

**Minutes
Town of Skowhegan
Regular Selectmen's Meeting
5:30 P.M.
Tuesday, January 12, 2016
Municipal Building – Council Room**

Board of Selectmen:

Donald Skillings, Chairman
Paul York, Vice Chairman
Betty Austin
Darla Pickett
Soren Siren

Town Manager:

Christine Almand

Executive Secretary:

Cara L. Mason

Call Selectmen's Meeting to order.

Donald Skillings called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited.

Donald Skillings welcomed the Boy Scout Troop from Canaan and Cornville.

1. Town Manager's Report

I received the draft Controlled Substance Facilities Ordinance from the Planning Board today. This will be on the agenda for the Board of Selectmen's next meeting.

The tax foreclosure date of January 11th has passed. I am following up to verify that our notice requirements have been met on the properties and will put together bid documents for discussion and decision at the next Selectmen's Meeting.

After a discussion with the auditor, the audit has been rescheduled for the week of February 1st.

The Town has a 1990 Arial Fire Truck for sale. For more information, visit our website or contact Chief Howard.

2. Items by the Public

There were no Items by the Public.

3. Selectmen's Items

Betty Austin said she is excited about all of the things that are going on in town. She mentioned a woman in town that makes jewelry and an art studio.

Darla Pickett said that we just had a great meeting with the group that is working on the Downtown TIF. She thanked them for their efforts.

Soren Siren said there are a lot of good things coming for the town.

Donald Skillings said that the Boy Scouts are getting their merit badges tonight for citizenship & community and communications.

4. Department & Committee Reports

Item #1 from the Regular Agenda taken up here.

Discussion and decision to appoint Jacob Boudreau as a Police Officer with a term expiring June 30, 2016.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Betty Austin to appoint Jacob Boudreau as a Police Officer with a term expiring June 30, 2016.

Vote: 5/0

Jacob Boudreau was sworn in as a Police Officer and Herbert Oliver was sworn in as Sergeant.

Greg Dore said that last Friday the 2008 International lost power and was making some bad noises. We sent it to Daigle & Houghton. The cam shaft broke. There isn't anything that we could have done to prevent this. The push rods on the new cam shafts now have double clips to prevent this. In 2007-2008, International had problems with this so they extended their warranty to six years. We are outside of this warranty period. It is over \$8,000.00 to fix this.

This truck has 7,000 hours on it. This is the first International that we have had. Greg Dore is hoping that since the company knew there were issues with this, that he will be able to get part of this taken care of.

There is \$100,000.00 in the maintenance account. We haven't had to plow much this year so we haven't had to replace cutting edges.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Darla Pickett to waive the bid process and expend an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 from the Highway Department Vehicle & Equipment Repair Account to replace the Cam Shaft in the 2008 International and to have Greg Dore work with the company to reduce the cost.

Donald Skillings asked where this money would come from if this account ended up being over-expended at the end of the year.

Greg Dore said that he would more than likely be under in his fuel account and that he also has money in his reserve account.

Vote: 5/0

Recording Time: 16:36

Trisha Austin said that's he has been busy working on audit and budget.

Donald Skillings mentioned that he had talked to Trisha Austin about the possibility of paying employees on a bi-weekly basis to save money.

Gail Pelotte said that the Clerk's Office is busy with licensing dogs and snowmobiles. The Clerk's Office is calling between 800 and 900 people who have unlicensed dogs. If dogs are not licensed before February 1st, there is a \$25.00 late fee charged.

Randy Gray said he has been working on getting a junkyard on Route 2 cleaned up for some time. He has gone to court a couple of times on it. It has now been cleaned up.

Chief Howard said that Jason Frost and Scott Libby are in training for Fire Inspector 1.

We have done 75 inspections so far and it is going very well. We are working with building owners to make it safer for everyone.

Denise LeBlanc said that they are looking to open the ice rink on the 18th. The schedule will be available online.

The Community Center is now fully staffed.

Jeff Hewett said that there will be a broadband meeting at the Community Center on January 21, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. He encouraged the public to attend.

Denise LeBlanc said that New Balance Boston office will here on January 18th. They have selected us for their Spark program. They close down their factories and all 700+ employees participate in a community service day. Denise LeBlanc made a list of the things that we would want done as part of this.

Christine Almand thanked the Clerk's Office for all of their work in the last couple of weeks. She also thanked Randy Gray for going out with her to the foreclosed properties.

Greg Dore said that he is doing the road surveys right now. He asked if any of the Selectmen were interested in riding along with him.

Recording Time: 27:09

Presentation:

1. Kristina Cannon will present the Main Street Skowhegan Quarterly Report.

Kristina Cannon went over the Quarterly Report information.

Donald Skillings said that he appreciates the collaborative efforts of Main Street, the Chamber, SEDC and the Town.

Public Hearing:

1. Discussion and decision to approve the Special Amusement Permit for:

Skowhegan-Madison Elks Lodge
21 Silver Street

Donald Skillings opened the Public Hearing.

There were no comments.

Donald Skillings closed the Public Hearing.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Darla Pickett to approve the Special Amusement Permit for Skowhegan-Madison Elks Lodge.

Vote: 5/0

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve and sign Minutes for the following:

Regular Selectmen's Meeting December 22, 2015

A motion was made by Darla Pickett and seconded by Betty Austin to approve the Consent Agenda as written.

Vote: 5/0

Regular Agenda:

1. Discussion and decision to appoint Jacob Boudreau as a Police Officer with a term expiring June 30, 2016.

Taken up during Department and Committee Reports.

2. Discussion and decision to approve the application for Malt, Vinous License for:

Ken's Family Restaurant
411 Madison Avenue

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Soren Siren to approve the application for Malt, Vinous License for Ken's Family Restaurant.

Vote: 5/0

3. Discussion and decision to approve the application for Malt, Spirituous, Vinous License for:

Washburn Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Central Maine Family Fun Bowling Center
414 Madison Avenue

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Soren Siren to approve the application for Malt, Spirituous, Vinous License for Washburn Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Central Maine Family Fun Bowling Center.

Vote: 5/0

4. Discussion and decision to allow Christine Almand to accept payment of taxes in full, prior to the award of bids, in order to sell any foreclosed property back to the previous owner.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Soren Siren to allow Christine Almand to accept payment of taxes in full, prior to the award of bids, in order to sell any foreclosed property back to the previous owner.

Vote: 5/0

5. Discussion and decision to approve the Fiscal year 2017 budget for Somerset Community Television (Channel 11) in the amount of \$69,502.00.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Darla Pickett to approve the Fiscal year 2017 budget for Somerset Community Television (Channel 11) in the amount of \$69,502.00.

John Harlow said that the quarterly payments are approximately \$10,000.00 per quarter. The station is doing well. We have more tapers and newer equipment.

About \$2,000.00 of the total budget will come from sponsors.

Vote: 5/0

6. Discussion and decision to allow Greg Dore to apply for the Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust, Wellness Program Grant in the amount of \$2,120.00.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Paul York to allow Greg Dore to apply for the Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust, Wellness Program Grant in the amount of \$2,120.00.

Vote: 5/0

7. Discussion and decision to allow the Board of Assessors to go out for bids for the revaluation.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Soren Siren to allow the Board of Assessors to go out for bids for the revaluation.

Vote: 5/0

Recording Time: 38:36

8. Discussion and decision to pursue a contract with RFGH for a designated Hospital Resource Officer.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Soren Siren to pursue a contract with RFGH for a designated Hospital Resource Officer.

Paul York said he had spoken to the Chief about this. He was concerned about what would happen if the hospital decided that they no longer needed this officer. It was determined that we would be able to let that individual go. It is not likely that the hospital will decide that they do not need an officer.

Chief Bolduc said that this would be a full-time, 52 week position. This would be a 16th officer. This will make it less likely that our patrol officers will have to spend time at the hospital.

The hospital has also agreed to pay half of the cost of the academy.

This officer will also be a benefit to the Town. This officer will be able to fill in shifts for us, when not at the hospital. This officer also can leave the hospital to help us on larger calls if it isn't busy at the hospital. There will also be an understanding that if we have a manpower issue, this officer can be pulled from the hospital to fill in for us.

Randy Gray said this is absolutely necessary. He spent some time in the Emergency Room with his parents a couple weeks ago. There were a couple of incidents where an officer was called in.

Chief Bolduc said that if this position was eliminated the officer would be laid off.

Vote: 5/0

9. Discussion regarding changing the positions of Town Clerk, Town Treasurer and Road Commissioner from elected to appointed.

Donald Skillings said we have seen some issues recently in other towns, where there were issues and very little could be done because these positions were elected.

Darla Pickett asked if the people currently in the positions would be grandfathered until the end of their terms.

It was answered that they would at least finish their terms.

Donald Skillings said that this is not a Gail Pelotte or a Greg Dore issue.

There was discussion about whether it would be considered at Town Meeting or if it would be placed on the ballot.

There was a discussion about what would happen if somebody was elected that did not have the training or ability to do the jobs. The issue of pay also needs to be discussed.

This item was tabled until the February 9, 2016 Selectmen's Meeting.

Recording Time: 01:08:33

10. Treasurer's Warrants to be approved:

#52	\$	34,259.01 (Payroll #51)
#53	\$	38,624.97 (Payroll #52)
#54	\$	4,296.25 (State Payables)
#55	\$	34,539.79 (Payroll #1)
#56	\$	2,928.50 (State Payables)
#57	\$	5,342.71 (Highway Obligation Bond)
#58	\$	1,387,201.60 (FY 2016 Accounts Payables)
Total	\$	1,507,192.83

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Darla Pickett to approve the Treasurer's Warrants as written.

Vote: 5/0

11. Other Business

There was no Other Business.

12. Unfinished Business

- Job Classes/Pay Scale
- Run of River/Economic Development
- Utilizing Outside Services
- Town Charter

A workshop was scheduled for January 20, 2016 following the Executive Session to discuss Job Classes/Pay Scales.

13. Sign Documents

Adjourn Selectmen's Meeting.

