

**TOWN OF CASTLETON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 23, 2015
TOWN OFFICES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joe Bruno, Richard Combs, John Hale, Robert Spaulding, Tom Ettori

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

Meeting called to order at 7:15 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 J. Hale. J. Bruno asked to keep the Executive Session on the agenda.
All in favor. So voted.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL- FEBRUARY 9, 2015

MOTION : T. Ettori made a motion to approve the minutes of February 9, 2015. Seconded by J. Hale. All in favor. So voted.

MOTION: R. Combs made a motion to approve the Annual Posting of Town Highways from March till May 15, 2015. Seconded by R. Spaulding.
If companies need exceptions for deliveries they can apply to the Town Hall.
All in favor. Motion Carried.

POLICE CHIEF UPDATE- CHIEF MANTELLO

Chief Mantello reports an increase of 21 calls from Dec. to January.

The new police vehicle should be arriving around March 12 or 13th. M. Shea will sign the lease papers. We did receive the \$4,000.00 grant which will go towards the upgrades to the car, the new lettering and the equipment. The total cost for the extras is just under \$7,000.00.
R. Spaulding asked about an update on the fatal crash on Rt. 30.

Chief Mantello stated that the final report should be finished in the next week or so. He is keeping the victim's parents apprised of the findings also.

RE-APPRAISAL UPDATE – BILL KRAJESKI

B. Krajewski states that all the initial visits are completed. Ninety (90) % of the photos are done. There are a few more commercial properties to do. There are about 400 more houses that they need to enter and another mailer will go out. B. Krajewski will also do one more property drive by.

There will be 5 – 6 days for informal hearings, between May 1 and May 10. There will be a booklet which shows all the values. He states that there was about a 10% increase in value.

J. Hale inquired that this would be a 10% increase in the Grand List, has he seen any significant

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increase or decrease. B. Krajeski state that he has found that nice property do well in the market and properties that need repair don't increase in value.

J. Bruno asked what percentage of the Lake properties have you been in. B. Krajeski replied they has been at and measured every one and has only been in about 60% of the Lake properties.

J. Bruno stated that he had a few complaints that B. Krajeski was asking homeowners to provide their income from their rental properties.

B. Krajeski stated that yes, he was asking, as that is the income approach he was using on commercial properties with 3 or more rentals.

J. Bruno replied that it seemed like people were being double taxed and that was wrong.

FIRE DEPARTMENT - PURCHASE ORDERS FOR APPROVAL

Adirondack 2-way Radio, Inc.

MOTION: T. Etori made a motion to approve P.O. 036553 from Adirondack 2-way Radio, Inc. for \$12,863.00, monies to come from building reserve fund. Seconded by R. Spaulding. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reynolds & Sons, Inc.

MOTION: T. Etori made a motion to approve P.O. 036552 from Reynolds & Sons, Inc. for \$9,109.65, monies to come from the Reserve Funds. Seconded by R. Spaulding. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Combs stated the price paid is much lower than original price in building plan. B. Clark stated the price is for 35 lockers and there is room to add more lockers in the future.

MOTION: J. Hale made a motion to accept and sign the Proclamation and to send it to our Representatives and the Governor. Seconded by R. Combs. All in favor. Motion carried.

WESTERN N.E. GREENWAY (BICYCLE ROUTE) –BRUCE LIERMAN

B. Lierman stated that this bike route has been in the works for 4 years. It runs from the Canadian border to Norwalk CT. It will use public roads and bike routes already established. It will run from North to South and will encourage towns to connect their own paths leading to historic and heritage sites.

B. Lierman is requesting a letter of support from all the town's which the bike route runs through. They need permission to put up signs for the bike route on existing sign posts. They will work closely with the highway dept. as to which sign posts can be used. The signs will be paid for by the group.

MOTION: R. Spaulding made a motion to accept, approve and sign the resolution for US Bike

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RT 7. Seconded by T. Ettori. All in favor. Motion carried.

WARNING ARTICLES DISTRIBUTION DISCUSSION

M. Shea asked how the Articles would be split among the Board Members at the Town Meeting.

J. Bruno stated that they would all work together and if there were questions that someone on the Board could not answer they would delegate that to M. Shea.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

P. Graziano thanked the Board and M. Shea for including the salaries in the Town Report. She requested that next year the benefits would be listed also.

F. Taggart asked where the Board stood on the ballot regarding the Castleton Village School.

J. Bruno replied that BEAR vs BERLIN was the case that states that the Board of Selectman can act on a petition if the School Board does not. F. Taggart does deserve an answer as he followed the process and his First Amendment right does allow him to petition the Government.

MOTION: R. Spaulding made a motion to hold a non-binding vote on Tuesday, March 3, 2015, to poll the voters regarding the closing of the Castleton Village School. The Board of Selectman will stay and count the votes. M. Shea is to write up the question. Seconded by R. Combs.

J. Hale states it is against the law as you are required to have a 30 day notice for a vote.

J. Bruno stated that when they vote there is not a 30 day notice.

VOTE: R. Combs, T. Ettori, R. Spaulding, J. Bruno voted YES and J. Hale voted No. Motion carries 4 to 1.

MANAGERS UPDATE:

Update on the Fire Station Owners' Contingency: I have enclosed detail on this item that we are tracking closely as we near completion of this project. If you have any questions on this I am happy to address them.

Action needing: None

Sand and Salt update: At this time we have expended our salt budget by \$6,800.00.

Action needing: None.

They cannot let the salt run out so they have ordered more. They need it to ensure safe road travel. T. Ettori asked if they have looked into the open market price vs the contract price.

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M. Shea stated the contract price is the best price by far.

OTHER BUSINESS- NONE

SELECT BOARD COMMENTS

R. Spaulding noted his disappointment in the VTRANS handling of the salt and sand and not maintaining the roads in VT. He feels that they are putting the dollar before the safety of the people.

J. Bruno asked about the contractor who owes the town money.

M. Shea replied that a return receipt letter had been sent out and if they do not hear from the contractor by Friday, 2/27/15 he would proceed with filing a lien against his business.

J. Bruno also asked M. Shea to look into the legality of putting a lien on his personal property.

B. Clark asked what the cost of a ton of salt was. J. Bruno stated it was about \$76.00/ton.

B. Clark said the state price is about \$63.00 to \$67.00 /ton and maybe we could buy it along with them. R. Spaulding also suggested buying sand and salt with other surrounding towns to get a better price.

WARRANTS FOR APPROVAL

MOTION: T. Etori made a motion to approve warrants # 0223 for \$93,414.27, #0223R for \$671.95, #0219 for \$6,113.41, # 0212 for \$18,127.20, # 0219P for \$14,716.78, # 0212P for \$12,672.79. Seconded by R. Spaulding. All in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION: T. Etori made a motion to approve warrant #0223.1R for \$223.70. Seconded by R. Combs. All in favor. R. Spaulding abstained. Motion carried.

MOTION: T. Etori made a motion to approve warrants # 0219.1P for \$548.73 and #0212.1P for \$548.73. Seconded by R. Spaulding. All in favor. R. Combs abstained. Motion carried.

MOTION: T. Etori made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm. Seconded by R. Combs. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Waldron

Date of Approval