

TOWN OF CASTLETON SELECT BOARD MINUTES

Monday, April 24, 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/GAfdv664moiWwQbbhkhQnu_oQ7Xa3oBjyzcT1Fm8-iBWbelmHYlwd28oTeSZklN6.JeRGIWA6oIOJTahj

PRESENT: James Leamy, Chair, Mary Lee Harris, Joseph Mark, Parliamentarian, Richard Combs, Robert Spaulding, Michael Jones, Town Manager, See Attached List

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

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Select Board Chair J. Leamy at 7: 01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by J. Leamy.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

R. Combs made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. R. Spaulding seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 10, 2023

R. Combs made a motion to approve the minutes of April 10, 2023 as presented. J. Mark seconded.

Page 1 – second line after Pledge of Allegiance, *Bowles* should be changed to *Blow*.

Page 1 – end of the third line from the bottom, *the voted* should be changed to *CDERAC voted*.

R. Spaulding abstained, he was not present. All voted in favor. Motion carried 4-0.

J. Leamy mentioned the April 3, 2023 minutes of the joint meeting with the Town of Hubbardton and whether they should be approving those. J. Mark and R. Combs felt they should wait until the next joint meeting with the Town of Hubbardton. ML Harris pointed out the watermark says final and it should be watermarked draft. R. Combs suggested the minutes be supplied to the Town of Hubbardton and ask for any changes they may have to be sent to the recording secretary so the draft is as clean as possible when the time for approval arrives.

CITIZENS COMMENTS & CONCERNS - ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

M. McIntyre asked that since the Town of Hubbardton only owns 11% of the CVS property, should the numbers be equal as between the towns of Castleton and Hubbardton. J. Mark stated at this point they should be, as that is what the memorandum of understanding states and it was mutually agreed upon between the boards a year or more ago.

POLICE UPDATE - Pete Mantello

Chief Mantello addressed his report, numbers are within average range. J. Mark questioned the vehicle break ins, P. Mantello stated they were break ins that went from Route 4A East and went all the way into the Village on Elm Street. R. Spaulding questioned the citizen dispute. P. Mantello stated that could be anything, neighborly, citizens arguing, dispute over property, etc., the Police Department tries to mediate them. P. Mantello stated arrests are up, a few could be related to a heroin/drug/weapon homicide in Rutland City about 4 months ago. Castleton University graduation is a few weekends away. Traffic violations are also up a little bit in March. The Board held brief discussion on traffic stops on Drake Road, most of the vehicles stopped being residents of the road. Also have been addressing school bus complaints throughout the Town.

R. Spaulding asked if the buses had exterior cameras that would get photos of the vehicles. Chief Mantello does not believe they have the exterior, only interior, and it would be up to the bus company to invest in those cameras. Chief Mantello has asked bus drivers to provide license plate numbers. They have also done the quarterly sex offender registries. J. Mark stated he felt there were always seasonality to the reports and explanations that are presented by the Police Chief and what kind of long-term changes he might perceive to have taken place in this data. Chief Mantello stated he has mentioned in recent reports that they have seen call volume increase in the past few years. He could do a comparative analysis to present if needed.

M. Jones reviewed correspondence he has received regarding inappropriate behavior of an officer of the Town Department and a social media post which is being looked into.

JOHN HALE: Boat Washing, Green Dump

John Hale stated he would like to address the Board about a plan he and Doug Casella have developed. They have gotten authorization from the LBA to speak to the Board to request support. The LBA will be the applicant to use the Green Dump Access, Fish and Wildlife will provide the certificate if approved. They want to be sure the boats coming in or out of the lake do not have any milfoil trailing off the boats or trailers. They have purchased a pressure washer that heats the water to 140 degrees, and they need to figure out where to do the pressure washing, whether it would be on the west side of the road or elsewhere. D. Casella will find, train the employee and set up the test pilot for ten days. They will be requesting the Town of Castleton to put the person that will be doing the task on the payroll. ML Harris asked if the Town could mandate every boat coming out will be washed. J. Hale stated it does not have to be required but will be offered free to those who would allow the washing. Discussion about the proposal and how the employee portion of the plan will be handled by the accountant. ML Harris asked if they had a count of the number of boats that go in and out of the lake a day at the Green Dump. J. Hale stated they are not certain, but if approved they will be doing a report of what was done, and it would include a number of boats. R. Combs suggested the Town Manager and J. Hale further discuss and bring a written proposal to the Board for approval at their next meeting.

J. Leamy asked J. Hale what progress the LBA is making and the Agency of Natural Resources for the health of Lake Bomoseen and other lakes in the State, which includes the departments of Fish and Wildlife, Forest and Parks, DEC and with local input. J. Hale stated he could not speak to that, there is a Lake Health Committee that is working on applying for funding for studies like that, but he does not have specifics. J. Leamy stated he felt that they are seeking local funding when the lake is State property, the State should be funding any programs. J. Hale stated he was not certain why the State does not pay attention to the Lake and its condition, but he would be willing to present that question to the committee. J. Leamy also asked if the LBA had any success in increasing patrol hours on the Lake. J. Hale stated that topic has not been discussed, but he will raise that issue with the board. J. Leamy stated there are many boats, 1,500-2,000 and again, it is State waters, and they should be patrolling it more frequently.

LIQUOR LICENSE FOR APPROVAL:

American Legion Post #50: 1st Class, 3rd Class, Outside Consumption

BEEJ Inc/Castleton Corners Deli: 2nd Class, Tobacco and tobacco Substitute Endorsement

R. Combs made a motion to approve the liquor licenses for American Legion Post #50: 1st Class, 3rd Class, Outside Consumption and BEEJ Inc/Castleton Corners Deli: 2nd Class, Tobacco and Tobacco Substitute Endorsement

ML Harris seconded. J. Leamy stated the police chief had no issues or concerns with any of the applications. **All voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.**

ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) FUNDING POSSIBILITIES

M. Jones stated at the last meeting when the asset management program was discussed he suggested they look for budget surpluses at the end of the year rather than ARPA funds. M. Combs has put together a document for the Board to review and it looks like there will be a surplus in the departments that will be using it.

As to the SCBA M. Jones has been made aware that the application submitted for the apparatus has not made it past the peer review. M. Jones has reached out to Lance Barber from FEMA asking why the application did not make it past peer review. D. Ducharme stated he spoke to Lance, and he explained that the application looks like the proposal is for one

apparatus for over \$200,000 and not the larger quantity being applied for, so it has been denied. They have four of the older units that have failed testing, so the need is present.

M. Jones stated as to ARPA funds, he spoke with Wayne Elliott on the sewer lines, and he advised that they have completed the Depot Terrace project, but they have not done Preston Lane and Creek Road yet.

OTTER CREEK COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD APPOINTMENT: Tim Munks Re-Appointment

J. Mark made a motion to appoint Tim Munks to the Otter Creek Communications Union District Governing Board. R. Spaulding seconded. Discussion on the terminology of the document appointing Mr. Munks. **J. Mark amended the motion to amend the sentence in the middle of the page to read: for the term ending on or before the last Monday of April, 2024. R. Combs seconded. All voted in favor of the amendment. Motion carried 5-0. All voted in favor of the amended motion. Motion carried 5-0.** R. Spaulding asked if they were to be appointing an alternate. R. Combs stated they've never had one and Mr. Munks doesn't miss too much, so they should be all set.

ADOPT THE LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

M. Jones stated there are a few corrections to be made to this document, which he will take care of. Discussion on other changes that Board members noticed as well. **J. Mark made a motion to approve the revised Local Emergency Management Plan with the minor changes that have been suggested. R. Spaulding seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.**

MANAGER'S REPORT

M. Jones stated they are still on the search for a Zoning Administrator. They had one that they made an offer to, but they declined the offer. There are four more sent to the Planning Commission for interviews. He went out with J. Biasuzzi to review zoning violations, which there are a number of, so getting the position filled is important.

M. Jones has addressed school resource officers with the Police Chief and whether they have enough coverage. Currently there is not all-day coverage in every school. He can further address the issue with the school district if the Board feels it is necessary. Further discussion with the Police Chief on resource officers and how they are scheduled and respond to incidents in schools.

M. Jones stated the truck for the transfer station hauling has been red tagged and is out of service and Hubbard's is doing the hauling. They are looking for a replacement vehicle and has included R. Spaulding in the search. Also including a local heavy equipment mechanic and is making it a priority, rather than paying \$6,000/month for someone else to do the hauling. R. Spaulding asked if there was any idea what the cost would be for the Town to have their own truck and labor to do the hauling. M. Jones will get those numbers, and the net cost increase would be the difference between the \$6,000 and the actual costs for the Town to do it.

PURCHASE ORDERS FOR APPROVAL

R. Combs made a motion to approve purchase order #050152 to Vermont Digital for installing a port replicator and zoom set up for \$315 to come out of ARPA funds. R. Spaulding seconded. Brief discussion on the set up and what is left to complete for the electronics. **All voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.**

R. Combs made a motion to approve purchase order #050167 to Castleton First Responders for the annual point fund for \$4,500. R. Spaulding seconded. Brief discussion on the point system and how they are awarded. **All voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.**

WARRANTS FOR APPROVAL

R. Combs made a motion to approve check warrant #0413R in the amount of \$26,500.00, check warrant #0413 in the amount of \$1,249,722.04, check warrant #0420 in the amount of \$5,457.83, check warrant #0424 in the amount of

\$291,736.01, check warrant #0424A in the amount of \$315.00, check warrant #0413P in the amount of \$15,324.28, check warrant #0420P in the amount of \$15,127.87. J. Mark seconded the motion. R. Spaulding questioned on Page 2 the Rutland County Solid Waste District why they are hauling C&D to RCSWD. M. Jones stated the costs went up with New York location and it is about the same cost to go to Rutland and reduces wear and tear on the truck. **All voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.**

J. Mark made a motion to approve check warrant #0414P in the amount \$612.53 and check warrant #0421P in the amount of \$612.53. ML Harris seconded the motion. R. Combs recused himself. All remaining members voted in favor. Motion carried 4-0.

SELECTBOARD COMMENTS and/or CONCERNS:

None at this time.

BRIEF RECAP & ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP:

None at this time.

8:29 PM - ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

R. Combs made a motion to enter executive session to include the Town Manager and Police Chief to discuss personnel. R. Spaulding seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

8:51 PM - EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

8:51 PM - ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

R. Combs made a motion to enter executive session to include the Town Manager to discuss real estate. R. Spaulding seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

9:05 PM - EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ADJOURN – 9:06 pm

R. Combs made a motion to adjourn at 9:06 p.m. R. Spaulding seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Allison Harvey

Recording Secretary