

**TOWN OF CASTLETON
SELECT BOARD MINUTES
Monday, April 26, 2021
Zoom Virtual Public Meeting**

PRESENT: Jim Leamy, Chair; Richard Combs, Vice Chair; Joseph Mark, Select Board Parliamentarian and Secretary; Robert Spaulding, Member; Michael Holden, Select Board Member; Michael Jones, Town Manager; Peter Mantello, Police Chief; Eliza LeBrun, Recording Secretary

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Select Board Chair, Jim Leamy at 7:55p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Leamy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 4/12/21

Mr. Combs made a motion to approve the minutes of 4/12/21. Mr. Holden seconded the motion.

The following amendments were noted:

- On page 5, in the 3rd paragraph, change Mike Brown to Mark Brown.
- On page 7, in the last sentence under Select Board Comments and Concerns, "Mr. Holden has not been to any meetings."

All were in favor of the motion as amended. The motion passed.

CITIZENS COMMENTS & CONCERNS

There were no comments or concerns.

POLICE UPDATE: CHIEF MANTELLO

Chief Mantello reviewed the March monthly update with the Select Board. Chief Mantello noted that there was an increase in medical issues but not for an unusual reason. Motor vehicle complaints were up, these could be anything from erratic driving to anonymous calls. Suspicious persons decreased, this could be anyone walking around looking suspicious. Chief noted that total calls for service were down from February. There were 8 criminal arrests last month. More people have been out with the good weather, so traffic violations are up.

Chief Mantello shared that officers Nate Webster and Ed Hayes have completed their EMT courses.

At this time, the Police Department is still working on the burglary at Beverage King. Although they cannot name anyone, they will be bringing in someone to interview.

LIQUOR LICENSE APPROVAL: ROBO'S CREEMEE'S & GENERAL STORE, SECOND CLASS

All renewals have been approved by the Chief of Police

Mr. Holden made a motion to approve Robo's Creemee's & General Store, LLC request to renew a second class license to sell malt and vinous beverages. Mr. Spaulding seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

SOCIAL GATHERINGS POLICY REVIEW

Mr. Jones asked the Board if they would like to make a change to the current Social Gathering policy based on the change being put out by the State of Vermont.

Mr. Mark made a motion to rescind the order adopted on August 24, 2020 limiting social gatherings in the Town of Castleton. Mr. Spaulding seconded the motion.

Mr. Combs is wondering if the Select Board should wait until after the University graduation.

Mr. Mark noted that the Governor has allowed outdoor gatherings of up to 300 people as of May 1, 2021.

Mr. Jones noted that the "universal guidance" are still in place.

Chief Mantello stated that the Police Department will continue to monitor social gatherings. Chief Mantello noted that the last conversation he had with Castleton University was that they were having a Zoom graduation.

Mr. Mark had heard that a group of Castleton University students were going to have an unofficial graduation on the Fair Haven green.

Mr. Leamy called the question. All were in favor and the motion passed.

ENGINEERING FIRM APPROVAL FOR PEDESTRIAN ACCESSIBILITY SCOPING STUDY

Mr. Jones introduced Eric Hall of Rutland Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Hall was attending to answer any questions that the Select Board may have.

The Select Board did not have any questions regarding this process.

Mr. Combs made a motion to authorize Mr. Leamy to sign the memorandum indicating Select Board approval. Mr. Holden seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Jones presented an abbreviated version his Manager's report to the Select Board.

Mr. Combs asked when they would hear about the grant for the Fire Department. Mr. Jones indicated that usually after the first review people are notified if they have not passed, the Town has not received any notification yet.

Mr. Mark asked what the process to determine how money received, \$446, 000+, can be used? Mr. Jones shared that once there is a solid answer on what it can be used for, it would be up to the Select Board. Mr. Jones is waiting to hear back from Ed Bove for further guidance. Mr. Jones believes that the Rutland Regional Planning Commission is going to hold a zoom meeting for municipalities.

PURCHASE ORDERS FOR APPROVAL

Mr. Holden made a motion to approve Purchase Order # 045825 for a total of \$2,162.11 and Purchase Order # 045054 for a total of \$7,500. Mr. Combs seconded the motion.

Mr. Leamy clarified that the purchase order #045825 in the amount of \$2,162.11 is for the design and printing of the Castleton Visitors Brochure with a note that \$5,200 was received in business sponsorships.

Mr. Leamy noted that the second purchase order, #045054 is the incentive package for the first responders.

All were in favor and the motion passed.

WARRANTS FOR APPROVAL

Mr. Holden made a motion to approve check warrant #0426R in the amount of \$32,461.00, check warrant #0426 in the amount of \$123,863.21, check warrant #0422 in the amount of \$6,350.00, check warrant #0415 in the amount of \$31,292.92, check warrant #0422P in the amount of \$14,874.10, and check warrant #0415P in the amount of \$15,160.13. Mr. Mark seconded the motion. All were in favor the motion passed.

Mr. Holden made a motion to approve check warrant #0423P in the amount of \$694.30 and check warrant #0416P in the amount of \$694.30. Mr. Spaulding seconded the motion. Mr. Combs recused himself from the vote. Those remaining were in favor and the motion passed.

SELECT BOARD COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Mr. Spaulding asked Mr. Holden if he had received any financial information from the Rutland County Solid Waste Commission. Mr. Holden has not but he will continue to ask.

Mr. Leamy asked the Select Board if they would consider moving back into the Conference Room in the Town Office. They agreed however, the public will still be invited to attend via Zoom only.

Mr. Mark reminded the Town Manager that he was looking for the language for the \$19,000 article that was voted on in March by the citizens.

Mr. Mark asked that the Castleton University Public Safety Director be notified of the Select Board's decision to rescind the Social Gathering Policy.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Combs made a motion to enter Executive Session with the Town Manager to discuss Real Estate 1VSA Section 313(a)[2] at 8:35pm. Mr. Holden seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Holden made a motion to exit Executive Session. Mr. Mark seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

ADJOURN

Mr. Combs made a motion to adjourn the Select Board Meeting. Mr. Holden seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted; Eliza LeBrun, Recording Secretary