

**TOWN OF CASTLETON
SELECT BOARD MINUTES
Monday, September 23, 2019 at 7:00pm
Castleton Town Hall
263 VT – 30
Bomoseen, VT 05732**

PRESENT: Jim Leamy, Chair; Richard Combs, Vice Chair; Zack Holzworth, Secretary; Joseph Mark, Select Board Parliamentarian; Robert Spaulding, Member; Michael Jones, Town Manager; Peter Mantello, Police Chief; Eliza LeBrun, Recording Secretary; Hope Laughlin, Peg Camera Operator; Laura Jakubowski; Joe Bruno.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Select Board Chair, Mr. Leamy at 7:08 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Leamy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Spaulding made a motion to move those topics presented by the Police Chief to later on the agenda. Mr. Holzworth seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL: 8/26/19 & 9/9/19

Mr. Combs made a motion to accept the minutes of 8/26/19, 9/9/19 Executive Session and 9/9/19. Mr. Spaulding seconded the motion.

Mr. Mark noted that in the regular Select Board minutes of 9/9/19, on page 3, the end of the second sentence, the word “time” needs to be changed to “type.” The vote was called to question.

All were in favor and the motion passed.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Town Manager Jones asked if all Select Board members had received a letter from a resident regarding a hemp issue on land located near the resident’s home. Mr. Leamy asked if the issue referred to should be directed to the Planning Commission. Mr. Holzworth noted that the hemp being referred to was planted on land at Fire District 1, he would like to know who owns that land and what regulations are in place for the Fire District regarding proximity and contamination. Mr. Jones noted that Fire District 1 only owns the land that the well is located on. Fire District 1 has filed a complaint with the State of Vermont. The State has come to investigate, and Mr. Rosenthal is waiting for the results. The resident complaint was regarding the proximity to her home and the smell.

Mr. Jones will contact the resident and recommend that she bring her complaint to the Planning Commission.

PAINTING OF CROSSWALKS ON SOUTH STREET

Mr. Jones explained to the Board that he had not yet received a quote on the painting of the crosswalks. Mr. Jones noted that he had spoken to Keith Mulinary, Paul Egan and Devin Neary regarding the University

sharing the cost of the painting. Mr. Jones would like to apply for the Transportation Alternative Grant as well as collaborating with the University for crosswalks and lights.

Ms. Jakubowski asked that moving forward information about the crosswalk projects be shared with her. Discussion was held regarding the cost of the crosswalks, it was noted that businesses on Main Street in Castleton are not expected to pay for the crosswalks near their businesses, and it was noted that the employees and students of the University should have the ability to cross the Town roads safely. However, Ms. Jakubowski stated that the University would still be interested in discussing cost sharing.

There are only 4 crosswalks being considered for repainting, which is a short-term fix. This does not include the crosswalk to the rail trail. This could be covered in a Bike Pedestrian Grant next year.

Mr. Jones explained that the lights for the crosswalks would be to provide early warning for pedestrians and vehicles. It was noted that there are times when motorists must wait extended periods of time for pedestrians. There are some lights in New York that have 20 second timers that only allow so many pedestrians to cross during a given time period. It was also recommended that there be education for pedestrians to assist with this process.

ELLIS UPDATE, TOWN GARAGE

Town Manager Jones noted that Ellis Concrete completed back filling the east side of the Town Garage today. Although the concrete work has been completed, it was noted that the steel support beams are rotting, and the overhead door tracks need to be replaced. Two local companies have provided quotes for the additional work.

Mr. Combs made a motion to approve the additional cost of \$4,880 as quoted by Lyle Welding Fabrication for new stub columns and door jams columns. Mr. Holzworth seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Combs made a motion to approve the additional cost of \$2,000 as quoted by Overhead Door Company of Rutland for replacement overhead vertical tracks and side seals as well as replacing the bottom rollers and rusted bottom fixtures, if any bad cables are found they will be replaced and added to the bill at \$20/each with no extra labor charged. Mr. Holworth seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

POLICE UPDATE: CHIEF MANTELLO

Chief Mantello gave an overview of the August 2019 Monthly Police Report. It was noted that calls were increased in August as were property watches. Fingerprints increased for the schools and university. Rutland is backed up now and so Castleton saw more requests. Arrests and traffic violations are also increased. It was noted that at this time there are seven (7) signs missing in Town. There were only two (2) towed vehicles and no issues with the towing companies in August. There was one (1) major burglary, over \$5,000, at the Vape Shop.

PURCAHSE OF A NEW POLICE CAR

Chief Mantello recommends leasing a new police cruiser over purchasing at this time. There is not enough money in the Police Departments budget to purchase and outfit a new cruiser. However, if the department leases the cruiser for 3 years at \$12,905.90 per year, they will be able to purchase the cruiser

for \$1.00. Also, the Police Chief believes that he may be able to sell the Taurus for more than could be gained by trading it in.

Mr. Mark made a motion to approve the lease of a police cruiser for 3 years. Mr Combs seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Spaulding made a motion to allow the Chief of Police to sell the current Taurus police cruiser. Mr. Combs seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The new cruiser will be leased from John C. Stewart and Sons.

MANAGER'S UPDATE

Town Manager, Mike Jones shared the following items with the Select Board;

Transfer Station

The Town Manager spoke with Hilary Solomon on 9/17/2019 and she advised that the funding for storm water mitigation work at the Transfer Station is approved. The next step is to solicit an engineer to help design a storm water mitigation plan that adheres to best practices with the least amount of intrusion to the daily operations of the Transfer Station.

Solar Projects -

MHG Solar– Lois Baldwin responded to an email I sent her on 9/19/2019 asking if she had reviewed the lease agreement and if she could get me her legal opinion before the board meeting on the 23rd. She wrote back and advised I will have it by the 20th, in enough time to get it to the board for Monday the 23rd. *Action needed: Request the board review Lois comments and either ask additional questions or move to approve the agreement with MHG Solar to lease Town property on Staso Road for a solar array project.*

Sand Lot Solar– Construction has begun on the 500Kw solar array behind Hubbardton Forge. I spoke with the Planning Commission chair on Thursday and she advised she spoke with the owner and he advised they were 50% completed. Jim and I visited the site prior to Thursday and it looked like they were 50% done at that time. This project should go online before winter. I am unsure of of who he has lined up for off takers for the net metering credits.

The remaining information in the Town Manager's Report is informational.

SELECT BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Mark would like the record to show that Chairman Leamy is being recognized by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns for a lifetime achievement award.

Mr. Spaulding would like to know if an abandoned house is a health issue. Mr. Leamy said it depends.

Mr. Holzworth had questions about Fire Districts and how to dissolve them. It was recommended that he contact Nedra Boutwell in the Town Clerks office.

Mr. Combs would like to make a motion to thank Jennifer Jones and Julie Finnegan for their work on the first Castleton Days. Mr. Spaulding seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

WARRANTS FOR APPROVAL

Mr. Combs made a motion to approve check warrant #0923R in the amount of \$650.00, check warrant #0923 in the amount of \$154,018.95, check warrant #0919 in the amount of \$5,663.60, check warrant #0912 in the amount of \$5,345.58, check warrant #0910 in the amount of \$22,952.72 and check warrant #0919P in the amount of \$13,900.16 and check warrant #0912P in the amount of \$14,497.90. Mr. seconded the motion. All were in favor of the amended motion and the motion passed.

Mr. Holzworth made a motion to approve check warrant #0918P in the amount of \$682.97, check warrant #0911P in the amount of \$682.97. Mr. Mark seconded the motion. Mr. Combs recused himself from the vote. Those remaining were in favor and the motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Mr. Combs made a motion to enter Executive Session at 8:02p.m. to discuss personnel under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313 (a) (1) of the Vermont State Statutes with the Town Manager and Ed Balch. Mr. Holzworth seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

Mr. Combs made a motion to exit Executive Session. with no action taken. Mr. Holzworth seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion carried.

Mr. Combs made a motion to enter Executive Session at 8:50pm p.m. to discuss contracts under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313 (a) (1) of the Vermont State Statutes with the Town Manager. Mr. Mark seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

Mr. Combs made a motion to exit Executive Session. with no action taken at 9:05pm. Mr. Mark seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion carried.

Mr. Combs made a motion to approve the 09-23-2019 agreement between the Town of Castleton & N.E. Police Benevolent Association effective 07-01-2019/06-30-2022. Mr Mark Seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

ADJOURN

Mr. Combs made a motion to adjourn the Select Board Meeting at 9:10pm Mr. Holzworth seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted; Eliza LeBrun, Recording Secretary