

Select Board, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Town of Castleton  
Select Board Meeting  
Minutes of May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
Castleton Town Offices**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joe Bruno, Thomas Etori, Bob Spaulding, Richard Combs, John Hale

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Charles Jacien via telephone, See attached list

The meeting called to order at 7:03 by Chairman J. Bruno with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes for Approval-April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**MOTION**

Motion to approve the minutes of April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014 by T. Etori. Seconded by R. Combs.

All in favor. So voted.

**Note:** On the minutes dated April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014, there should be the following motion under Other Business:

**MOTION**

Motion by T. Etori to approve the purchase of a new broom for the Bobcat for \$4,520.99. Seconded by R. Combs. All in favor. So voted.

This correction was noted by Town Manager Jacien.

**Warrants for Approval**

**MOTION**

T. Etori made a motion to approve warrant 0512R for \$4,405.38, 0512 for \$47,930.24; 0501 for \$4,400.42; 0508 for \$12,637.90; 0501P for \$11,675.81; and 0508P for \$12,093.59.. Seconded by T. Etori.

T. Etori stated he wanted to pull the bill for New England Municipal Contractors for \$3356.10 from Warrant 0512R as the board has not been updated as to the progress of the reappraisal. All members of the board agreed.

T. Etori also suggested pulling the bill for Stitzel, Page, and Fletcher on page 3 of warrant 0512. Chairman J. Bruno stated it would be pulled and discussed during executive session.

All in favor of approving the warrants as amended. So voted.

Chairman J. Bruno noted that the light bill for the mobile town office is very high.

**MOTION**

T. Etori made a motion to approve warrant 0501.1P for \$563.23 and 0508.1P for \$563.23. Seconded by J. Hale. R. Combs recused himself. All in favor. So voted.

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### **Set Transfer Permit Fee for FY 2014-15**

Town Manager Jacien stated he recommended keeping the prices the same as the transfer station usually pays for itself.

Chairman J. Bruno stated that he would like to talk about recyclables and scrap steel. Town Manager Jacien stated that the town typically gets paid for this based on market price. He stated he would run some numbers and prepare a report.

J. Hale stated that if the transfer station is break even, there is no reason to raise the prices.

### **MOTION**

Motion to keep the fee schedule the same for FY 2014-15 by J. Hale. Seconded by R. Combs. All in favor. So voted.

### **TDI Presentation on buried transmission line**

R. Chase from TDI New England made a presentation. The following is a summary of the presentation: The proposed project is the New England Clean Power Link, an underwater line that would import hydroelectric power from Canada to New England. The project is in its very early stages, and was announced last year. So far, the reception has been positive. There will be direct benefits to the communities through which the line passes, including tax payments. The estimated cost is \$1.2 billion dollars and is privately financed. There is regional demand for cost competitive electricity that is clean. In the town of Castleton, there would be 7.8 miles of pipe within the Route 4 right of way. They have looked at alternative routes as well. Once installed, the cables don't need maintenance. They would like to use local labor to the extent that it is possible. Studies indicate that Vermonters would save \$10 million dollars on electricity bills over the course of 10 years. Later this month, they will be filing for some permits, which is a lengthy process. They hope to have permits in place by the end of 2015, and secure financing and perform construction from 2016-2018.

(B. Spalding arrived at this point in the meeting, 7:35 P.M)

T. Ettori asked about the life expectancy of the cable. R. Chase stated it is 40+ years.

J. Bruno asked if the tax revenue would be generated even along the state highway. R. Chase stated it would be.

J. Bruno suggested information meetings for the town when the process is further along.

### **Set Dates for Annual Road Tour and Select Board Meeting**

The next Select Board meeting will take place on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7PM, followed by June 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

The annual road tour will take place on May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.

### **Citizens' Concerns**

L. Melendi asked if the board was considering purchasing the property to the south of the JAMAC property. Chairman J. Bruno stated there was no update at this time, but that he was personally in favor of it. L. Melendi disagreed, stating he feels it is a lot of money to spend. Chairman J. Bruno noted that the town is often hesitant to make purchases, which ends up costing more in the long run.

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### **Manager's Update**

**Village School Closure:** A request is in to the School board for a joint meeting to discuss the building and property.

**556 Main Street:** The Thomas Hirschak Company is working on a proposal for the sale of the building via auction. The 30 day notice has been posted and advertised in the newspaper.

Chairman J. Bruno asked about legal fees such as closing costs. Town Manager Jacien stated that the buyer usually incurs these costs.

J. Hale questioned whether this process is something that the town needs to spend money on. Chairman J. Bruno asked what about the marketing. He stated that he wanted to discuss it at the next meeting and see if the historical society would attend. He stated he would not discuss the issue further at this meeting.

**Fire Department Funding:** As a possible option, the Manager needs authorization to apply to the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank Loan rather than the USDA. The bond bank may be a quicker and more efficient way of funding this project.

### **MOTION**

Motion to authorize the manager to submit the application to the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank for fire department funding by B. Spaulding. Seconded by T. Ettori.

T. Ettori stated that he feels it is worth looking into to see if a local bank would lend.  
All in favor. So voted.

**Alternative Temporary Office Location:** Dr. Diekel is offering his office space for \$1600 a month. As opposed to the current \$1300 for the modular offices and \$1500 for the land. There is still the issue of the location of the Town Clerk, because of the storm water situation at Castleton Meadows, this is not an ideal place for the vault. The TC would have to stay at the current location for \$500 a month.

The board will look at the prospective location during the annual road tour on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Sewer Commissioners:** A budget and project break down for the Route 30 work is enclosed. This project can be totally funded with the current undesignated funds in the sewer account, currently the balance is \$470,000.

**Personnel Policy/Pay Scale:** A draft of the revision has been sent to the Union for their review and comments. The Manager would like another review of the pay scale, which can be used as an incentive with the annual performance evaluations that are now indicated in the policy.

Please take note that the upcoming budget cuts the salary of the Treasurer in half and utilizes an hourly not to exceed figure.

T. Ettori stated that he would like to review the personnel policy first.

### **Other Business**

None

### **Select Board Concerns**

J. Hale asked if the town took C. Burnett up on her offer to store some of the items from 556 Main Street.

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Chairman J. Bruno stated that the town is getting a price from Gawet Marble to crate the marble plaque. Also, they are getting pricing to get a glass case for the Beer's Map. He stated that wants two members of the board to see the proposed storage location at the Higley House. T. Ettori and J. Hale will go.

J. Hale stated that he thinks the board needs to notice the terms of the purposed conveyance when a buyer is selected for 556 Main Street, then give a 30 day notice. Town Manager Jacien stated that he does not feel the town has that obligation. Chairman J. Bruno and B. Spaulding agreed.

#### MOTION

Motion by J. Hale to recess the Select Board meeting. Seconded by B. Spaulding. All in favor. So voted.

#### **Board of Sewer Commissioners**

Chairman J. Bruno called the meeting to order at 8:48 P.M.

Town Manager Jacien stated that the proposed project is a gravity line replacement from Castleton Corners south of Route 30 to Preston Lane. The total estimated project cost is \$360,000, and there is \$470,000 in undesignated reserve funds, so there is enough money to do the job without digging into designated reserves or affecting the sewer rate.

H. Goyette asked why stop at Preston Lane. Town Manager Jacien stated that is where it switches to forced main, and would be more costly to replace. H. Goyette expressed concern that in a few years, it will have to be dug up anyway, disturbing the new sidewalks.

Chairman J. Bruno agreed, stating it would be good to get an idea of the cost to continue the line replacement.

#### MOTION

Motion by R. Combs to put the Route 30 sewer line replacement and repair project out to bid. Seconded by B. Spaulding. All in favor. So voted.

The next meeting of the Sewer Commissioners will be June 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM.

#### MOTION

Motion to close the meeting of the Board of Sewer Commissioners at 9:00 and reconvene the Select Board meeting by B. Spaulding. Seconded by R. Combs. All in favor. So voted.

#### **Select Board Meeting Continued**

#### **Executive Session:**

#### MOTION

Motion to enter executive session regarding legal and personnel with the board and the town manager by B. Spaulding. Seconded by R. Combs. All in favor. So voted.

#### MOTION

Motion to come out of executive session by T. Ettori with no action taken. Seconded by R. Combs. All in favor. So voted. The board came out of executive session at 9:40 P.M.

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**MOTION**

Motion to adjourn by T. Ettori. Seconded by R. Combs. All in favor. So voted.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 P.M.

Submitted by Brittany Gilman