

**TOWN OF CASTLETON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2015
TOWN OFFICES**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: R. Spaulding

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Shea, Town Manager, see attached listing.

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

SCHOOL BUS SALES PROCEEDS PRESENTATION

T. Smith the former Chairman of the Castleton Town School Board read a letter from the State Department of Education. L. Jakubowski also read a letter from Superintendent Ronald Ryan.

She explained that the monies were received on 6/30/2014 which was the ending of the fiscal year for the school board. The money was held till there was an audit performed and all bills were paid. She received the final document in December 2014. There were some questions from the lawyers and when they were satisfied, the money was able to be turned over to the town. She presented the board with 2 checks, one for \$320,926.50 and one for \$1,092.84.

J. Bruno asked what the amount was from the sale of the buses. L. Jakubowski answered that \$266,000.00 was from the sale of the buses. The additional money was the balance in the School Board account.

M. Eagan asked if the money made interest while in the account. L. Jakubowski answered yes, and that is reflected in the report given to the Board.

J. Bruno thanked T. Smith and the other Board members for their service.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: T. Etori made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by J. Hale. All in favor. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JANUARY 20 & 26, FEBRUARY 2, 2015

MOTION: T. Etori made a motion to approve the minutes of January 20 & 26 and February 2, 2015. Seconded by R. Combs.

Correction: January 20, 2015 meeting on page 3, middle of the page, his comment to read "that the budget presented was not a sustainable budget".

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VOTE ON THE MOTION

All in favor. Motion carried.

WARRANTS FOR APPROVAL MOTION

T. Ettori made a motion to approve warrants #0209R for \$151,547.5, #0208R for \$447.70, #0209 for \$32,735.81, #0205 for \$5,843.02, #0129 for \$6,769.89, #0205P for \$13,426.18, #0129P for \$12,257.03. Seconded by J. Hale. All in favor. Motion Carried.

MOTION

T. Ettori made a motion to approve warrants #0205.1P for \$548.73 and #0129.1P for \$565.02. Seconded by J. Hale. R. Combs abstained. All in favor. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT – LISTERS

MOTION: J. Hale made a motion to approve L. Witt and H. Vincent Diamond for the two (2) Lister's vacancies for one month, until Town Meeting. Seconded by R. Combs. All in favor. Motion carried.

ANNUAL VAOT CERTIFICATE OF HIGHWAY MILEAGE.

J. Bruno stated that the state funding is based on the amount of highway mileage.
M. Shea stated this was the annual funding report and addresses the Class 1, 2 & 3 roads.

MOTION

J. Hale made a motion to accept the Highway Mileage as presented to the State and to the Board. Seconded by T. Ettori. All in favor. Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR LIQUOR LICENSE APPROVAL - SECOND CLASS LICENSES

T. Ettori asked if the Police Chief had looked at these requests. M. Shea replied that he did not know.

T. Ettori asked if the Enforcement Seminars were 2 or 3 year certificate. J. Bruno stated it looks like it is a two (2) year certificate as MoBell just renewed theirs from 2/3/2013.

MOTION

T. Ettori made a motion to approve the Second Class liquor licenses for Toltec, Inc, MoBell, LLC and Castleton Village Store, Inc. Seconded by J. Hale. All in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION

T. Ettori made a motion to approve the First Class liquor licenses for Castleton Pizza Place & Deli (Birdseye Diner) and Castleton Pizza Place & Deli/Blue Cat. All in favor. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF WARNING ARTICLES

M. Shea presented the finalized Articles for the Town Meeting. He states if anyone has any questions about any of the Articles he is available at the Town Office, please call.

Article 9 is about possibly changing the way the budget is presented for the 2016 voting year. The budget would be consolidated to 6 line items. He reports that there are no other towns in the State of Vermont that use the format the town is presently using. If there is a short fall in any department, the town would need to borrow money and pay interest for using that money. If the town changed to the 6 line items, one dept. would be able to help the other depts. out and there would be no need to borrow from a bank and accrue interest.

J. Bruno asked M. Shea to make sure this is discussed/presented at the pre Town Meeting.

M. Shea stated that the monies received from the sale of the buses needs to be used to “buy down the tax rate”. A new Police Station would cost the town’s people \$ 0.19 a day, based on \$100,000.00 appraised value for only one year. If the town was to spend the bus monies on a new Police Dept. it would, in fact, be buying down the tax rate. The town would have a building that would last many many years and add to everyone’s property values.

There will be an informational meeting regarding the proposed Police Station on Monday, February 16, 2015 at 7:00pm at the Community Senior Center.

**VT. MUNICIPAL BOND BANK – REQUISITION #4 PAYMENT
MOTION**

J. Hale made a motion to request #4 payment from the Municipal Bond Bank for \$328,575.57 for our bond account for reimbursement of monies spent in that time period. Seconded by T. Ettori. All in favor. Motion carried.

CITIZEN’S COMMENTS

P. Graziano asked if the tax rate increase was 3.5% without the Social Services. M. Shea answered yes.

F. Taggart asked the Board to add an item to the ballot. The item he would like to have the Board add is to “eliminate/close the Castleton Village School”. He would just like it be a YES or NO question, so the town’s people can have a say. He continued saying that he did get enough signatures on a petition and did present that to the School Board and they chose not to act on it. He feels the people did speak when they signed the petition.

F. Taggart did inform the Board the surrounding towns have K- 12 grades and they support their School Budgets on much less money than Castleton’s School budget for only K-8 grades. There would be no teachers or aides losing their jobs either.

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J. Bruno did note that the State Dept. of Education is encouraging the consolidation of schools.

R. Combs noted that if we did have a YES or NO vote and YES prevails, it may at least open up a dialog with the School Board and encourage the School Board to listen to the Select Board.

J. Hale feels it is not appropriate to put it on our town budget vote as the Board of Education has nothing to do with the town.

M. Shea stated that the Board approved the budge 2 weeks ago and the time has passed to add it as a line item.

J. Bruno asked M. Shea to look into the "Doyle Survey".

T. Etori stated they could have a non-binding ballot with a separate voting box and hand counted. M. Combs asked if that would have to be warned. J. Bruno asked M. Shea to check into if a non-binding referendum would have to be warned.

MANAGER'S UPDATE

Employee Recognition: I am asking that all join me in recognizing Paul Eagan, Joe Garrigan, Heath Goyette, Mike Smith, Bob Ward, Pat Traverse & Joe Smith of the highway staff individually for their outstanding dedication and commitment to community. During the winter storm that occurred between December 9-12, 2014, Highway employees worked many hours into the night to ensure the roads were accessible and safer. Soon thereafter this storm was declared a disaster.

President Declares Disaster for Vermont

Release date:

February 3, 2015

Release Number: HQ-15-005

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency announced that federal disaster aid has been made available to the State of Vermont to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area affected by a severe winter storm during the period of December 9-12, 2014.

The President's action makes federal funding available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe winter storm in Addison, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, and Windsor counties.

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Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

James N. Russo has been named as the Federal Coordinating Officer for federal recovery operations in the affected area. Russo said additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the state and warranted by the results of further damage assessments.

Follow up work included accumulation of damage details and a tour of our town with State and FEMA representatives on January 7, 2015. To the efforts of each of these men, we are a stronger and more vibrant community.

MOTION

R. Combs made a motion to add Letters of Recommendation to the files of the members of the Highway Staff in regards to their outstanding work done during the winter storm which took place Dec. 9 – 12, 2014. Seconded by J. Hale. All in favor. Motion carried

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for Audit Services: This RFP went out on February 5, 2015. Proposals must be received via mail or in-hand before 4:00 PM on Monday, March 2, 2015

Sand and Salt update: More sand and salt was purchased. (More details on Monday).

Sand over-payment: At your request I followed up by sending you the paperwork that suggest that this payment is due is \$7,506.76. I have reached out to the bankruptcy court and there is no record of a claim to date.

J. Bruno asked if the vendor had been contacted. M. Shea replied, yes, many times but has not gotten back to anyone from the town. J. Bruno asked M. Shea to send the vendor a registered/certified and return reply letter.

MOTION

T. Ettori made a motion to put a lien on the vendor's properties. Seconded by J. Hale. All in favor. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS – NONE

SELECT BOARD COMMENTS

T. Ettori reported that the Shrine Football game will be taking place at CSC on 8/1/15. There will be a parade at 3:00 pm and the game will start at 5:00pm.

MOTION

J. Hale made a motion to allow the Shriners to park their trailers at the town garage on August

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1, 2014 for the Shrine game and parade. Seconded by R. Combs. All in favor. Motion carried.

J. Hale will follow through with the Front Porch Forum and getting the agendas for the Select Board Meeting on the website.

M. Shea stated that someone from the reappraisal company will be at the Town Offices on February 19th at 6:00 pm to answer any questions anyone may have.

ANY OTHER COMMENTS

R. Combs thanked F. Taggart for his continued work on the Castleton Village School issue.

R. Combs would like a breakdown of the contingency fund.

MOTION:

T. Etori made a motion to to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm. Seconded by R. Combs . All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully,

Val Waldron

Date of Approval