

**Town of Castleton
Special Select Board Meeting
Minutes of March 10, 2014
Castleton Town Offices**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Bruno, John Hale, Richard Combs, Robert Spaulding

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Thomas Ettori

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Bruno with the Pledge of Allegiance.

VAOT Rte. 30 South Bridge Replacement Presentation- Scott Burbank, Jennifer Fitch & Liz Fiola

S. Burbank of VAOT presented slides showing the current bridge structure and how it has deteriorated and the new bridge. The bridge will be lowered by about 1 foot and that the clearance for trains is 23 feet. He continued that during construction the bridge would be closed to all traffic for up to 30 days and all traffic from the south would be re-routed via Rice Willis Road & South Street to Sand Hill Road and from the north (Rte. 4 & 4A) would be re-routed to Fair Haven to New York Route 22A to Poultney.

J. Fitch gave a time table for final design for this spring, bid process & contract award in the Fall of 2014 and construction to begin Spring & Summer of 2015.

The town will be compensated by the State for the extra traffic loads or damage to town roads during the detours. They are working on a plan for trucks entering the wastewater plant making deliveries during the construction. Upon completion there will be a better site distance for the north & south traffic as well as entering & exiting the wastewater treatment plant.

There will be an information hearing on March 27th at Hoff Hall at Castleton State College.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL - February 24, 2014

No minutes were available

WARRANTS FOR APPROVAL

B. Spaulding made a motion to approve the warrants #0310R for \$4,270.50; #0310 for \$80,780.95; #0307 for \$7,917.23; #0228 for \$4,707.74; #0306P for \$14,309.53; #0306.1P for \$563.23; #0306.3P for \$923.50; #0227P for \$11,828.18 and #0227.1P for \$563.23. J. Bruno seconded. R. Combs abstained from voting on #0306.1P & 0227.1P. All others voted in favor. So voted. J. Hale abstained from voting on #0306.3P All others voted in favor. So Voted.

FLOAT BRIDGE UPGRADE PRESENTATION - Enman Kesselring Engineering - Blair Enman

B. Enman gave a brief update stating the proposed project is to do reconstruction of the causeway to address its current state of failure. The original causeway consists of large slate slab fill dumped in to the lake to form the causeway. This settled into the mucky bottom of the lake. The current issue is the failure of the gabion baskets which hold up the roadway. These are being undermined due to wave action, ice and frost. This phase with decking will cost a total of \$727,000. He suggested that the bids for next 2 phases be done at one time.

J. Bruno asked about the slope to walk down to the lake and handicapped access. B. Enman replied that there will be fishing platforms and a 3% slope to the water from the road.

B. Enman went on to explain the types of materials that will be used to stabilize the causeway to impede the erosion in the future.

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T. Moran representing the Lake Bomoseen Association stated he had concerns about shutting down the road for a period of time and what if there is an emergency of the other side. B. Enman answered that if there was a shutdown it probably would be for a very short time and will definitely accommodate any emergency vehicle. R. Combs commented that he has never had a problem entering a construction zone.

REQUEST FOR POLE PLACEMENT - Green Mountain Power

C. Jacien stated that this request for pole placement was for Route 30, due to the bridge replacement project.

MOTION

R. Spaulding made a motion to approve the easement for pole placement. R. Combs seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.

REQUEST FOR NO PARKING ZONE - Rooney

C. Jacien stated that Mr. Rooney has requested the no parking zone at 1997 Main Street, due to excessive parking on the side of the road several times a year. The board is required to recommend to the state for the no parking zone.

MOTION

J. Hale motioned to approve the no parking zone. R. Spaulding seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

L. Melendi asked about bill #526 which has to do with the lake frontage and is in the Legislature. C. Jacien stated that we know little about what the impact will have on the lake properties. He suggested that L. Melendi contact his legislator.

J. Master stated that the EPA is interested in having the shoreline protection bill and the DEC which will be similar to the one in New Hampshire.

S. Seguin asked the status of closing 556 Main Street. J. Bruno responded that we will discussing this issue later in the meeting.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Rte. 30 Bridge: This construction is on an Accelerated Bridge Construction schedule. Prefab design allows for a rather fast construction cycle. This fast-track also necessitates the closure of the road for a period of weeks rather than the construction of an alternate bridge. This will be the second public meeting on the bridge. At the last meeting the affected property owners, Mr. Brown and the Town had no major problems with the plan. It was noted that this will be a good time to expand the entrance to the driveway at the WWTF. There is one recent issue that needs additional understanding. Vtrans is asking for an exemption of the height distance from the railroad to the bridge a reduction from the required 23 feet to 21 feet this will effect the sewer pipe that runs under the track. We will have to find the best solution to insulate the sewer pipe due to the frost line. On Monday afternoon there will be an onsite meeting with the agency to discuss this project and to the public meeting Monday evening.

Grady Bridge: For the past 3 years, this project has been in the design and permit phase. All permits are now in hand and the project is ready for construction. The final design and phasing will be discussed as well as the financing of the project. After Irene, about \$70k of FEMA money fixed the footings.

Fire Department: NBF is finalizing the design plans, now working on HVAC and electrical. The Act 250 application should be filed within 2 weeks, as well as the wetland permits. A DRB application has been filed for the conditional use. Closing on the property is scheduled in 2 weeks. The USDS is still reviewing the plans and loan application.

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556 Main Street: The contractors will expect some sort of direction before March 13, which is the last day for the bid prices to be secure.

Winter Storms: The Highway crew is doing a great job in keeping up, additional sand and salt has been delivered. Since Paul Eagan is out of work, it is taking the current crew approximately 1 (one) extra hour to do the plowing.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Set Sewer Commissioners Meetings

C. Jacien requested the board have several Sewer Commissioners meetings to finalize the Ordinance which has been in the making for 5+ years and the reconstruction of sewer line on Route 30 and the extension on Crystal Heights. The board agreed they would meet every other Monday at 6:00 pm before the next 3 to 4 regular meetings.

Disposition of 556 Main Street

C. Jacien stated that there was a copy in their mail boxes the agreement with the Historical Society as well as state statute for disposition of property. Any time there is a disposition of property has to be warned and there is a period of time for the public to comment. C. Jacien stated that we are working on a plan to remove all remaining files, etc. and they would be stored in the heated garage at the WWTF. We will have to store the artwork and the stuff in the basement vault in the vault upstairs. This way we would still be stewards of the building but remove the cost.

J. Bruno asked how we will store the records. C. Jacien responded we would use bankers boxes where necessary, hire a moving company to move the files and refuse company to remove the trash and then work on shutting the building down. All board members agreed that this was the best thing to do.

R. Spaulding asked if there was any liability for the movers to be in the building. C. Jacien responded that they would be informed of the situation and they can make their own determinations. J. Bruno requested that we get prices on the move.

J. Bruno stated that he is interested in closing the building as soon as possible and another thing is a deer mount that has been in the building for at least 50 years and still in the building and he has gotten prices to have it remounted and will do so at his own expense, that way it will be in good shape for the next 50 to 100 years and can be displayed in our future office space. With the boards approval he would like to take the deer head and have it property restored. The board members voiced no objection.

C. Jacien stated that the Historical Society has the right of first refusal for the building for \$2,500 less than the appraised value. We do have an appraisal for the property but the problem is that there are very few buildings to compare to. They range from \$40,000 to \$180,000.

G. Trudo stated that he was in the cellar vault several years ago and the records in the cellar vault were laden with mold and asked about having them restored. He asked that the town move forward to protect those historical records.

MOTION

R. Spaulding made a motion that we have the records restored before moving them to another building. R. Combs seconded for discussion.

J. Hale stated that it was a good idea and asked that we get a cost on process. R. Combs & J. Bruno agreed.

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MOTION

R. Spaulding amended the motion to add 'contingent on pricing'. All voted in favor. So voted.

C. Jacien informed the board that the contractor was to be awarded the bid for the renovation to 556 is holding the contract price for and the 90 day window ends on March 13. He asked that the board give him direction as to what they would like to do.

J. Bruno asked that out of courtesy we contact the mold contractor and ask if their bid figure will still be good for another 90 days.

TOWN OFFICE ALTERNATIVES

C. Jacien stated that the previous board had looked at the Woodard, Diekel and the Abatiell property. Since Mr. Taggart has submitted a petition to the previous select board we will need to discuss this at the next meeting.

R. Combs asked for a spread sheet showing the properties showing the pros and cons of each property for

R. Spaulding stated that he was disappointed that we didn't do a survey at the last election so we would get a feel for what the public would like to go.

J. Hale stated that the town has put a lot of money into the design for attaching the town office to the fire house and we have the most significant cost analysis. We would need someone to do an estimate on the Woodard. He continued saying the he thinks we might be better off by going to the fire house and be done with it.

J. Bruno suggested that we have a non-binding vote to get the voice of the people and stop the fighting. If they want the fire stations then that is the direction we will move in or if they want something else that we will consider that.

F. Taggart stated that he thinks the people spoke and the option of the school building is a viable option.

J. Hale stated that he thinks that we already have the voice of the people and we should go with the addition to the fire station.

FIRE STATION UPDATE

C. Jacien updated NBF is currently working on the HVAC & electrical for the contract bid, the Act 250 should be done in the next 2 weeks and the wetland permits. The DRB application & the Simple parceling permits are in the process and the closing should be within 2 weeks. Also, the USDA loan application is in the process.

The plans do include a dotted line sketched in showing the possible placement of a 4000+ sq. ft. addition possibly the Town Office.

POLICE PENSION UPGRADE CONTRACT

C. Jacien stated the recent contract includes upgrades to the police pension plan from Group B to Group C. This will add more to the police package with the hopes of retaining the officers longer. Plan C offers an officer with 10 years of service to retire at age 55. The employee will contribute 9.5% and employer will contribute about 1.5% more than other employees. This will require approval of the select board.

MOTION

R. Spaulding made the motion that the Town of Castleton offer the option of VMERS Group C to current sworn police officers and all new sworn police officers. D. Combs seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.

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SELECT BOARD CONCERNS

R. Spaulding asked if everyone attending would think about why the young people do not want to stay or come to Castleton and let him know their thoughts.

J. Hale asked if the listers could update the board on the re-valuation.

J. Bruno stated that he wanted that everyone that voted for him and the board faith in him to elect him as chair. We have all be at odds over 556, and if we put the same amount of energy in coming to a compromise he is confident that we can come to a solution by the end of the year. Also, hope that all future meeting will be as civilized as this one tonight.

J. Bruno asked that 'any other comments' be added to all future agendas.

L. Squire asked if the trees to the south of the new fire station we going to be left. R. Combs responded that he thought that some of the trees were going to be removed, but will ask the architect for plans.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

R. Spaulding made a motion to enter executive session with the Town Manager for Legal, Real Estate & Personnel at 9:30 pm. R. Combs seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.

R. Combs made a motion to exit executive session with no action taken. J. Hale seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.

ADJOURN

R. Combs made a motion to Adjourn at 9:50 pm. J. Hale seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.