

TOWN OF CASTLETON SELECT BOARD MINUTES
Monday, February 8, 2021 at 7:00P.M.
Castleton Town Office 263 VT – 30
Bomoseen, VT 05732

PRESENT: Jim Leamy, Robert Spaulding, Zack Holzworth and Michael Jones were present for the meeting at the Town Office. Richard Combs & Joseph Mark attended remotely.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Select Board Chair Mr. Leamy at 7:20p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. Holzworth made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Spaulding seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Mr. Holzworth made a motion to accept the minutes of 1.11.2021. Mr. Spaulding seconded the motion.

Mr. Mark pointed out the following corrections:

Clarify who made motion to approve agenda. Use past tense.

Transfer Station in bold.

If Mr. Combs recused himself, they were not all in favor.

Mr. Leamy asked if the board approved the agenda with the corrections. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

CITIZENS COMMENTS AND CONCERNS: None

DIESEL FUEL BID RECOMMENDATION, ED SAVAGE:

Mike Jones spoke about the challenge of chasing after fuel bids prior to purchase on a regular basis He suggested that an annual bid would allow the authority to purchase fuel as needed.

Mr. Combs makes a motion to allow the Town Manager & Public Works Director to put into practice an annual or semiannual bid for diesel fuel. Mr. Holzworth seconded. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

LIQUOR LICENSE REQUEST FOR APPROVAL:

Mr. Leamy stated that all licenses are renewals and have been approved by Chief Mantello.

Mr. Holzworth made a motion to approve the 3rd, 1st and outside consumption licenses for Lake Bomoseen Lodge. Mr. Spaulding seconded. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

Mr. Holzworth made a motion to approve the 2nd class license for Midway Oil. Mr. Spaulding seconded. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

Mr. Holzworth made a motion to approve the 3rd, 1st and outside consumption licenses for Lake Lakehouse Pub & Grille. Mr. Spaulding seconded. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

WINDY HOLLOW MOBILE HOME PARK COOPERATIVE

Mr. Holzworth asked why they needed to be added and clarification was provided. Because private entities cannot directly receive the grant funds, the municipality needs to pay the grant money to Windy Hollow.

Mr. Holzworth made a motion to approve Windy Hollow Mobile Home Park Cooperative Inc as a vendor for pre-approved payments of grant funds. Mr. Spaulding seconded. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

COMPOSTING OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE TRANSFER STATION:

Mike Jones had Chris Forrest reach out to Foster Brothers Farms several times over the last month, and Chris was told that someone from the Town is dealing with them as well. Since they have not responded to Chris' requests for information about their compost specifications, Mike Jones asked Ed Savage, Public Works Director, to follow up and gave him the authority to ask them if they will take our compost. Mike Jones also stated that he did not know to whom Foster Farms was referring as no other person was given authority to contact Foster Farms about the compost. Mike stated that through discussions about partnering with the University and exploring other options, this grant became available. Mr. Leamy asked if Mike was recommending the Town apply for the grant. Mike recommended the Town apply for the grant.

Mr. Combs asked if it was possible that the person from town was from the University? Mike Jones did not know who it was but will follow up with Andy Vermilyea. Mike talked about working with the University and Foster Farms to see if they have capacity to take all the compost.

Mr. Mark made a motion to give the Town Manager permission to apply for the and Materials Management Infrastructure Grant. Mr. Combs seconded. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

LETTER REGARDING CASTLETON UNIVERSITY AND VSCS REORGANIZATION:

The board wrote a letter that was drafted in support of the University.

Mr. Combs made a motion to allow Mr. Leamy to sign the letter to Representative Eileen Dickenson from the Town regarding the VSCS. Mr. Mark seconded. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

Other letters were presented, and Mark Brown will write a letter on behalf CDERAC. The Recreation Commission submitted a letter as well. Mike Jones stated that he did not think the Board needed to approve the letter from the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Combs made a motion that the Board support the Recreation Departments' letter written in support of the University. Mr. Holzworth seconded. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

Martha Molnar spoke on behalf of the Bridge Committee and was pleased that the Town is on board in support of the University. Ted Molnar spoke about the letter that Mark Brown will submit the next day. It was requested that Mark send a copy to Mike. Mr. Mark suggested that a good general practice would be for all town boards/committees to get approval on their correspondence. **In this instance, Mr. Mark made a motion that the Chairman be allowed to approve the letter on behalf of the Board. Mr. Combs seconded that motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed.**

PERSONNEL POLICY

Postponed until next meeting.

COVID HEALTH & SAFETY PLAN

Postponed until next meeting.

ARTICLE 47 DISCUSSION: RCSWD/SWAC

Mr. Leamy asked if there was a motion to take a position on Article 47. Mr. Spaulding stated that he just received the update and does not think the board should decide upon information he just received. Mr. Leamy asked for a motion to discuss Article 47. **Mr. Holzworth made a motion to discuss article 47. Mr. Combs seconded. All were in favor, and the motion passed.**

Mr. Mark stated that he had not had a chance to look at the slides sent just before the meeting. He also stated that SWAC's information appears to be that which was considered last year, and he was not in favor of this then. Mr. Combs echoed Mr. Mark's sentiment and stated that for three years prior this discussion has ended the same, he expects no different this year. Mr. Combs is asking where the paragraph came from that stated the Board is not in support of Article 47. Mr. Mark wrote it this year and last year as well. He stated that voters appreciate when the Board can take a position, the voters appreciate knowing how the Board stands in support.

Mr. Spaulding asked Mr. Mark about his reference to disposal charges. Mr. Mark stated that it is the average cost of a household hazardous waste day is \$11,000. SWAC offers 2 hazardous waste days for a total of \$22,000.

Mr. Spaulding stated that was totally incorrect. It is: \$4.51 per capita x 4717. If you want to include the HHW 50 cents is added to that.

Mr. Jones said that Bob's calculation was not correct. Mr. Jones spoke to Pam on 2/8 (SWAC) and the estimate for WHHW was \$11,000 split up over 11 member towns based on per capita and that's where the \$5,553 dollars comes from. There was nothing ever said about the addition of 50 cents to the per capita charge last year or this year, as noted in writing from SWAC. Mr. Spaulding received a copy of this via email as did all Board members.

Mr. Spaulding asked Mr. Mark where he got the figure of \$18,000, as the Town produces 2200 tons of waste at \$19.97. He stated that the surcharge still gets paid through tipping fees whether it is brought by a private hauler or to the Transfer Station.

Mr. Mark stated there is a difference of opinion. When there are families that elect to buy a private service it is not the responsibility of the town to distribute that cost across the taxpayers of our community.

Mr. Spaulding disputed the comparison. Mr. Holzworth stated that the Transfer Station is funded by the users. Mr. Spaulding stated again that the whole of Castleton produces 2100-2200 tons of trash per year. Mr. Holzworth stated that part of those numbers are Hubbardton. Mr. Spaulding stated again 2100-2200 tons time 19.97 equals \$43,000-\$45,000. He again stated that SWAC is \$21,273.67 w/o HHW. Mr. Holzworth stated \$3,719 more is what the taxpayers would pay. He asked Mr. Spaulding what is the Board's first responsibility? Mr. Leamy agrees the first responsibility to the taxpayers. Mr. Leamy wants to know if the Board wants to make a motion to take a position on Article 47 and, if it does want to,

encouraged that the position be taken tonight, as the next meeting is too close to the election.

Mr. Combs made a statement that he has been through this discussion for the last three years as have other members of the Board and the taxpayers. Each time he came to the same conclusion and will not be supporting Article 47. Mr. Spaulding said that the Town's membership with RCSWD cost the college an additional \$3500 per year and said that a hauler said that if "he" isn't charged the surcharge "he" would not charge his customers the surcharge. When asked who the hauler was, Mr. Spaulding responded Randy Daypron (sp?) General Manager from Casella Waste. Mr. Holzworth asked about other haulers. Mr. Jones stated that he has not spoken to the haulers that stated last year they would not reduce their rates if they did not pay a surcharge. But that was their stance last year. They would not change their pricing if they were charged less. Mr. Spaulding was in the business for 35 years and said everytime a major hauler raised his price; he would lose business. Mr. Holzworth asked how does this fulfill the Board's duties to the taxpayers if venturing outside of what the Town offers/does? Mr. Spaulding stated RCSWD is not cheaper, and Mr. Holzworth stated it is as it states clearly in the numbers.

Mr. Combs made a motion to approve and present to the voters the statement that was authored by Mr. Mark as the position of the Board on this matter for this year. Mr. Holzworth seconded. Four were in favor; Mr. Spaulding was opposed. The motion passed by a 4 to 1 vote.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Sidewalk project: Is the flyer from Dan Monette acceptable or are there recommended changes?
Phase 1: Engineer designed the sidewalk with wire mesh and a gravel base. VTrans said there is no requirement for the wire mesh to be installed in the sidewalk. Engineers recommend the mesh and gravel as it is an industry standard. No mesh saves the Town \$3,000, but there may be warranty issues if construction deviates from the Engineers' plans. Mike Jones asked if the Board wants the wire mesh or not? Hydeville sidewalk does not have wire mesh. Project Manager recommends the wire mesh. Mr. Mark asked what is the warranty? Mr. Jones stated he would need to follow up. Mr. Mark asked about the cost share. Mr. Jones stated it is a \$700,000 project and the Town is responsible for \$140,000 (20%). Mr. Mark supported the mesh and gravel if it is only a \$3,000 savings to the Town. Mr. Combs agreed. Mr. Leamy expressed there was unanimous consent to leave the wire mesh in.

PURCHASE ORDERS FOR APPROVAL: None.

WARRANTS OR APPROVAL

Mr. Combs made a motion to approve the following warrants: 02032R \$650.00, 0208 \$60,680.86, 0205 \$16,194.97, 0204 \$5,741.09, 0129 \$158.00, 0128 \$5,779.83, 0126 \$25,932.43, 0208 \$167.00, 0128P \$13,747.46. Mr. Holzworth seconded; Mr. Spaulding recused himself. The motion passed with four affirmative votes.

Mr. Spaulding asked about the Hazardous waste charge Warrant 0208. Mike Jones and Mr. Combs explained that it was to dispose of some Fire Department foam.

Mr. Holzworth made a motion to approve 0205P \$691.30, 0129P \$694.30. Mr. Spaulding seconded; Mr. Combs recused himself. The motion passed with four affirmative votes.

SELECT BOARD COMMENTS AND CONCERNS:

Mike Jones discussed the fact the RCSWD rates are not increasing over last year's data. Mr. Spaulding wants the rates for members and nonmembers. Mr. Jones will follow up. Mr. Spaulding wants to total

surcharges for 2019, and for 2020 through current. Mr. Holzworth has not been able to get this information.

Mr. Mark asked about the remote informational Town Meeting. Mr. Jones responded that IT people are coming tomorrow to test all the equipment.

Mr. Spaulding questioned how Zoom works. Mr. Mark explains two options for visual display: In speaker view only the active voice tile is shown. Gallery view shows all tiles. Mr. Mark suggests that the meeting start in Gallery view, and then for question period of meeting, we switch to speaker view.

Town Reports: Proof was sent to printer a week ago and is scheduled to be received 2/16 from the printer unless there are content adjustments made which would delay the printing of the report. It is unclear at this time if the Library's requested change can be made as it all depends on the delay that would occur because of that change.

It is determined there is no need for Executive Session.

Mr. Holzworth made a motion to adjourn at 8:22pm. Mr. Combs seconded, all in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Stewart