMES LEAMY/ GREEN UP COORDINATOR – JULIE FINNEGAN

MOTION: R. Combs made a recommendation to re-appoint J. Leamy as the Health Officer for the Town of Castleton for a 3 year term. Seconded by T. Ettori. All in favor. So voted.

MOTION: R. Combs made a motion to re-appoint Julie Finnegan as the Green Up Coordinator for Green Up on May 2, 2015. Seconded by R. Spaulding. All in favor. So voted.

J. Bruno would like to thank J. Finnegan for the work that she does for this event.

REQUEST FOR TOWN LAND USAGE-ROTARY CLUB (FISHING DERBY)

MOTION: R. Spaulding made a motion to allow the Rotary Club to use Crystal Beach for the Great Benson Fishing Derby on Feb. 21 & 22, 2015. Seconded by R. Combs. All in favor. So voted.

REVIEW AND FINALIZE WARNING

M. Shea presented the WARNING for the Castleton Town Meeting. He stated that **ARTICLES #1– 5** have been carried over from previous years' warnings. **ARTICLE #6:** "School Moderator for 1 year" will be deleted.

ARTICLE #9: Do we want 43 line items to vote on or do we consolidate the line items into 6 line items: General gov't, public works, public safety, recreation, library, capital projects.

J. Bruno asked if M. Shea knew of any other towns that had separate line items.

M. Shea responded that there were no other towns in VT that use separate line items as Castleton does.

J. Bruno said that it will be left up to the voters to decide.

M. Shea noted that it would be an extra expense to the town if a line item does not pass to have to hold another election for that line item.

ARTICLE #52- This concerns the monies that the town will receive from the sale of the school buses.

J. Bruno stated that the town was told it would receive the money by November 2014, then December 2014 and then by January 1, 2015. The town still has not received the money.

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K. Thornblade had an issue with the wording of the Article.

J. Hale states that the town attorney recommended that the article be worded as it is presented.

M. Shea commented that the monies received would cover the cost of the construction of a new police station.

K. Thornblade stated that the monies are said to help reduce the tax rate for the town.

M. Shea stated that if the town were to vote to construct a new police station, the tax rate would go up 0.19 cents per day for \$100,000.00 appraised value of home for one year only. So, if the monies returned to the town were used to construct police station, then in turn, it would be reducing the tax rate to towns people. He will discuss the wording with the town attorney.

ARTICLE 53- There was a concern regarding the “available funds” mentioned in it.

R.Newton asked what the available funds where and where they would come from.

J. Bruno replied that they would come from the sale of 556 Main St, the existing fire station and possible other real estate in the town.

ARTICLES 50 & 51 – Shall have the phrase (Not included in the budget) added to them.

MOTION: T. Ettori made a motion to approve the warning as presented with the changes made. Seconded by R. Spaulding. All in favor. So voted.

DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED PROPERTY PURCHASE

MOTION: R. Spaulding made a motion to table this discussion until the Board meets again. Seconded by T. Ettori. All in favor. So voted.

CITIZEN’S COMMENTS

N. Cameron asked how the Board plans on communicating with the public before the March meeting.

J. Bruno replied that there are 2 (two) more Select Board Meetings and possible one public hearing. The people can watch PEG TV, the agendas are posted around town and there is Front Porch Forum.

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M. Shea has stated that there is an open door policy at the Town Hall, anyone can stop in and talk to him. He is also willing to meet with small groups of people to discuss any town issues.

M. Eagan wanted to know where the money was from the sale of the buses. He also wanted to know why the buses left the town property before we had the money in our hand. He asked who signed the bill of sale, why are “our” town plates still on the buses and who is insuring them?

J. Bruno replied that we are pursuing the money and any interest that is accruing. He would also look into the issue with the plates.

H. Goyette wanted to let everyone know that Gov. Shumlin wants to close the Rutland Dispatch Center which employees about 29 people. The plan is to consolidate the dispatch centers in the state to 2, one in Williston and one in Rockingham. He asks that you contact your Representative and Montpelier to tell them this is not a good thing for the State and our town.

J. Bruno asked who to contact about this and H. Goyette responded that you could write letters to the Commissioner of Public Safety, Secretary of State and our State Representative.

MANAGER’S UPDATE

Highway Sand update: Last week I received an update that sand is low and that we have enough for one more storm. The town does have an option to get another 3,500yd³ at a cost of \$6,500

Highway Gas Boy Fuel System: This is a device that allows the town to store and distribute diesel fuel our fleet. This was initially purchased in 1993 and has many years on it. At this time it is not working and is at the end of its life. We will need to procure a new one very soon. As a rough estimate, this may be around the \$10K mark and will go out to bid.

Tax Sale: Within your packets, you will see five items schedule for tax sale on March 12, 2014 at 10:00 am at the Town Offices.

BRF 015-2 (10) Project Preconstruction Conference: This conference is regarding the Rte. 30 bridge heading to the wastewater plant, this meeting will be on 2/4/15 at 10:00 in VAOT in Mendon.

OTHER BUSINESS- NONE

SELECT BOARD COMMENTS

R. Spaulding inquired as to why the town was short on sand. H. Goyette explained that we had that early storm in November and that there have been a few coatings of snow in which the town had to lay some more sand.

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R. Spaulding also asked who was paying for the heat at 556 Main St and if a bill had been mailed to the Historical Society. M. Shea responded that the town is paying the heating bill till the closing.

J. Bruno stated that the Sheldon Company owed us money and that we could take sand in exchange and that M. Shea should look into this.

OTHER COMMENTS: NONE

EXECUTIVE SESSION- REAL ESTATE

MOTION: T. Ettori made a motion to enter Executive Session for a Real Estate matter including the Town Manager at 8:55 pm. B. Spaulding seconded. All in favor. So voted.

MOTION

R. Spaulding motioned to exit Executive Session at 9:45 pm with no action taken. J. Hale seconded. All in favor. So voted.

ADJOURN

MOTION

R. Spaulding motioned to Adjourn at 9:46 pm. J. Hale seconded. All in favor. So voted.

Respectfully

Valerie Waldron

Date of Approval