

**TOWN OF CASTLETON SELECT BOARD MINUTES**  
**Monday, January 24, 2022 7:00 p.m.**  
**Castleton Fire Station Community Room 273 Route 30N, Bomoseen**  
**In-Person & Zoom Virtual Public Meeting**

Zoom Meeting Recording Link:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/91opGW8N0coniyP\\_cgkDZcjoQmB1eZi\\_IUnq1\\_FvRV0GuoqSWhrapK2MellZ2g.kabj\\_TSBD44CA5LP](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/91opGW8N0coniyP_cgkDZcjoQmB1eZi_IUnq1_FvRV0GuoqSWhrapK2MellZ2g.kabj_TSBD44CA5LP)

**PRESENT:** Jim Leamy, Chair; Joseph Mark, Parliamentarian and Secretary; Michael Holden, Chris Fouracre, Mary Lee Harris  
Attending via Zoom: Allison Harvey, Recording Secretary, Richard Combs, Vice Chair, Nedra Boutwell, Sam Drazin, Mike Jones, Melanie Combs, Robert Spaulding, Member

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Select Board Chair, Jim Leamy at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Leamy.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Mr. Holden made motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Mark seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried 4-0.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Mr. Holden made a motion to approve the minutes of January 10, 2022 as presented. Mr. Mark seconded.** Page 1, last line of the Citizen's Comments and Concerns, Mr. Jones should be changed to Mr. Mark. Third to last line on the page, Merck should be changed to MRF. Page 3, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, first line, weary should be changed to leery. Page 4, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph, first line, file should be changed to follow. Page 5, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, last sentence should have 'this' inserted between felt and should and 'there' should be inserted between as and is. **All were in favor with noted changes. Motion carried 4-0.**

**CITIZENS COMMENTS & CONCERNS - ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:**

None at this time. Member Robert Spaulding joined the meeting via Zoom at this time.

**LBA – INTRODUCING SAM DRAZIN**

Mr. Leamy, is new President of Lake Bomoseen Association. His family grew up in Rutland area, may recognize last name. Is interim board president for LBA, has property on the Lake on Route 30. He is working hard to building and rebuilding a collaborative with the Town to get organized and open communication with the Town and the LBA. Trying to reinvent their organization, they have a lot of new people and looking forward to a way to work together. Would like to get to know the board members and move ahead in a positive direction.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL**

Mr. Leamy stated the only change is in the line for recreation as discussed at the last meeting, and the rec committee requests one item for the ballot. **Mr. Combs made to approve the budget for period ending June 30, 2023 for the amount of \$3,533,599.00 Mr. Holden seconded. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

**WARNING: APPROVAL FOR POSTING**

Mr. Leamy stated they need to get the warning approved and to Nedra so she can get it printed. It has been double checked

and proofread. **Mr. Mark made a motion to approve the warning as presented in the packet for the town Meeting on March 1, 2022. Mr. Holden seconded** Mr. Spaulding asked about the \$10,150 for Memorial Day, July 4, etc. events, when prior year was \$3,300, is more than 3 times more. Mr. Jones said was due to it being left out and an overage last year, and board was told when it came out would have to come back in. **All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **FINANCING FOR LOADER PURCHASE**

Mr. Jones stated in working with the bank, he asked for an amortization schedule for the loader that was approved to purchase. What's in the packet is copies of the quote and the schedules. One is for 2.35% over 4 years and other is for 2.6% over 4 years. There are two because in 120 days the bank is predicting the feds will change the rates, and are suspecting it will got up to 2.6% for the first increase. If approve at 2.35% now the town would get the funds now, knowing would not get loader for up to 3 months. So they will pay interest on 3 months or wait and take chance doesn't increase before the 120 days, and could be reconsidered at that time. There would be less interest in 3 month and not have equipment than would over the 4 years at a higher rate for the proposed \$153,000 loan. **Mr. Mark made a motion to authorize the manager to pursue a loan from Peoples United Bank for \$153,000 at a rate of 2.35% for 4 years. Mr. Holden seconded.** Brief discussion on the start of the loan process, Mr. Jones felt would be about April it should be completed, and the first payment would be due a year from now, April, 2023. **All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **LIQUOR LICENSE APPROVAL: TOLTEC, INC. D/B/A BEVERAGE KING, SECOND CLASS LICENSE**

**Mr. Mark made a motion to approve the second-class liquor license for Beverage King. Mr. Holden seconded. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **TAX STABILIZATION POLICY**

Mr. Jones stated this policy was duly warned and approved by voters on March 8, 2018. It appears they are not able to locate the signing by the board. **Mr. Mark made a motion to approve the tax stabilization policy as presented. Mr. Holden seconded. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carries 5-0.** Mr. Jones asked Mr. Leamy if had been approached by someone about the height of the buildings that is addressed in this policy, Mr. Leamy stated he felt it seemed to be a zoning issue. Mr. Jones stated once this is completed it will be post on the town web page.

#### **POLICE CRUISER PURCHASE – CHIEF PETER MANTELLO**

Chief Mantello stated he spoke with Chuck Williams, who is in charge of fleet purchases, and he has indicated it will take 5 ½ months to receive the new vehicle once ordered. Nothing has changed on the money end, and if ordered in the next week, they should have it by July. **Mr. Mark made to authorize the purchase from McGee Ford of a 2022 Ford Explorer Interceptor with associated enhancements for a total of \$48,400.98. Mr. Holden seconded. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Jones stated there are a number of highlights in his printed report, asked if board members had any questions for him. Most of the information is repetitive and are updates on status. He noted on Page 5 – fire department, he failed to get things loaded in time for the grant and he wants to address that in executive session. He also stated today State motor vehicle inspectors were at the highway garage and spoke with Chris Fouracre. They did not go to the Fire Department to look at the truck, but said if they know there are problems, then they need to do something about it. If an inspection or safety is an issue, and they have been told by in house and an outside mechanic then they need to address it. Chris Fouracre reiterated Mr. Jones' comments. Mr. Jones recommended that he needs to speak with fire chief whether he wants it taken out of service or move forward with repairs or take out of service until they have a chance to discuss further and make a decision. Mr. Holden feels should look at liability and safety of the vehicle, it is a known issue and the Town would ultimately be responsible. Even if repaired, they still have a repaired 25 plus year old truck. Mr. Jones stated he will get an estimate on repairs after speaking with the fire chief. Board members agreed.

Page 7 of Manager Report – number 11, he spoke with Eric Hall with the RRPC about the final rule on the ARPA funds. He echoed the board members at a previous meeting that it sounds like there are two options, using the formula for lost revenue and that there is broader discretion if it is under a certain amount. He is waiting for further interpretation as well. Mr. Jones explained the possibilities of increases and what's acceptable for use for the ARPA funds. Discussion on the number of apparatus packs for the fire department that are needed.

Mr. Jones stated he is waiting for a response from Justin on time frame for union negotiations, not getting an answer from the union rep.

Jane and Larry Nicklaw visited, it appears Jonas Rosenthal needs to do some research for land use and zoning.

Green Mountain Power has the lite installed. He will be getting a cost to put a pole in on the west side of the road at the Medical Center and a light on the pole at Castleton Meadows and Route 30 as well, should have that for next meeting.

Mr. Jones had a chart/graph presented by Chris Fouracre for overtime, asked if Board had any questions regarding that, gave an idea of where they are at with highway crew overtime. Chris Fouracre explained briefly the times correlating with storm activity. A few employees are approaching the 80 hours of the overtime budgeted per employee, some of it is due to summer maintenance/paving preparation, as the total numbers are for the fiscal year, not just November to January.

Also presented was a chart on salt, and yardage and tons of product purchased and estimated use so far. \$82,000 is what was authorized to purchase, with most recent 200 tons are at \$58,000 leaving about 550 yds of salt on the ground for use for the rest of winter. He is hoping that's enough and would not have to spend any more. They are making sure they are not wasting product on the road and keeping them safe, they've been using the grader on dirt and gravel roads between storms and making them more travelable. Not putting more product on the road, but also takes time.

Chris Fouracre also explained another handout that he prepared. Calls it a storyboard, they have been having meetings to talk about pre trip inspections, safety, number of hours on the road, reinforcing safety, to reinforce and allow the board to see the good things that are happening, as usually negative things are all they hear. MaryLee Harris thanked the highway department for their excellent work on the roads.

#### **PURCHASE ORDERS FOR APPROVAL**

**Mr. Holden made a motion to approve the A1 sewer and drain emergency pumping of Bomoseen station due to a power outage on PO #047797 dated January 7, 2022 for \$2,400.00. Mr. Mark seconded. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried 5-0**

#### **WARRANTS FOR APPROVAL**

**Mr. Combs made a motion to approve check warrant #0124R in the amount of \$328.40, check warrant #0124 in the amount of \$75,380.17, check warrant #0120 in the amount of \$31,748.52, check warrant #0113 in the amount of \$6,340.11, check warrant #0111 in the amount of \$16,279.08 and check warrant #0120P in the amount of \$17,105.52 and check warrant #0113P in the amount of \$18,112.91. Mr. Holden seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

**Mr. Holden made a motion to approve check warrant #0121P in the amount \$634.28 and check warrant #0114P in the amount of \$634.28. Mr. Mark seconded the motion. Mr. Combs recused himself. All remaining members voted in favor. Motion carried 4-0.**

#### **SELECT BOARD COMMENTS & CONCERNS:**

None at this time.

**BRIEF RECAP & ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP:**

None at this time.

**7:15 pm EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mr. Mark made a motion to enter executive session at 7:13p.m. to discuss personnel to include the Town Manager. Mr. Holden seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Holden made a motion to exit executive session at 7:28p.m. with no action taken. Mr. Mark seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Combs asked if they should address the NEPBA at this time. Mr. Mark stated he felt not everyone had sufficient time to review the documentation, and it would be best to defer to next meeting. All agreed.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Holden made a motion to adjourn at 7:28p.m. Mr. Mark seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Allison Harvey  
Recording Secretary