

**TOWN OF CASTLETON
SELECT BOARD MINUTES (CORRECTED)
Monday, January 13, 2020 at 7:00pm
Castleton Town Hall
263 VT – 30
Bomoseen, VT 05732**

PRESENT: Jim Leamy, Chair; Richard Combs, Vice Chair; Zack Holzworth, Secretary; Robert Spaulding, Member; Joseph Mark, Select Board Parliamentarian; Michael Jones, Town Manager; Eliza LeBrun, Recording Secretary; Heath Goyette, Fire Chief; Janet Currie, Planning Commission Chair; Kathryn Paynter, Peg TV; Joe Manez, Resident

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Select Board Chair, Mr. Leamy at 7:00 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Leamy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Holzworth made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Mark seconded the motion.

Mr. Spaulding asked that the word "Concerns" be added to the Agenda section labeled Select Board Comments.

All were in favor and the motion passed.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL: 12/9/19 and 12/23/2019

Mr. Combs made a motion to approve the Select Board minutes of 12/9/19 with no changes. Mr. Holzworth seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Combs made a motion to approve the Select Board minutes of 12/23/19 with no changes. Mr. Holzworth seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Ms. Janet Currie, Planning Commission Chair provided 4 articles to the Select Board and Town Manager. These documents contained information regarding 4 Towns outside of Vermont that have established moratoriums on solar projects. Ms. Currie would like the Select Board to review the articles. Ms. Currie would like to provide the Select Board with a draft of language to be used to establish a moratorium on new solar projects in Castleton. She would also like to have the Select Boards permission to contact VLCT attorneys for assistance. The Planning Commission is concerned over the number of applications for solar projects that are coming in and would like to establish an 8-month moratorium to allow the Commission to draft an energy plan.

Mr. Combs asked if each solar project application goes before the Public Service Board. Ms. Currie explained that both the applications requesting a Preferred Site and those which do not must go before the Public Service Board.

Mr. Combs also asked about a comment made at previous Select Board meeting about the substation being just about maxed out. Ms. Currie stated that she had not heard this from any Green Mountain Power representatives and was hesitant to agree without their input. Ms. Currie asked the Select Board for permission to contact Green Mountain Power for clarification on this matter.

Mr. Mark asked if a recommendation was needed for MHG's request for a Preferred Site status for their solar array application. Mr. Mark asked if the Town Manager would present a letter to the Select Board for their approval to be given to MHG.

Mr. Holzworth made a motion to approve an 8-month moratorium for any new solar projects and ask the Chair of the Planning Commission to draft language approved by the attorney. Mr. Mark seconded the motion. Mr. Combs voted nay; all other Select Board members voted in favor. The motion passed.

WARNING APPROVAL: New Items to be Added Upon Receipt of Petitions & Approved at a Later Date
The deadline for petitions is January 16, 2020.

Mr. Combs made a motion to accept and approve the Town of Castleton Warning as presented to date subject to addition of any items by petition and approval, at a later date. Mr. Holzworth seconded the motion.

Mr. Holzworth noted that articles 41, 44 and 52 all needed question marks added to the ends of the statements.

Mr. Combs amended the motion to include the punctuation corrections. Mr. Holzworth seconded the amendment. All were in favor and the motion passed.

FIRST CLASS LIQUOR LICENSE APPROVAL: IRON LANTERN

Mr. Holzworth made a motion to approve a First Class Restaurant/Bar License to sell Malt and Vinous Beverages for Iron Lantern LLC., dba Iron Lantern Restaurant located at 272A Route 4A West, Castleton, VT. Mr. Combs seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Combs recognized resident Joe Manez as he was missed earlier during the Citizens Comments.

Mr. Manez shared that he lives on East Crystal Haven. Due to the recent temperature fluctuations, this road has very deep ruts which are now frozen in place making travel very difficult for everyone and he asked that something be done.

Mr. Jones noted that as soon as Mr. Manez contacted him today, Mr. Jones called Brian Sanderson and Eric House from District 3 for help. It appears that there is a sub-base issue on East Crystal Haven and the soil composition and water table need to be reviewed. Mr. Jones will continue to investigate this issue.

SIGNING OF THE ANNUAL CERTIFICATE OF HIGHWAY MILEAGE

Mr. Combs made a motion to approve the Annual Certificate of Highway Mileage as presented. Mr. Holzworth seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

PMNRCD SEEKING DONATION

Mr. Jones explained that the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District is asking for a donation/contribution of \$500 from the Town of Castleton. The PMNRCD has dedicated a lot of time to the Town. The Town Manager stated that they have provided services well over \$500.

Mr. Combs made a motion to contribute \$500 to the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District. Mr. Holzworth seconded the motion.

Mr. Combs asked where the funds would come from for this contribution. Mr. Jones stated that there were funds in the Town Lands budget that would cover the contribution.

Mr. Combs also asked if the Town of Castleton pays PMNRCD for any of there services. Mr. Jones clarified that the Town does not pay them with money, rather they have always been paid “in kind” for their services.

The Select Board Chair called the question. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MANAGER’S UPDATE

Mr. Jones provided his Town Manager’s Report to the Select Board for discussion.

Mr. Jones shared with the Select Board that he would be seeking approval of amended language in the Transfer Station Ordinance at the next meeting. The amendment changes the current requirement for private haulers to submit a list of customers twice per year, to a requirement to submit the number of customers from each town they collect from only once per year. This would be required on January 1st of each calendar year. Mr. Jones will share this with the Select Board at the next meeting.

Mr. Jones asked the Board for their guidance on a start date for Phase I of the Sidewalk project. Mr. Jones is concerned that when this begins, the sidewalk area from Drake Road to Route 30 and then Route 30 to the Medical Center will be torn up. This will be the 3rd year that the sidewalk area in front of Muhammad’s has been torn up, effecting his business. Also, there is concern about whether to do the sidewalks in 2 phases, however, this is something that may be expensive, and the contractors may not be in favor of this. Mr. Jones is not in favor of doing this in 2 phases. He recommends that once the drawings are done by the architect that there be a Public Meeting with the contractors so that business and home-owners can ask questions. Mr. Jones is in favor of delaying the start date until late summer.

Mr. Mark made a motion that the Select Board express support for the Town Manager’s recommendation of the timing of the Phase I Sidewalk Project to be scheduled late August 2020. Mr. Holzworth seconded the motion.

Mr. Combs would not prohibit the Town Manager from scheduling it early Spring if that is the only option. He would like to see the project move forward.

Mr. Mark withdrew his motion, Mr. Holzworth withdrew his second.

Mr. Holzworth made a motion to give the Town Manager complete autonomy on deciding when to start the Phase I Sidewalk Project. Mr. Spaulding seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed

Mr. Jones shared that the Kubota Tractor at the sewer plant is in need of serious repairs. It is a 1997 4wheel drive 5400 with very low hours. Mr. Jones recommends that the Town repair the current Kubota rather than purchase a new one. A new tractor starts at \$39,000. Mr. Jones believes that repairs would be under \$10,000. No action is needed at this time as the final cost has not been established for repairs.

Mr. Jones requests authorization to purchase 300 yards of 3/8" crushed stone. The current product being used on the dirt roads does not do well when it gets wet.

Mr. Spaulding made a motion to approve a quote from Carrara's for 300 yards of 3/8" crushed stone at \$15.50 per yard, not to exceed \$4,650. Mr. Combs seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Jones shared that after speaking to VLCT staff attorney Carl Andeerr, he would advise the Select Board to refrain from putting an article on the warning regarding S.54. This is the marijuana bill that is in the Vermont House. Mr. Andeers believed that including this article would cause more confusion to residents.

Mr. Jones asked Chief Goyette to speak to the Select Board regarding a request to purchase 6 portable radios for the Fire Department. These would be paid for with money received from Sentry on 10/18/19. These radios are an industry standard and are a firefighter's safety line should something go wrong while they are in a structure. Currently, there are not enough radios for all of the Castleton Firefighters.

Mr. Mark made a motion to authorize the Fire Department to purchase 6 portable radios not to exceed \$1,849.50. Mr. Holzworth seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Chief Goyette shared that the Fire Department had elected officers and would like the Select Board to recognize these at the next meeting.

SELECT BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Combs, Mr. Holzworth, Mr. Mark and Mr. Leamy did not have any comments.

Mr. Spaulding asked about resetting the time on the Town Clock. Mr. Jones is working on that.

WARRANTS FOR APPROVAL

Mr. Holzworth made a motion to approve check warrant #0113R in the amount of \$650.00, check warrant #0113 in the amount of \$80,185.34, check warrant #0109 in the amount of \$21,835.56, check warrant #0102 in the amount of \$5,688.66, check warrant #1231 in the amount of \$9,213.59, check warrant #0109P in the amount of \$16,245.80, check warrant #0102P in the amount of \$14,800.84 and check warrant #1226P in the amount of \$20,441.50. Mr. Holzworth seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

Mr. Holzworth made a motion to approve check warrant #0110P in the amount of \$678.15, check warrant #0103P in the amount of \$678.15 and check warrant #1227P in the amount of \$426.30.

Mr. Spaulding asked why the three checks were not the same. He noted that this happened previously and would like clarification. Mr. Jones noted that in the documentation attached, the individual received the same amount of pay, but their FWT was changing. These are usually changes made to tax withholdings and are at the employee's discretion.

The Select Board Chair called the question. Mr. Combs recused himself from the vote. Those remaining were in favor and the motion passed.

PURCHASE ORDERS FOR APPROVAL

Mr. Combs made a motion to approve purchase order #044455 to R.M. Headlee Valves and Controls for an Auma S5.2 Electric Air actuator for tank #2, not to exceed \$2,415.00. Mr. Holzworth seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Combs made a motion to approve purchase order #044246 to the Department of Public Safety for Live Burn Training at the VT Fire Academy in October of 2019, not to exceed \$2,530.00. Mr. Holzworth seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

BREIF RECAP & ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP

There was no recap.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Combs made a motion to enter Executive Session at 8:10pm to discuss personnel and contracts under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313 (a) (1) of the Vermont State Statutes with the Town Manager. Mr. Holzworth seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

Mr. Combs made a motion to exit Executive Session at 8:45pm with no action taken. Mr. Holzworth seconded the motion.

ADJOURN

Mr. Combs made a motion to adjourn the Select Board Meeting at 8:46pm. Mr. Holzworth seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted; Eliza LeBrun, Recording Secretary