

**Town of Castleton  
Special Select Board Meeting  
Minutes of November 18th, 2013  
Castleton Town Offices**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Thomas Ettori, 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. Ettori with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**556 Main Discussion**

Chairman T. Ettori stated that the purpose of this meeting is to decide what to do with the police department—have a special election, leave it in 556 Main St, etc.

C. Smith stated she feels the best course of action is to vote on 556 as presented and have the police department vote as a line item during the general election.

W. Rehlen stated that he feels it is best to know if the police department will be included in 556 for planning purposes. He stated he feels it is important to vote on the police department first.

C. Smith stated that if it were a line item, it would not be for bonding. Chairman T. Ettori stated that a sinking fund/reserve could be created to pay for the move.

E. O'Shea stated that he would like to go to vote on 556 to get a clear yes or not. Moving the police department would lower the cost of 556, so he stated if it is moved in the future, it would be okay. He also stated that if the police department is voted on first, and is voted to stay in 556, and then 556 gets voted down or comes in way over budget—where does that leave the board.

W. Rehlen stated that he feels it is more than just economics. J. Hale stated that if 556 does get voted up, and the police department was in the general election, it might stall the project as a whole.

J. Hale asked about the bids that had come in so far. Chairman T. Ettori stated that the bid from Claypoint came in at \$122,000 and had a \$75,000 estimate.

W. Rehlen pointed out that money from the bond bank doesn't come in until May. J. Hale stated that the board could decide to borrow the cash from a different account until the money from the bond bank came in to get the project started.

Chairman T. Ettori stated that on December 13<sup>th</sup>, the board will have the cost to renovate 556 Main. He stated that can be voted on in January. He noted that if people want the police department there, they will probably vote the whole project up, and if they don't they will vote the whole project down.

W. Rehlen disagreed, stating some people want to renovate 556 but don't want the police department on Main Street.

J. Hale stated that the board could make the design decisions, so the location of the police department wouldn't necessarily have to go to vote. W. Rehlen stated he felt it was important for the town to get to vote on the location of the police department.

H. Hitchcock stated that whole issue is very confusing and it seems to be that way purposely.

N. Cameron stated that the town needs to look at all its options financially and lay them out clearly so people can make the best informed decision.

L. Melendi asked if the board is bound by the results of the election. E. O'Shea stated the board is only bound to limit its borrowing of money based on the vote. He stated the board can do what it wants so long as it doesn't incur any more debt—but he noted that is not the intent of the board.

M. Combs stated that the town is looking for a sense of direction from the board. She also stated that putting the location of the police department to vote indicates to her that the board is either afraid of making that kind of decision or that they don't have a good sense of the majority opinion.

C. Smith stated that the vote could be on a generic renovation and doesn't need to entail what it includes. She stated that the plans can be changed after if the board chooses. E. O'Shea agreed, stating the vote should be to renovate 556-yes or no, but not on specific plans. W. Rehlen disagreed.

#### MOTION

Motion to vote in a special election on where to place the police department-on Route 30 or 556 Main by W. Rehlen. Seconded by J. Hale.

J. Hale noted it wouldn't be binding because there is no money associated with it.

#### Vote on the Motion

W. Rehlen voted yes. J. Hale, Chairman T. Ettori, C. Smith, and E. O'Shea voted no. Motion fails.

#### MOTION

Motion to vote to go out to bond to renovate 556 Main in January by C. Smith. Seconded by E. O'Shea.

W. Rehlen asked if the location of the police would be put to vote after that. C. Smith stated she did not know. E. O'Shea stated that he didn't feel it should be put to vote.

#### Vote on the Motion

C. Smith, Chairman T. Ettori, E. O'Shea, and J. Hale voted yes. W. Rehlen voted no. Motion carries 4 to 1.

#### **Adjournment:**

#### MOTION

Motion to go into executive session with the board and the town manager regarding personnel by C. Smith. Seconded by E. O'Shea. All in favor. So voted.

Select Board, November 18th, 2013

MOTION

Motion to exit executive session with no action taken by C. Smith. Seconded by E. O'Shea. All in favor. So voted.

MOTION

Motion to adjourn by C. Smith. Seconded by E. O'Shea. All in favor. So voted.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Submitted by Brittany Gilman

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Date of Approval

DRAFT