

**TOWN OF CASTLETON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2015
CASTLETON TOWN OFFICES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: J. Bruno, R. Combs, J. Hale, J. Leamy

MEMBERS ABSENT: R. Spaulding

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Shea, see attached listing

Meeting called to order at 7:00 by Chairman J. Bruno with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: J. Hale made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by J. Leamy
All in favor. Motion Carried.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL: November 23, 2015

MOTION: R. Combs made a motion to approve the minutes of November 23, 2015. Seconded
by J. Leamy. All in favor. Motion Carried

DISCUSSION – LEE LODGE #30

J. Bruno asked what the Board needed to do sign the previous maintenance agreement.

G. Trudo stated that the Lodge would sign off on the 2 ft piece of property that runs on the
west side of the property, when it was sold, with the understanding that the Lodge had the
“first right of refusal”.

G. Trudo stated another concern is regarding snow falling from roof onto 3 ½ foot strip on the
North side that the town owns. J. Bruno stated it was not an issue now, but might be with new
owners.

J. Hale asked if the 2ft in question showed up on the Courcelle map.

G. Trudo stated that the map that M. Courcelle referenced when doing his map was the map
that had the 2ft mentioned on it. M. Courcelle’s new map does not show 2ft strip.

J. Hale stated he did not think there was anything in writing about a first right of refusal.

J. Bruno stated that it might not be in writing, the majority of the Board thought it to be
reasonable since they had let the town use the property and have had a good relationship with
The Lodge.

G. Trudo stated that the Lodge is willing to deed that strip of land to the town upon sale of the
land, with the condition that the Lodge have first right of refusal.

J. Leamy asked if the first right of refusal be at a price that someone else is willing to pay for it.

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G. Trudo stated that it would be at whatever way the Town chose to sell the property and whatever the price offered was.

G. Trudo stated they would sign off on the maintenance agreement.

H. Goyette stated that the Lodge was a great friend to the Fire Dept. and the least the town could do was grant the Lodge the first right of refusal. They allowed the members of the Fire Dept. to park on their property while their members would have to park farther away for their meetings. The Lodge also donated that property so that the Fire house could be built there.

TOWN LAND SALE BID AWARD (FIRE STATION)

R. Combs stated that he was not prepared to accept this offer without further exploration and maybe some better advertisement.

MOTION: R. Combs made a motion to reject the existing offer for now, the Board try to aggressively pursue better advertisement or exposure to see if we could get a better price for the land. Seconded by J. Leamy.

J. Hale asked where else would it be advertised. M. Shea stated they are going to take pictures and create a gallery for a publication like Realty.com. He is exploring the possibility of using a real estate broker.

J. Leamy suggested use 3 active realtors in town to get a market analysis.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: All in favor. Motion carried

PURCHASE ORDER FOR APPROVAL - Wastewater Treatment Facility

J. Leamy asked if there were 3 bids for this. M Shea stated that this was a preferred vendor.

J. Bruno stated that the Board would like to see a couple more bids, if that is not possible then E. Tracy should come in to answer any questions.

R. Combs asked that in the future if it is not possible to get 3 quotes then the Board needs an explanation for the purchase.

MOTION: J. Hale made a motion to approve P.O. # 037781 for \$3,331.00 payable to Pump Service and Supply of Troy. Seconded by R. Combs. Yes-J. Hale---- No-R. Combs, J. Leamy, J. Bruno. Motion fails.

FY-2017 DRAFT CAPITAL BUDGET AND GENERAL BUDGET PRESENTATION

M. Shea presented a draft plan for the FY 2017. He showed pictures of the two town vehicles that will need to be replaced soon. The town has not been budgeting for the purchase/lease of

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new maintenance vehicles.

If you can project out 5 – 10 years and plan for these purchases which allows for a more stabilized budget and tax rate.

H. Goyette stated that the grader has about 1200 hours of use and is experiencing loss of power and also some leaking of anti-freeze. J. Bruno asked if it would be worth selling it now, before it becomes worth nothing.

M. Shea will find out the value of it today.

The Fire Dept. has been doing it right, they add money each year to handle the changing of the value of the dollar.

NOISE ORDINANCE (READING)

J. Bruno did review the ordinance and stated that some things that are being asked of the town's people are unreasonable.

J. Hale asked if that he could bring a chainsaw and have a demonstration in the parking lot.

J. Bruno asked how he plans to enforce a 70 decibel level. He stated that lawnmowers, weedwackers, record players are all above 70 decibels. He also wanted to know how and who will enforce this? There is no equipment that is under 70 decibels.

J. Hale stated that this was a summary of ordinances of 7 – 10 other towns.

R. Combs requested that we need to look at the fire arms section.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

L. Witt and S. Ryan wanted to thank J. Wilson and the Board of Civil Authority and N. Boutwell for all their help and time working on the reappraisal.

She presented a Lister budget to the Board.

J. Leamy asked if they have brought and discussed this budget with the Town Manager. L. Witt has only given him a copy.

J. Leamy that this is his budget and he makes the recommendations, then the Manager presents it to the Board and it then becomes the Board's budget. The Board goes to the Town Meeting to defend the budget.

P. Graziano asked the Board to be very careful in budget decisions and level fund every

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department. People are very concerned about the increase in their taxes.

P. Graziano wanted to know if the rental from G. Stone motors was for the burn pile at the transfer station. She was told that the burn pile was pushed back and there was a berm built around the burn pile made from the old burned material.

She asked if the town owns the first Constable vehicle. M. Shea stated yes.

She asked about the .74 increase for the Constables, while we have a full time Police Dept.

MANAGER'S UPDATE:

VOSHA: Please see the letter dated 11/30/15 from VOSHA. In it, you will find that after review, it has been determined that (the Town) is in compliance.

Police Station Progress: Construction is well under-way. At this time there are no risks or threats visible.

FY-2017 DRAFT Budget: Enclosed in your packets, you will see this upcoming year's draft Budget. As was done last year you will see that that this is the first draft to include methods, detail, comments and request from impart department heads and elected officials. In continuing with this process in a manner that is open, and transparent I am hoping to meet with each of you to consider your thoughts. I will also be available to community members, in addition too liberal office hours, I was hosted by the Castleton Community Center last Friday morning at 9:30am and facilitated a community round table on the FY-2017 budget. Much of the discussion included goals and priorities as they relate to real every-day operations. I am planning to do more of these round table discussions. If anyone has any thoughts on this please reach out to me.

The town offices, transfer station and highway dept. will close early at 1:00pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's employees may use their personal time for this.

OTHER BUSINESS: NONE

SELECT BOARD CONCERNS:

J. Hale asked about Float Bridge & Crystal Heights. M. Shea stated that there is a time line for construction to begin in June and as for Crystal Heights there were meeting at the sewer plant with A& E and the state representative. There is a lot of town responsibility. He needs a letter stating that there is at least one failure along the line to continue a more successful grant process.

J. Bruno would like to thank the highway dept. for taking down the fence in front of the sand pile. They have put up a farm gate, which will be kept unlocked during the cold weather. Please report any commercial trucks that you see taking sand.

J. Hale wanted to thank N. Boutwell, the Listers and the Board of Civil Authority headed up by
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D. Rosmus.

R. Combs asked if it was possible to put up a camera at the transfer station.

WARRANTS

MOTION: R. Combs made a motion to approve warrants #1214R for \$650.00, #1214 for \$121,953.34, #1210 for \$8,445.90, #1204 for \$15,208.65, #1125 for \$6,456.31, #1210P for \$13,302.25, #1203P for \$12,556.26, #1125P for \$14,755.30. Seconded by J. Leamy. All in favor. Motion Carried.

MOTION: J. Hale made a motion to approve warrants #1211P for \$548.36, #1204P for \$548.35 and #1126P for \$548.35. Seconded by J. Leamy. J. Leamy, J. Bruno, J. Hale – yes----- R. Combs - abstain. Motion carried

OTHER COMMENTS:

H. Goyette invited the Board to the annual Fire Dept. Banquet on January 9, 2016 at the Trak Inn. He also invited them to stop into the Fire Dept and see the new kitchen. It was completed with donations and donated labor by the community and firemen.

L. Witt stated that the public computer needs to be upgraded and they are asking for assistance to upgrade the data. The program allows the public to print their own lister cards. It might be around \$200.00. J. Bruno stated as long it was in the budget.

MOTION: J. Leamy made a motion to go into Executive Session for Real Estate. Seconded by R. Combs. All in favor. Motion Carried.

MOTION: J. Leamy made a motion to exit Executive Session at 9:23pm with no action taken. R. Combs seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION: R. Combs motioned to enter Executive Session at 9:24 pm for Personnel with the Board only. J. Leamy seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION: J. Leamy motioned to exit Executive Session at 10:14 pm with no action taken. R. Combs seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

MOTION: J. Leamy motioned to Adjourn at 10:15 pm. J. Hale seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Date of Approval _____

V. Waldron

DRAFT