

TOWN OF CASTLETON SELECT BOARD MINUTES

**Monday, October 10, 2022 7:00 p.m.
Castleton Fire Station Community Room
273 Route 30N, Bomoseen
In-Person & Zoom Virtual Public Meeting**

Zoom Meeting Recording Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/IKOYxzSyFi9e7itqmm1MJTUz9zpeLFvDHJt9vGMOgnly31OmoaShLib-uLaqwoLU.gMhIBqqluALKjCIO>

PRESENT: Jim Leamy, Chair; Richard Combs, Vice Chair; Joseph Mark, Parliamentarian, Mary Lee Harris, Michael Jones, Town Manager, Janet Currie

PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Mary Droege, John Burke, Allison Harvey, Recording Secretary

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Select Board Chair J. Leamy at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by J. Leamy. A moment of silence was observed in honor of Jonas Rosenthal, Zoning Administrator, who passed away unexpectedly last week.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

J. Mark made motion to approve the agenda. R. Combs seconded. M. Jones indicated the Community Events Committee Bylaws could be removed from the agenda and Municipal Planning Grant should be inserted in its place. **All were in favor.**
Motion carried 4-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

R. Combs made a motion to approve the minutes of September 26, 2022 as presented. ML Harris seconded.

Page 1 – in Approval of Minutes, second line, *attended* should be changed to *added*.

Page 2 – first paragraph – J. Mark recalls that his comment at the end of the paragraph regarding the project being broken into two parts was referring to the discussion about the culvert issue with Mr. Kilchevsky. R. Combs agreed. After brief discussion it was decided that the approval of the minutes would be postponed until the next meeting so that A. Harvey can check the recording to confirm.

Page 2 - third paragraph from the bottom, J. Mark stated he volunteered to draft a letter of thanks.

Motion and second were withdrawn

SELECTBOARD TO MEET THE VERMONT STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT: Dr. Parwinder Grewal

M. Jones introduced Dr. Parwinder Grewal, Inaugural President of Vermont State University, reviewed his credentials and turned floor over to him. Dr. Grewal gave a brief introduction of himself and stated his main office is in Randolph. The board members welcomed Dr. Grewal. Janet Currie made a statement regarding the hiring of Castleton University graduates in her cannabis farm and thanked Dr. Grewal for his time and efforts.

CITIZENS COMMENTS & CONCERNS - ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

J. Currie explained she sent letter to M. Jones about her concern with a person that has offered to step in to fill in for J. Rosenthal vacancy that she would like the board to reconsider.

SALT BID CONSIDERATION: Brent Clark & David Fabricious

M. Jones introduced David Fabricious, the new public works director and reviewed his experience and background.

B. Clark stated the salt bids came in at \$85.50, it was \$72.30 last year. Cargill is the cheapest, which is his recommendation. He further stated that VTrans is also working with Cargill, and they are hoping they will negotiate the price and will offer

same price to towns as they offer to State, but there is no guarantee. If it comes back in lower after the State negotiation, they will try to get the lower price. **J. Mark made a motion to authorize the town manager to contract with Cargill for road salt for an amount up to 1,000 tons at a delivered rate of \$85.50, with caveat that if the state offers municipalities a lower rate it is to be accepted. ML Harris seconded.** R. Combs asked what is budgeted, it was stated \$72,000, which is about \$13,000 short. **All voted in favor. Motion carries 4-0.**

MISCELLANEOUS PURCHASES FOR HIGHWAY: David Fabricious & Brent Clark

B. Clark stated they took in \$1,560 for scrap metal and a junk dumpster. They need to put a roof and walls on a town garage bay and they have a price for \$600 for rough cut lumber to get it done. The rest of the funds can go back into the miscellaneous revenue. **R. Combs made a motion to allow the highway department foreman to spend up to \$800 from the \$1,560 from scrap metal sales for materials to finish the storage shed on the town garage. J. Mark seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carries 4-0.**

B. Clark stated he went to Earle's to see about sand blasting, they are too busy, Green Mountain Sand Blasting will come to the shop to do it, the town mechanic can do the paint in house. They may have to set up a paint booth temporarily, but they need to get the tandem truck and skid steer done. It is in the budget, \$8,000 has been rolled over to get it done. **R. Combs made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to contract with Green Mountain Sand Blasting in an amount not to exceed \$5,500 to get the tandem truck and skid steer sand blasted. ML Harris seconded.** M. Jones stated this will be the start of an annual request to sand blast and paint equipment and vehicles, so they last longer. **All voted in favor. Motion carries 4-0.**

B. Clark stated that plow blades were more difficult than should have been to find, there have been multiple buy outs. Of the three that are available, only one can get what they need. He is confident they will get what they order. **R. Combs made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to contract with Kay Canalli for \$3,482 as quoted for plow shoes, wing blades and grader blades. ML Harris seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carries 4-0.**

MUNICIPAL PLANNING GRANT

J. Mark stated he did not recall that the board authorized the Town Manager to apply for this grant. His concern is that they seem to be getting ahead of themselves. They have an active petition about the future of the CVS building, opposing the decision made by the boards to sell the building. If he were in favor of CVS, and this discussion came about without his knowledge, he would be upset. He feels the sign that gives to the community is that they are not open to their opinions and are going to steam ahead with an alternative plan. He would not be in favor of applying for anything at this time. Brief discussion held on the conversation of a few meetings ago when applying for the grant was approved. **R. Combs made a motion to authorize the chair of the Board of Selectmen to sign a resolution for the municipal planning grant. ML Harris seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 4-0.**

MANAGER'S REPORT

M. Jones made a comment about the upcoming budget process. He will send out requests to the department heads and will be meeting with them, and draft budgets should come to the Board of Selectmen in November. Typically this is December, but he will get the time line moved up. There are a lot of considerations due to the cost of materials, etc. ML Harris asked if M. Combs or M. Jones will be going over financials at some point to cover those that she doesn't understand. M. Jones stated she can come in and sit with one or both of them if needed.

M. Jones addressed the stormwater supply study, which is due shortly. They have discussed it and want to explore different possibilities that could possibly be cheaper. If they want to apply for grant or explore other opportunities. R. Combs stated West Rutland recently built one for the cost of \$150,000. B. Clark stated it seems to be less, and he will look into, but he believes it is only a canopy.

The rodent problem at the transfer station has subsided, but they are keeping an eye on it

The backhoe at the transfer station, M. Jones stated that he may be coming back to the board to do something with it. Discussion on the operation of it, and its ability to serve the purpose in its current condition.

M. Jones stated he will be working with D. Fabricious and B. Clark on road inventory, documenting when maintained, paved, sealed, etc.

M. Jones stated they may be able to use both better roads grants on the trestle, he is hopeful they will come through.

Also continuing to deal with FEMA, RRPC and Nicole Kesselring for the Little Rutland Road culvert replacement.

The new fuel system replacement at the Town Garage should be done before winter.

Bridges and culverts still being cleared out.

The painting that needs to be done at the town garage, the new public works director is confident town staff can do it in house.

M. Jones mentioned an emergency management grant for generators, radios and communication equipment that is a 50/50 grant that should be considered.

Refurbishing the truck at the fire department, they have had another meeting and believes a decision is forthcoming.

ML Harris questioned the pancake breakfast at the legion. M. Jones stated it is a fundraiser for the fire department,

M. Jones mentioned the Dewey Field vandalism, brief discussion followed on how to repair and control future damage.

PURCHASE ORDERS FOR APPROVAL

None at this time.

WARRANTS FOR APPROVAL

R. Combs made a motion to approve check warrant #1010R in the amount of \$650.00, check warrant #1010 in the amount of \$306,529.51, check warrant #1006 in the amount of \$31,489.15, check warrant #0930 in the amount of \$6,980.64, check warrant #1006P in the amount of \$17,101.95 and check warrant #0929P in the amount of \$16,406.54. ML Harris seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

J. Mark made a motion to approve check warrant #1007P in the amount \$654.67 and check warrant #0930P in the amount of \$654.67. ML Harris seconded the motion. R. Combs recused himself. All remaining members voted in favor. Motion carried 3-0.

SELECT BOARD COMMENTS & CONCERNS:

ML Harris thanked D. Fabricious for his service.

J. Mark mentioned an email from M. Jones statement regarding J. Rosenthal's service to the town and questioned if it was appropriate for town to issue that statement at this time. M. Jones stated it has been started, he can finish it and put it out if Board is ready to.

J. Mark stated he read in the minutes of the Planning Commission meeting that the Town Plan has been transmitted to the board to move forward in the revision approval process. M. Jones stated he has not seen that version, it may very well be on J. Rosenthal's desk to be passed along, but nothing has been done to his knowledge. He will follow up to see where it is at.

BRIEF RECAP & ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP:

ML Harris questioned the three items in her mailbox. M. Jones stated they had been given to the board previously, they went with the Manager's Report. Some has to do with the Sand Hill Solar project and the power being sold to Green Mountain Power.

8:14 PM - ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

ML Harris made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel to include the Town Manager. J. Mark seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

8:23 PM – EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

ML Harris made a motion to exit Executive Session, no action taken. J. Mark seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried 4-0.

ADJOURN

R. Combs made a motion to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. J. Mark seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted
Allison Harvey
Recording Secretary