

**TOWN OF CASTLETON SELECT BOARD MINUTES**

**Monday, July 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/OUKLnsyVvgrg-t\\_\\_SUSa\\_DLT6-X8-LA3Dodn6TMUiWhzgBMVRLg4R3R2StwkpfnA.5runhsHm0OF8izzp](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/OUKLnsyVvgrg-t__SUSa_DLT6-X8-LA3Dodn6TMUiWhzgBMVRLg4R3R2StwkpfnA.5runhsHm0OF8izzp)**

**PRESENT:** James Leamy, Chair, Joseph Mark, Parliamentarian, Richard Combs, Michael Jones, Town Manager, See Attached List

**PRESENT VIA ZOOM:** Bob Spaulding, Nedra Boutwell, Zak Hale, Melanie Combs, 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.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**R. Combs made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. J. Mark seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 4-0.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 10, 2023**

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

Page 2 – Recreation Update paragraph, sentence starting with They at the end of the third line should start a new paragraph. The same sentence should be changed to *B. Ramos stated they have talked with M. Jones, and they are stepping back from their duties as the Recreation Director,*

Page 5 – Brief Recap paragraph, the last sentence should read: *J. Mark stated the Town has spent a significant amount on this technology, and given that there are persistent issues, he would like to see the installer return to address those issues.* **All voted in favor. Motion carried 4-0.**

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

Mike Smith asked what the Board's thought process is for employees. He had made a request to get \$2 more an hour and it has been two weeks, and he heard nothing. J. Leamy stated this would be a personnel issue and should be handled in executive session and they would be happy to discuss it then at the end of the meeting if he wished. J. Mark felt that if the employee asked in a public session, it could be addressed in public session. Mr. Smith stated he doesn't understand the thought process. They have a guy that does good work, he shows up, goes out in the middle of the night and he didn't feel it was ridiculous to ask for \$2 when they hired someone for more that doesn't have anywhere near the experience he does. J. Leamy asked if he was a union employee, Mr. Smith stated he was. J. Mark asked if the union contract allows the Town Manager to hire or change the hourly rate outside of the contract renewal. M. Jones stated that he could not change an hourly rate without renegotiating the contract. Mr. Smith stated he has given his notice, and the Board is aware of that. J. Mark explained his experience at Castleton College in dealing with unions. B. Spaulding asked if other employees hired at a higher hourly rate were members of the union. M. Smith stated the new hire is and is being paid \$.88 under what M. Smith is making, and M. Smith has been with the Town for 11 years. M. Jones explained the salaries being offered by the Town and what the dilemma was with the hourly rates and increases. Mr. Hutchins spoke regarding M. Smith and how good of a person and employee he is. Has known him for many years and M. Smith has worked for him numerous times, is respectful, shows up and does his job. He is a person that is hard to replace, and this board doesn't realize what they are going to lose.

Mike Finnegan stated it has been brought to his attention about the ARPA money that the Town may be spending most or all

on sewer upgrades. He does not feel that is appropriate to spend all of it on the sewer system as it does not benefit the entire Town and they should look at spending it on something that benefits everyone, not just those that are on town sewer.

Mr. Hal Monez, Pine Street has concern with noise levels at The Bomoseen Dog. He is about 35 feet from the property, and they can't hear their television in their own living room. The noise ordinance needs to be revamped, he has made phone calls and nothing is happening or changing. They have had problems since the first day they opened, he has talked with many people, others in the neighborhood are also being disturbed and complaining. Chief Mantello stated the properties are close together, and liquor control licensing gave permission for music until 9:30 pm and there is a meeting being scheduled to address the issue. He has downloaded some decibel meters on phones and stated 70 decibels is average. Most lawn equipment and outdoor equipment is above that, but music is different. He would support some type of change that would benefit all parties involved.

#### **UNLICENSED DOG REPORT – Nedra Boutwell**

J. Leamy stated the notice has been sent to the animal control officer and they indicated they would be calling on the dog owners on the list. J. Mark asked about the list and stated he had found a number of individuals that no longer reside in Castleton and asked if it has been checked if they are still residents of the Town. M. Jones stated they have chased unlicensed dogs around for a number of years, and asked the Police Chief if there were any repercussions from the legal aspects. Chief Mantello stated they can issue fines or citations, M. Jones would like to have the Chief assist the animal control officer with the follow up and to help with issuing citations for the dog owners. Chief Mantello reviewed the fines which are per offense and how they proceed from there. Discussion on the ordinance and why it only addresses dogs, not other pets.

#### **POLICE UPDATE – Chief Mantello**

Chief Mantello reviewed his report of calls for June, 2023. Speed carts are out and they have been patrolling secondary roads more. Discussion on whether the speed carts record vehicles which they do not. The new TSA process has been getting 20-40 visits every Wednesday. The new hire started today, they will be meeting with M. Jones tomorrow. Chief Mantello also thanked the residents that allowed so many people into Town for the funeral procession for the Rutland City officer ceremony. For future reference, he would suggest some kind of small sign to put on South Street ahead of an event like this if it is going to be held on a Transfer Station day such as this was. R. Combs asked about the general comment in the report about calls that are non-law enforcement related, about 50% of the calls are people just looking for information that are not law enforcement related. Should be back to full staff by about September.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: Karen Oakman**

The Board received a recommendation from the Planning Commission to offer the Zoning Administrator position to Karen Oakman, who would train alongside current Zoning Administrator J. Thomas until he goes to Florida for the winter. The Town Manager has offered the position to her, and she has accepted the conditions of the position as the assistant, but the Town Manager cannot appoint the position, the Board needs to. **J. Mark made a motion to appoint Karen Oakman as assistant Zoning Administrator. R. Combs seconded. All voted in motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

#### **BID AWARD FOR PARKING LOT CRACK SEAL AND LINE STRIPING**

M. Jones sent bids out to several companies and only got a bid from Advanced Pavement Maintenance Services. When they take the job it is all inclusive, they will do cracks, seal coating and restriping for the Town office parking lot, the park and ride and public safety building parking lot. **J. Mark made a motion to approve the bid from Advanced Pavement Maintenance services for crack sealing, seal coating and restriping at the Town Office parking lot, the park and ride and the public safety building parking lots for a total not to exceed \$12,747.00. R. Combs seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 4-0.**

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT: Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Proposal**

M. Jones explained the proposal that is being considered for the self-contained breathing apparatus. **J. Mark made a motion to approve the proposal for 15 Airpacks with a variety of accessories for a total of \$105,723.98 to be paid for from ARPA funds. R. Combs seconded.** J. Mark stated his concern is the hole they have gotten into on not keeping these up to date and replaced as they should be. H. Goyette stated the Board helped him fix that last year by creating the reserve funds for these pieces of equipment, which will make it easier for future replacement. The lead time is about 90 days before they

will be delivered. All voted in favor. Motion carried 4-0.

**PAUL'S PIZZA: First Class Liquor License Approval**

R. Combs made a motion to approve the First-Class Liquor License permit as presented. J. Mark seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 4-0.

**PURCHASE ORDERS FOR APPROVAL**

R. Combs made a motion to approve Purchase Order #050679 to Work Safe for street signs in the amount of \$2,597.54. J. Mark seconded. It was stated this would be paid from the highway budget. All voted in favor. Motion carried 4-0.

**WARRANTS FOR APPROVAL**

R. Combs made a motion to approve check warrant #0724R in the amount of \$650.00, check warrant #0724 in the amount of \$73,225.89, check warrant #0720 in the amount of \$31,553.80, check warrant #0713 in the amount of \$9,004.07, check warrant #0720P in the amount of \$23,249.96, and check warrant #0713P in the amount of \$27,337.17. J. Mark seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 4-0.

J. Mark made a motion to approve check warrant #0721P in the amount \$641.32 and check warrant #0714P in the amount of \$641.32. R. Spaulding seconded. R. Combs recused himself. All remaining members voted in favor. Motion carried 3-0.

R. Combs stated would not be needing to do this after January of next year.

M. Jones asked the Board for a moment to introduce the new highway foreman who is present this evening.

**SELECTBOARD COMMENTS and/or CONCERNS:**

M. Jones introduced Jeff Davidson, the new highway foreman, from Greenwich NY and has been on the job for two days. Mr. Davidson gave the Board a work experience history. M. Jones stated Mr. Davidson is going to be working on getting his CDL before winter.

J. Mark stated he has gone up Eaton Hill West and was impressed with the work being done. He also asked the Board what they would like to do with follow up on the noise ordinance concern brought up this evening. J. Leamy felt they should wait for an update from the Chief and get a copy of the ordinance for review.

B. Spaulding asked about the road on Crystal Haven and the Tom Kearns concern brought up a few meetings ago. B. Spaulding will get an update from the Town Manager.

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

**8:08 PM - ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

R. Combs made a motion to enter an Executive Session to include the Town Manager to discuss real estate. J. Mark seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 4-0.

**8:34 PM - EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION**

R. Combs made a motion to exit Executive Session, no action taken. J. Mark seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 4-0.

**ADJOURN – 8:35 pm**

R. Combs made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. J. Mark seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted  
Allison Harvey

FINAL