

**Town of Castleton
Select Board Meeting
Minutes of January 14th, 2013
Castleton Town Offices**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomas Ettori, James Leamy, Ed O'Shea, Cristine Smith, Patricia Graziano

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Charles Jacien, town manager; see attached list

Meeting called to order at 7:04 by Chairman T. Ettori with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Land Records- Town Clerk

K. Thornblade stated that she was advised by another town clerk to have something on the ballot to solidify the preservation of land records, and create a reserve fund with hopes of eventually digitizing the records.

C. Smith stated that she thought a reserve fund already existed. K. Thornblade stated that it does, only by motion of the Select Board, not by vote. She stated that there is currently about \$29,000 available in the fund. Chairman T. Ettori stated he is concerned that the ballot item would be voted down. E. O'Shea agreed.

M. Combs stated that currently, there is a balance for the general fund which encompasses everything except sewer, library, grant related money, etc. Within the fund, there are dollars designated for the restoration of town clerk records. It would take a vote of the people to establish a reserve fund for the town clerk. She also stated that if the article did not pass, the money would still be designated within the general fund.

Chairman T. Ettori asked K. Thornblade to find out how it needs to be worded, and it will be put on the ballot at \$3 per page.

Town Office Update

Chairman T. Ettori stated that the board is looking at two pieces of property, which had been made public on front porch forum. He stated that the parcels are the Abatiell property and the Woodard property. He said that a third property is being looked at, but is not being made public yet. K. Thornblade asked if a decision would be made within the next two weeks for the ballot. Chairman T. Ettori stated that there would be a decision, and that the board is currently waiting on figures.

C. Smith suggested holding a meeting for public feedback. It was decided that the board would meet next week, January 21st, at 6:00 P.M in the Community Center.

J. Rehlen asked if the sale of 556 Main would be on the ballot. Chairman T. Ettori stated it would likely not be, but it would be voted on eventually.

Citizens' Concerns

W. Rehlen asked about the trailer behind the fire station being moved. Town Manager Jacien stated that it is on a work schedule.

J. Rehlen asked about the enclosure for the town clerk. Chairman T. Ettori stated that another 250 watt heater will be put in the vault, and that Town Manager Jacien is pricing coverings. J. Rehlen suggested allowing K. Thornblade to move back to 556. Chairman T. Ettori stated the board would not consider this because of health concerns, and requirements by the State of Vermont state that certain things must be remedied before anyone can move back into the building.

J. Hale asked if the board had budgeted for principal and interest on a potential bond. Chairman T. Ettori stated that they had not, and that it would be a year process before payments would begin anyway.

RCSWD Discussion

J. O'Gorman stated that there are many changes and challenges related to Act 148 coming down the pike. He stated that RCSWD is updating plans to coincide with new laws. He also stated the district surcharge of \$16.97 had remained the same since 1999, which is the lowest surcharge among all districts. He also stated that the RCSWD has been working with legislature, and educating communities.

Chairman T. Ettori asked how often the town needs to be certified. J. O'Gorman stated it is every 5 years, and RCSWD helps Castleton through the process. Chairman T. Ettori stated that he is concerns about obligation of the town if RCSWD goes out for another bond. J. O'Gorman stated that in order to bond, the majority of the 17 towns in the district would have to approve it.

S. Day asked where our waste goes. Chairman T. Ettori stated that it goes to Hudson Falls to an incinerator, which is different than other towns in RCSWD. S. Day asked if RCSWD has a hazardous waste collection day. J. O'Gorman said that there is collection year round on Gleason Road, and from April to October, RCSWD goes around to town for collection, which is free to district towns.

B. Spalding stated that haulers also have to pay the surcharge.

T. Gilbert stated that Fair Haven, a member of SWAC, pays about \$70,000 out of taxes on average. For Castleton, that would come to around \$90,000 for similar services. He suggested staying with RCSWD.

E. O'Shea stated that he does not see savings in switching. C. Smith and J. Leamy agreed. The board decided switching to a different solid waste district would not appear on the ballot.

Appointment- Assistant Treasurer

MOTION

J. Leamy made a motion to appoint K. Miller as Assistant Treasurer. C. Smith seconded.

M. Combs stated the pay for this position is \$12/hour and the treasurer's salary is reduced by the amount paid to the assistant treasurer for a given week.

All were in favor. So voted.

Minutes for Approval- January 3rd, 2013

MOTION

C. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from January 3rd, 2013. P. Graziano seconded. All in favor. So voted.

Warrants for Approval

MOTION

C. Smith made a motion to approve warrant 0114 for \$40,072.29; 0110 for \$14,125.44; and 0110P for \$21,471.35. J. Leamy seconded.

P. Graziano asked about the charge from the State of Vermont, Wildland Warden. Town Manager Jacien stated it is a 50% local match for a grant to help fight wildfires.

P. Graziano asked about the charges for the K9 Drug Certification. Town Manager Jacien stated that is ongoing training and certification, but the town is not responsible for food, etc. for the dog.

All were in favor of approving the warrants. So voted.

Other Business

Town Manager Jacien presented a tax sale list. He stated that M. Jakubowski suggested these properties to go on to deed search and review.

Chairman T. Ettori stated that if a prior search was done, he doesn't feel it is necessary to have an attorney do the title search.

K. Thornblade suggested waiting until the 30 day notice is up to hire a lawyer.

Town Manager Jacien stated they would wait the 30 days, then re-approach the board.

Town Manager's Update

Budget Warning: The deadline for the Social Service requests is January 24th. The Warning will be ready to sign at the Select Board meeting of January 28th.

Solid Waste Districts: After a review of costs and benefits, the Manager recommends that the Town continue its membership in the Rutland Solid Waste District.

Grady Bridge: A final inspection is complete; plans are being developed for the causeway. These plans will be submitted for permit approval, with an anticipated summer start date on the next phase.

Vermont Downtown Board: The VLCT has appointed the Manager to this statewide board. Personal time will be taken for this activity. This board is responsible for the Downtown and Village designation programs as well as Growth Centers throughout the State.

Castleton Corners Sidewalks: A kickoff meeting is scheduled for Friday January 18th, with the consulting engineers. A representative from the state funding source will also attend.

Town Manager Jacien stated that R. Hall had approached him about the outstanding balance owed him. R. Hall stated that there may be some room for negotiation. Chairman T. Ettori instructed Town Manager Jacien to find out exactly how much R. Hall will negotiate for before the board makes a decision.

Select Board Concerns

MOTION

J. Leamy made a motion to instruct the town manager to evaluate each department as to its cost effectiveness no later than May 31, 2013. C. Smith seconded.

All in favor. So voted.

Adjournment:

MOTION

Motion to adjourn at 8:44 P.M by J. Leamy. Seconded by E. O'Shea. All in favor. So voted.

The open meeting was closed, and executive session was entered at 8:44.

Executive Session

MOTION

Motion to enter executive session by J. Leamy. Seconded by E. O'Shea. All in favor. So voted.

MOTION

Motion to exit executive session at by J. Leamy with no action taken. Seconded by C. Smith. All in favor. So voted. The board exited executive session at 9:17 P.M.

Submitted by Brittany Gilman

Patricia Graziano, Clerk

Date of Approval