

**Town of Castleton
Special Select Board Meeting
Minutes of January 13, 2014
Castleton Town Offices**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomas Ettori, John Hale, Wenger Rehlen, Ed O'Shea

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Cristine Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Charles Jacien, Town Manager; see attached list

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M by Chairman T. Ettori with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes for Approval

J. Hale made a motion to approve the minutes of December 5, 9 & 20, 2013 and January 6, 2014. W. Rehlen seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.

Warrants for Approval

MOTION

E. O'Shea made a motion to approve warrants #0113R in the amount of \$9,833.70; #0113 in the amount of \$70,362.80; #0109 in the amount of \$15,540.75; #0102 in the amount of \$4,238.03; #1226 in the amount of \$6,518.26; #0109P in the amount of \$12,738.32; #0102P in the amount of \$10,993.56 and #1226 in the amount of \$16,475.47. J. Hale seconded. All voted in favor. So Voted.

Request for use of Crystal Beach - Castleton Lions Club

MOTION

E. O'Shea made a motion to approve the use of Crystal Beach for the Lions Club Annual Fishing Derby on February 15 & 16. J. Hale seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.

Set Date for Public Hearing - Zoning Map Change

The Board decided to set February 10 and 24 at 6:00 pm for Public Hearing on the change to the Zoning Map.

MOTION

J. Hale motion to sign the Resolution accepting the change to the Zoning Map from the Planning Commission. W. Rehlen seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.

MOTION

J. Hale motion to sign the Resolution for change to the Zoning Map for publication. W. Rehlen seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.

Request for Petition Exemption RAVNAH - Marybeth Hadeka & Ronald Cioffi

M. Hadeka is a member of RAVNAH board explained that they were requesting to be exempt from petitioning for funding from the town because they do not have enough volunteers to obtain the taxpayers signature on a petition for placement on the ballot. The same amount (\$6720) is requested every year and if in the future they change the amount requested, then they would petition. R. Cioffi said also cuts to Medicare have made it very difficult financially for RAVNAH.

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C. Jacien stated that there are 10 Social Service agencies requesting funding in excess of \$47,000. We also give the Community Seniors a tax exemption in the amount of \$9,000

MOTION

E. O'Shea made a motion to exempt RAVNAH from petitioning for funding for 2014. W. Rehlen seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.

Bid Awards - Highway Garage Door Repairs & WWTF First Light & Brookfield Services

MOTION

E. O'Shea made a motion to approve Purchase Order # 03489 for Taggart Brothers for garage door repairs in the amount of \$19,143.00. J. Hale seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.

MOTION

E. O'Shea made a motion to approve Purchase Order # 035115 for First Light for UV lights in the amount of \$9,062.40. J. Hale seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.

MOTION

E. O'Shea made a motion to approve Purchase Order # 034141 for Brookfield Services for generator parts in the amount of \$7,800.00. J. Hale seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.

Delinquent Tax Interest Rate Discussion

C. Jacien informed the board that we currently receive about \$60,000 in interest and penalty from taxpayer who are unable to meet the deadlines for tax payments. He suggested that the town put a article on the March ballot to reduce the interest rate to .75% which will reduce the interest income by about \$20,000, this will help the taxpayer.

MOTION

W. Rehlen made a motion to put the article on the March ballot to reduce the interest rate. J. Hale seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.

Citizen's Concerns

J. Bruno asked if the Town could put jersey barriers at the public sand pile and cover it with a tarp so that it would help with alleviate frozen sand. He also asked how one receives an absentee ballot. T. Ettori stated he did not know. J. Bruno continued by saying that he was told by someone that was called by the Clerk and she asked if they would like an absentee ballot.

G. Trudo stated that he was concerned that there was a conflict of interest with Wenger Rehlen and his relationship to the Donchian Foundation money. He continued by saying that according to the VLCT handbook 12 VSA 61, any person acts in a capacity in which a person has an interest or is related to a party. He asked that Wenger Rehlen recuse himself. T. Ettori responded that he would have to get a legal opinion before responding.

P. Graziano asked if we had an Assistant Town Clerk, she continued that by statute one is required. T. Ettori responded that he knew that she was going to appoint her daughter would have to check.

Other Business

None

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Town Manager's Update

Delinquent Tax interest: The voter set the interest rate, the last time this was addressed was in the early 1980's at its current rate of 16.5% annum. When this was set, the amount raised was equal to about one cent of the tax rate (\$30,000). Our current collection is about \$60,000 in interest and penalty. I am suggesting an article for Town Meeting reducing the rate to .75% per month or 9% annum, bringing this more in line with the one-cent intention (\$40,000). The Board needs to approve a ballot item requesting the same.

Fire Department USDA Bond: The agency now has revised plans and is in a 30-day review period. An Act 250 application will be filed once the plans are approved.

Chief of Police & Patrol Officer: These jobs are now advertised for an application deadline of January 31.

Doors at the Town Garage: There was only one bidder for this project; it is a bit higher than our original estimate however, the work needs to be done. I recommend the award to Taggart Construction.

Town Garage Outside Furnace: The past few weeks have been a test for this new system, all working great. The amount of oil being saved over last year is about \$60 to \$80 a day.

Salt and Sand: Although there has not been a lot of snow, the various weather events are keeping us all busy. Two of the events were handled state wide through the emergency management system. We have consumed half of the salt and sand supply. Additional salt and sand will be ordered soon.

PEGTV Taping: I participated in a taping for future broadcast with the Rutland area prevention coalition and Dennis Proulx from CSC, discussing the Town's noise and open container ordinance.

Crystal Heights Sewer Extension: The Manager and Health Officer have a plan of action to do individual inspection of the systems to see if there is any type of failure. If any evidence of failure, the Town may be able to get State money for the construction.

Grady Bridge: The third and final permit has been issued for the project there is still a \$200,000+ deficit in the budget for the entire process. Additional funding is being applied for, and a construction-staging plan is being developed. It is anticipated to be a 2-year job as dollars become available.

J. Hale asked that when Grady Bridge was worked on could one lane be open. C. Jacien stated that it would have.

Select Board Concerns

J. Hale stated that he was informed by a resident that there was an accident at Ledgemere Road and Route 30 that blocked the road and if there was an emergency there would be no access to or from the properties. He asked if the Town could extend Campbell Road to Ledgemere so that in case of an emergency they residents can get out.

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C. Jacien responded that Campbell Road was a private road and Ledgemere was in Hubbardton. J. Hale said that the residents were concerned.

J. Hale asked if the Listers could come before the board and update them on the Revaluation.

Adjourn

MOTION

W. Rehlen made a motion to adjourn. J. Hale seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.

Date of Approval