

Select Board, November 11th, 2013

**Town of Castleton
Select Board
Meeting of November 11th, 2013
Castleton Community Center**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomas Etti, John Hale, Wenger Rehlen, Ed O'Shea, Cristine Smith

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Charles Jacien; see attached list

Meeting called to order at 7:00 by Chairman T. Etti with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes for Approval-October 22nd and October 28th, 2013

MOTION

Motion to approve the minutes of October 22nd and October 28th, 2013 by C. Smith. Seconded by J. Hale.

E. O'Shea noted that if the town chooses not to renew its contract with ACS Xerox, they would have to return the equipment.

Vote on the Motion
All in favor. So voted.

Warrants for Approval

MOTION

C. Smith made a motion to approve warrant 1111E for \$40,730.50, 1111 for \$77,724.16; 1107 for \$14,631.38; 1031 for \$4,753.69; 1107P for \$12,362.48; and 1031P for \$12,473.23. Seconded by J. Hale.

W. Rehlen asked about the Wheelabrator chargers. Town Manager Jacien stated that is where the town brings its trash.

E. O'Shea asked if the webmaster was paid a flat fee or hourly. Town Manager Jacien stated it is a yearly salary.

C. Smith asked about overtime for the sewer department. Town Manager Jacien stated that there were some issues with a pump station, and also tank cleaning.

All in favor. So voted.

Listers- Errors/Omissions

J. Hale asked how the acreage was figured out on the Holmes property. J. Potter stated that Holmes got an updated survey.

Chairman T. Etti asked if the town forgave taxes for the rental property for the historical society last year. Town Manager Jacien stated that the voters vote every 5 years but only on the non-income producing portion.

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MOTION

Motion to accept the changes for 11/11/13 as listed by C. Smith. Seconded by E. O'Shea. All in favor. So voted.

Tax Sale List- 30 Day Notice

Town Manager Jacien stated that these are balances between \$100 and \$300. Many are recurring and this list is for last year's taxes. The Saum Realty LLC properties had been recently sold. He stated no type of arrangements have been made at this time.

MOTION

Motion by C. Smith to send out 30 day notices to proceed with tax sale. Seconded by J. Hale. All in favor. So voted.

556 Main Street & Fire Station Update

Chairman T. Ettori stated that NBF is ready to send out the bids for 556, and should be back by December 13th, 2013. That would put a vote on the total cost in January. He stated that the town is allowed to put on a vote regarding moving the police department to the emergency services building. He stated that J. Berryhill indicated there would not be a major cost difference. He also stated that they looked at the \$75,000 grant for the elevator, but there are a lot of hurdles that need to be cleared before the application, such as an environmental study. It would also trigger Bacon Davis wages, although he does not feel that would make much of a difference.

Town Manager Jacien stated that Claypoint did a walkthrough last week with bidders, and bids are due Wednesday afternoon. There were 3 bidders.

J. Hale asked if those bidders would do all the demolition. Town Manager Jacien stated that they would do demolition back to the brick.

B. Potter noted that the board voted to keep the total project cost at \$990,000. Chairman T. Ettori stated that to date, \$69,794.50 has been spent on the project. He stated that the majority of J. Berryhill's prices are included in the estimates.

C. Smith asked if it ends up costing more than the \$75,000 estimate if it would be added to the total project cost. Chairman T. Ettori stated that it would, but there is also a built in contingency.

C. Smith asked if the vote is on one bond vote. Chairman T. Ettori stated that the vote is one bonding for 556 and whether to move the police department. C. Smith stated she was against doing a two part vote again because it can be confusing. Chairman T. Ettori stated that the town could do the votes on separate days, but it would cost more.

J. Hale asked if the vote on the police department would be binding. Chairman T. Ettori stated that it would be.

W. Rehlen stated that he agrees that having 2 ballot items on the same issue is confusing and stated that he supports a special vote regarding the location of the police department.

E. O'Shea stated that he does not want the ballot to be confusing at all, so he supports a separate vote.

C. Smith stated that she feels the vote on 556 should be held first, then vote on the police department.

M. Finnegan expressed concern about paying back the unallocated fund for money already spent on the project once funding is secured. He also asked about an updated on the Fire Station.

Chairman T. Ettori stated that once the Act 250 permit is in place, the town will close on the property.

M. Combs stated that she feels the Select Board should put the fire department and police department together because it makes the most sense. She stated the cost would only increase the tax rate by two cents for one year.

E. O'Shea stated that the board needs to look past personal preferences and think about what is best for the town. He noted there is no room for expansion at 556, so putting the police department there is not wise in planning for the future.

N. Cameron stated that she expressed concern about the fire department project putting 556 on the back burner, and was assured it wouldn't. However, it seems to her that it has happened anyway.

Chairman T. Ettori stated that he does not want to be accused of putting the police station with the fire department just to cut costs.

R. Combs stated that the main reason the police department wasn't included in the petitions was because they were not authorized to use town funds to come up with a new set of plans, so they essentially drew a line between the fire department and town office from an old set of plans drawn up by J. Berryhill.

MOTION

Motion to hold a special election for revote on 556 on Tuesday, January 21st. Seconded by W. Rehlen.

C. Smith stated she wanted to do it as soon as possible. W. Rehlen stated that he would like to see plans for the police department at the emergency services building first. Chairman T. Ettori stated that he would speak with J. Berryhill, and would also schedule a special meeting for next Monday.

Zoning Administrator-Jeff Biasuzzi

J. Biasuzzi introduced himself. He stated that he would have office hours on Tuesday and Thursday. He also noted he is available by phone and email.

Town Manager's Update

- Thank all the veterans and their families for their sacrifice
- Health Care Exchange: Working on getting employees hooked up with the exchange
- Environmental Court: Teleconference is scheduled for the 18th. T. Parisi is working on writing up a dismissal.
- Petition: A petition to purchase the Woodard property is being circulated among the citizens
- Budget: Looking for a January 6th date to have budget established.
- Route 30 Sewer Line Replacement: Wrapped up last week with the final survey. Should have plans soon.

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- Fire Truck: Old ladder truck sold for \$4400
- NBF will meet with the fire department on Thursday
- Recording Secretary and Accounting Clerk: Still looking for these positions. Also hiring a CDL driver.
- Rescue Squad: Fair Haven is more expensive considerably then Rutland Regional, so the town will continue with Rutland Regional Ambulance Service

Select Board Concerns

E. O'Shea asked about the recent petition. Town Manager Jacien stated that he knows folks are actively getting signatures.

C. Smith stated that she would like to see the flags taken down before the winter hits.

W. Rehlen asked about the Historic Preservation Grant application and why it was incomplete. Town Manager Jacien stated it was incomplete because while hard copy photos were sent in, a disc with photos was not. W. Rehlen expressed concern about this, stating that the grant was significant, for \$15,000.

Adjournment:

MOTION

Motion to adjourn by J. Hale. Seconded by C. Smith. All in favor. So voted.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Submitted by Brittany Gilman