

**TOWN OF CASTLETON SELECT BOARD MINUTES**

**Monday, November 27, 2023 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/KNWSboeueHc3p4Z38SHrNcAE6WbL5DvEcvqamCsW2LlqOa5GWCIRhbrylfO5-jvQ.95I7gqkvzcQjM-uN>**

**PRESENT:** James Leamy, Chairman, Richard Combs, Vice-Chair, Joseph Mark, Parliamentarian, Robert Spaulding, Mary Lee Harris, See Attached List

**PRESENT VIA ZOOM:** Mary Droege, Melanie Combs, Allison Harvey, Recording Secretary

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Select Board Vice-Chair R. Combs at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Police Chief P. Mantello.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**R. Combs made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. R. Spaulding seconded.** ML Harris asked that the bottle redemption at the Transfer Station be added. M. Jones stated he would put it on the agenda for the next meeting. **All voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 13, 2023**

**R. Combs made a motion to approve the minutes of November 13, 2023 as presented. R. Spaulding seconded.**

Page 1 – Present Via Zoom – *Allison Harvey* should be moved to Present.

Page 1 – Present Via Zoom – *comma* after Nancy should be removed.

Page 1 – fifth line from the bottom – *Civil War and* should be inserted before World War I.

Page 1 – fourth line from the bottom – *be* should be inserted between would and certain.

Page 2 – first paragraph – eight instances of *statute* should be replaced with *statue*.

Page 2 – 9<sup>th</sup> line of the first paragraph, *Dueling* should be changed to *Duling*.

Page 2 – Fifth line of Proposed Updates, *it's* should be changed to *its*.

Page 3 – first line of first paragraph, *was* should be inserted between Teetor and out.

Page 3 – sixth line of the eBiz Docs paragraph – *cost* should be inserted between annual and for.

Page 3 – fifth line from the bottom – *passage of criminal* should be inserted between pending and background.

Page 3 – second line from the bottom – *Recreation* should be inserted between the and Commissioner.

Page 4 – second line of first paragraph of Manager's Report – *the* should be changed to *he*.

Page 5 – Exit Executive Session – 9:10 inserted before PM, ML Harris made the motion and R. Spaulding seconded.

Page 5 – Adjourn – 9:11 inserted before PM, ML Harris made the motion and R. Spaulding seconded, and 5-0 should be changed to 4-0.

**J. Leamy abstained. All others voted in favor. Motion carried 4-0.**

**CITIZENS COMMENTS & CONCERNS - ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:**

M. McIntyre stated she was present to make the board aware of a Friends of the Recreation Boosters Club that is in the process of being formed and will be meeting for the first time on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December. It is an idea based on the Friends of the Library and FH High School Boosters Club, to be in support of recreation. They hope to offer support to the recreation director and be a nice bridge for the community and not just for kids but all kinds of recreation like bike paths, using the University resources, preschoolers and school age kids as well. M. Jones thanked M. McIntyre and M. Clifford for going to

the CVS building to make sure the building is ok, that the heat is on and all is ok.

M. Droege stated she is curious if there are any updates on the hiring of the recreation director and if there are any conversations to be shared with the public about the sale of the CVS building. M. Jones stated he has made a conditional offer to an individual for the recreation director position, and he has emailed M. Clifford and made her aware. He has received no response to his offer yet. M. Jones also stated as far as the CVS building, he will defer back to the chairman. J. Leamy stated there are no developments on the sale of the building.

#### **CO-FUNDING A REWARD FOR INFORMATION RESULTING IN THE CONVICTION OF THE RAIL TRAIL KILLER**

Mark Brown stated he has contacted all members of this board individually prior to this evening, as well as the Chief of Police. M. Brown further stated that in early October a resident was brutally murdered, and a second crime was committed, the safety and security of this Town was compromised. It has been two months since the crime and there are no leads at this time. He has also spoken with State Police investigator. He as a Castleton resident wants to do everything he can to make sure the offender is found. His employer is offering a \$5,000 reward to bringing this offender to justice and he is asking the Town to match that offering of a reward. He has done some research on rewards, and it seems that about 60% are successful in finding the offender. **R. Combs asked if was reasonable to think a conviction would happen prior to July 1, if not he would consider putting an article on the next ballot to ask the voters to offer the funds after July 1 and so moved that suggestion. R. Spaulding seconded.** M. Brown stated while he understands the budgetary constraints, this is a situation that has never occurred in this town, and he feels it is very urgent and a message needs to be sent that the Town is serious about finding the offender. J. Leamy asked M. Brown where he felt the funds should come from. M. Brown suggested some from the Police Department budget. J. Mark stated he felt they could not bind a future board to this expense but could bind this one until the fiscal year end and it would only apply until the case is solved and the offender is apprehended. J. Mark suggested an amendment to add support presently for an award that might be paid out this fiscal year but also that it be put on the ballot for Town Meeting Day, as it is an ongoing effort for the next fiscal year. ML Harris stated she has never had to lock her doors, but has since this happened, she has, and it shouldn't be that way. P. Mantello stated for the reward to be paid there has to be a conviction, which could take from 6 months to many years, and it should only be paid upon conviction. **R. Combs rescinded his motion, R. Spaulding withdrew his second. J. Mark made a motion that the Board of Selectmen approve a \$5,000 contribution to be added to the reward that M. Brown has proposed and that an item be put on the ballot for Town Meeting Day requesting that the voters express continuing support for that \$5,000 if the reward is not paid out before July 1, 2024. R. Spaulding seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.** M. Brown asked if the ads should direct any information be directed to the Town of Castleton Police Department or the State Police. P. Mantello stated it could be both, but they can decide for certain as they prepare the notification.

#### **LIONS CLUB REQUEST FOR CRYSTAL BEACH: Annual Ice Fishing Derby 02/17-02/18**

**ML Harris made to allow the use of Crystal Beach for the Lions Club Fishing Derby for 2/17-1/18/2024. R. Combs seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **POLICE UPDATE: Chief Mantello**

Chief Mantello reviewed his monthly report for calls to service and stated not a lot stands out. There are no leads on the homicide investigation, it is not cold but they have not gained any ground and there is not a lot to go on right now. Further review of calls and events. Brief discussion on mental health support for emergency services people. R. Spaulding asked if there have been any fuel thefts. P. Mantello stated they have not had any. M. Jones stated regarding the accident at the Four Corners, there were concerns with first responders, response times and those getting to the scene first doing things that they shouldn't be doing or have not been trained to handle.

#### **NOISE ORDINANCE**

P. Mantello reviewed the most recent changes he has proposed. He would like to do a demonstration for the board on decibels so they can experience the levels of noise once everything is finalized. Brief discussion held on the minor changes and **J. Mark made a motion to adopt the ordinance as modified by the Chief recognizing that they will need to have a publicity process and option for citizens to comment and adopt the policy. ML Harris seconded.** R. Combs felt the process is to sign and date the ordinance now and then put it out to the public. J. Mark stated they should resubmit it without the underline and bold, then sign and next to last page lists the next steps and what needs to be done to adopt. **Motion and**

second were withdrawn. The Board will read and then approve at the next meeting which is part of the process.

**TREE BID AWARD FOR: 445 Main Street Popal Tree & In Front of Post Office, Cut down 24" Basswood Tree**

ML Harris asked if the tree was leaning or dangerous. M. Jones explained the large Popal is dying, the split tree and explained that the trees will most likely be replaced when they do the sidewalk reconstruction. The funds are in the tree warden budget. R. Combs made a motion to contract with Trees, Inc to cut down the two trees on Main Street for the cost of \$6,350. J. Mark seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

**PETITION TO INSTALL LIGHTING AT THE INTERSECTION OF ROUTE 30 AND WEST CRYSTAL HAVEN**

This request is for the first road to the north of Crystal Beach. The cost will be \$150/year and there is already a pole there. M. Jones stated there doesn't seem to be any other solution at this time, they have talked about reflective tape on the stop sign post, but they feel the light is going to be more beneficial and make the intersection safer. There was a petition brought to M. Jones from the citizens in the area. R. Spaulding and R. Combs felt that if the Town Manager and Police Chief are in agreement on it, they should do it without further action from the Board.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

There is no Report prepared for this evening.

**PURCHASE ORDERS FOR APPROVAL**

None at this time.

**WARRANTS FOR APPROVAL**

R. Combs made a motion to approve check warrant #1116 in the amount of \$34,673.31, check warrant #1122 in the amount of \$6,025.23, check warrant #1127 in the amount of \$50,849.97, check warrant #1116P in the amount of \$17,730.75, check warrant #1122P in the amount of \$16,317.48, check warrant #1128 in the amount of \$6,000. ML Harris seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

J. Mark made a motion to approve check warrant #1117P in the amount \$641.32, check warrant #1123P in the amount of \$641.32. ML Harris seconded. R. Combs recused himself. All remaining members voted in favor. Motion carried 4-0.

**SELECTBOARD COMMENTS and/or CONCERNS:**

J. Mark asked that the policy on cans and bottles at the Transfer Station be reviewed and it be on the next agenda.

R. Spaulding asked for recreation revenues. M. Jones stated he will have to try to put one together for review.

J. Mark asked about a new version of the budget spreadsheet with the last column of comments available. M. Jones stated he had passed around an updated version of 11/27 for board member review, and there may be some formulas that need correcting but those would be minor changes.

R. Spaulding asked if they were back to disposing of trash at the burner or if it is going to Rutland. M. Jones stated it is going to Rutland mostly because of personnel, and they can discuss it further in Executive Session if necessary.

**BRIEF RECAP & ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP:**

None at this time.

**ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION – 8:09 PM**

R. Combs made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss Real Estate to include the Town Manager. J. Mark seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

**EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION – 8:45 PM**

**R. Combs made a motion to exit Executive Session, no action taken. ML Harris seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.**

**ADJOURN – 8:46 PM**

**R. Combs made a motion to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. ML Harris seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.**

Respectfully Submitted  
Allison Harvey  
Recording Secretary

DRAFT