

**Minutes
Town of Skowhegan
Regular Selectmen's Meeting
5:30 P.M.
Tuesday, March 8, 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.

1. Town Manager's Report

Reminder: The second property tax payment is due on March 15th.

Reminder: The pay scale workshop was rescheduled for March 15th at 4:30 pm.

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

On February 24th, I attended Maine Stitching Specialties' event where they loaded a truck headed to Wal-Mart stores with Dog Not Gone vests. It is wonderful to watch this business grow.

A Skowhegan Area Job Fair is being held at the Alford Recreation Center at the KVCC Hinckley Campus on March 9th from 2:00 to 5:00.

March 22nd is the 3rd Annual Abner Coburn Day in Skowhegan. A tribute will be held at the Superior Courthouse from 2:00 to 3:30. Many thanks to the Skowhegan Heritage Council for hosting this event.

Donald Skillings asked who is running the Job Fair.

Cara Mason said that the information came to us through the Career Center in Skowhegan.

2. Items by the Public

Kristina Cannon said that MapleFest is scheduled for March 25th and 26th.

Main Street will hold a public forum on strategic planning on March 31, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Room.

Rob Washburn said that Abner Coburn Day is March 22nd and there will be a presentation at the courthouse.

Rob Washburn said that he had been interviewed by Bill Greene's Maine about Abner Coburn Day. He is not sure when it will be shown.

Rob Washburn asked if the Heritage Council could take over the Boston Cane. There is currently a woman at Woodlawn nursing home that is 102. We need to get notice out to people before we hand this out to somebody who may not be the oldest person.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Darla Pickett to allow the Heritage Council to take over the administration of the Boston Cane.

Vote: 5/0

Christine Almand said that she would look into some funding for advertising and a plaque.

3. Selectmen's Items

Betty Austin said that it is nice to see new businesses in town. Madlyn's used-clothing store recently opened on the Waterville Road.

She said it was wonderful to go to the Maine Stitching Specialties event.

Darla Pickett said she also went to the Dog Not Gone event at Maine Stitching Specialties.

Donald Skillings gave his condolences to Denise LeBlanc who lost her father this week.

There is a vacancy on the Budget & Finance Committee. Donald Skillings asked for public participation in the budget process.

4. Department & Committee Reports

Chief Howard said that the engineering is complete on the ladder truck and it is in the lineup. The truck will arrive in Skowhegan no later than November 15th.

Greg Dore said he is leaving next Thursday for 10 days on vacation.

He said he wants to start sweeping next Monday.

Chief Bolduc said that Officer Don Avery started yesterday. Officers Blakeney and Gordon are in week eight of the academy and doing well.

Gail Pelotte said that Nomination papers will be Available on March 21st and due back by May 2nd.

Randy Gray said he has started working with three small towns to receive their recycling material.

Public Hearing:

1. Discussion and decision to approve the Application for License for Incorporated Civic Organization to allow the Rotary Club to hold the Beer and Wine Tasting Event on March 26th at the Skowhegan Armory.

Donald Skillings opened the Public Hearing.

There was no discussion or comments.

Donald Skillings closed the Public Hearing.

A motion was made by Darla Pickett and seconded by Soren Siren to approve the Application for License for Incorporated Civic Organization to allow the Rotary Club to hold the Beer and Wine Tasting Event on March 26th at the Skowhegan Armory.

Darla Pickett said it is nice that this is raising money to help with heating for the elderly.

Vote: 5/0

Recording Time: 13:09

Consent Agenda:

1. Special Selectmen's Meeting February 11, 2016
2. Approve and sign a Quit Claim Deed for:
Job Fitzgerald (Map 13, Lot 47-1)

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

Vote: 5/0

Regular Agenda:

1. Discussion and decision to appoint Carole Clement as Chairman of the Registration Appeals Board with a term expiring March 13, 2020.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Soren Siren to appoint Carole Clement as Chairman of the Registration Appeals Board with a term expiring March 13, 2020.

Vote: 5/0

2. Discussion and decision to approve the Application for Parades and Processions to allow Main Street Skowhegan to hold Maple Fest in the Municipal Parking Lot on March 26, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Soren Siren to approve the Application for Parades and Processions to allow Main Street Skowhegan to hold Maple Fest in the Municipal Parking Lot on March 26, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Vote: 5/0

3. Discussion and decision to approve the Application for Parades and Processions to allow Main Street Skowhegan to hold Maple Fest Sugar Dash 5K on March 26, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Betty Austin to approve the Application for Parades and Processions to allow Main Street Skowhegan to hold Maple Fest Sugar Dash 5K on March 26, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Vote: 5/0

4. Discussion and decision to approve the Application for Parades and Processions to allow KVCAP Family Enrichment Council to hold Skowpendous in the Municipal Parking Lot on April 22, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Soren Siren to approve the Application for Parades and Processions to allow KVCAP Family Enrichment Council to hold Skowpendous in the Municipal Parking Lot on April 22, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Vote: 5/0

5. Discussion and decision to approve the Application for Parades and Processions to allow Main Street Skowhegan to hold Skowhegan Brew Festival on Water Street on September 3, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. contingent upon receipt of insurance.

The time for this event has been changed to 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Soren Siren and seconded by Paul York to approve the Application for Parades and Processions to allow Main Street Skowhegan to hold Skowhegan Brew Festival on Water Street on September 3, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. contingent upon receipt of insurance.

Vote: 5/0

6. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$980.00 from the Pollution Control Reserve Account, Equipment Replacement Designation to purchase a replacement Gas Detector.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Soren Siren to expend an amount not to exceed \$980.00 from the Pollution Control Reserve Account, Equipment Replacement Designation to purchase a replacement Gas Detector.

Vote: 5/0

7. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00 from the Downtown TIF Reserve Account as match funding for the Park & Ride reconstruction work for the Island Parking Lot.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Soren Siren to expend an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00 from the Downtown TIF Reserve Account as match funding for the Park & Ride reconstruction work for the Island Parking Lot.

Darla Pickett said that there is money enough in the account and the TIF Committee decided that this was a good idea.

Jeff Hewett said that \$37,419.00 will be coming into that account this month.

Paul York thanked the committee for their recommendation.

Vote: 5/0

8. Discussion and decision to award the Revaluation Bid to Vision Government Solutions with a total bid price of \$207,000.00 and to expend that amount from the Assessing Reserve Account, Revaluation Designation. Only one bid was received.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Soren Siren to award the Revaluation Bid to Vision Government Solutions with a total bid price of \$207,000.00 and to expend that amount from the Assessing Reserve Account, Revaluation Designation and authorize Christine Almand to sign the contract.

Vote: 5/0

9. Discussion and decision to award the Industrial Appraisal of the S.D. Warren/ Sappi Pulp and Paper Mill to MR Valuation Consulting, LLC with a bid price of \$150,000.00 plus \$395.00 per hour for additional services. This will be expended from the Assessing Reserve Account.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Paul York to award the Industrial Appraisal of the S.D. Warren/ Sappi Pulp and Paper Mill to MR Valuation Consulting, LLC with a bid price of \$150,000.00 plus \$395.00 per hour for additional services and to authorize Christine Almand to sign the contract.

Vote: 5/0

10. Discussion and decision to close out the Solid Waste Reserve Account, Recycling Building Alteration Designation and transfer the balance of \$20,031.58 into the new Solid Waste Reserve Account, Equipment/Vehicle Designation.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Soren Siren to close out the Solid Waste Reserve Account, Recycling Building Alteration Designation and transfer the balance of \$20,031.58 into the new Solid Waste Reserve Account, Equipment/Vehicle Designation.

Randy Gray said that the bids to build a new building came in so much higher than expected. It just isn't worth adding this addition.

He has since reassessed the whole operation. He has started comingling some products, which has given them some extra room.

Donald Skillings asked if in the next five years we were going to need that building.

Randy Gray said that he doesn't believe we will. He thinks that this is the best way to save the taxpayers' money.

Darla Pickett said she has an issue with taking money that we were going to use for something concrete and putting it into something that depreciates in value.

Randy Gray said that you need equipment to run a facility. The truck up there is a 1999. He has used, used parts all year to keep it running. It needs to be replaced. We haul a 300 gallon tank around in that pickup, we haul the paper from the schools and oil from the local businesses. A ½ ton pickup isn't designed to do that.

He will be looking to purchase a used ¾ ton four wheel drive pickup. He also plans to put a plow on it for cleanup at the Transfer Station. They currently use a 410 backhoe, which is not designed for this.

Paul York said he is all for having a vehicle account. He is worried that with recycling growing, we will eventually need another building. He would hate to spend this money, and then decide that we need it.

This building was going to be for plastics. Our plastics now are being kept in the two-yard containers. We have been mixing the office paper in with the mixed paper. Sometimes we were sitting on office paper for two years before we had enough to process. Product is moving through much quicker than it was four months ago.

Donald Skillings said that he would be very apprehensive about putting a snow plow on the truck. Anyone who has had a plow truck understands that it is additional wear and tear on the vehicle. He suggested putting a push blade on the 410.

Randy Gray said he doesn't think it would work with a push blade on the loader. They use the loader to load the Highway Department trucks, and he is not sure how that would work.

Recording Time: 27:35

Darla Pickett asked if the money could be left where it is in case it is needed with the additional recycling from other towns, and if Randy Gray could ask for the money for a truck next year like he planned.

Randy Gray said that adding the other two towns is not going to affect the operations.

Christine Almand said that it is easier for them to get around there with a truck.

Randy Gray said he gives great thought to what happens in his department.

Paul York said that it was presented to them that the building was needed. He commended Randy Gray for coming forward and saying that he had reevaluated.

Randy Gray said that he believes that he has made some very smart changes for the town.

Vote: 5/0

Recording Time: 31:28

11. Discussion and decision to allow Greg Dore to go out for bids for paving. The bid award will be contingent upon Town Meeting vote.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Soren Siren to allow Greg Dore to go out for bids for paving. The bid award will be contingent upon Town Meeting vote.

Paul York asked about just doing a shim and overlay on the Stevens Road. That road is awful. He said he cannot imagine that a shim and overlay is going to last.

Greg Dore said that a shim and overlay can mean several things. Sometimes it is just bringing the road up $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch and doing a $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch overlay. The Stevens Road is going to be $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The shim will be a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch stone C mix. The finish coat will be a riding course. It is not a reconstruction. This is really a rehabilitative process. This gets us 10 to 15 years. Some of these roads where the cracks have come up through...those were $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch overlays.

We don't have the money to dig up the Stevens Road. We do these rehabilitative overlays to buy time until we can reconstruct these roads. On average we do about a mile per year of reconstruction.

Donald Skillings asked if we would be better off to put away some money each year so that we eventually have the money to do reconstruction.

Greg Dore said that he actually has some information on that prepared for the budget meeting tonight, to explain this process. Paving is not being funded like it should be. We were given 30 miles of roads back in the 60s that were never built. We have been trying to maintain them and reconstruct them as we go. We did the Back Road, the East Ridge Road, portions of the Notch Road...we have 90 miles of road and it took us 23 years to treat (not rebuild) every one of those roads. We reconstruct roads...but then we don't get back to it in 15 years to keep it good.

Vote: 5/0

Recording Time: 37:17

12. Discussion and decision to allow Chief Howard to apply for and accept the 2016 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant in the amount of \$120,000.00. There is no match requirement for this grant.

A motion was made by Soren Siren and seconded by Betty Austin to allow Chief Howard to apply for and accept the 2016 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant in the amount of \$120,000.00.

Chief Howard said that this pays for the salary and benefits for one firefighter for two years. This is for permission to apply for the grant, and this would be for a new position. The goal is to have four firefighter to respond to all calls. This would bring us up to three.

This is not like the COPS grant where the town has to take over funding and commit to fund the position for future years.

This is two years 100% funding. At the end of the two years, we have three options; the position goes away, we keep the position and fund it, or we can apply to extend funding for another two years.

Soren Siren said he would want to make sure that it was very clear to the employee.

Chief Howard said that this is just to apply for the grant.

An amended motion was made by Soren Siren and seconded by Betty Austin to allow Chief Howard to apply for the 2016 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant in the amount of \$120,000.00.

Vote: 5/0

13. Discussion and decision to allow the TIF Committee to hold a workshop on the amendment to the Downtown TIF Plan on April 12, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Betty Austin to allow the TIF Committee to hold a workshop on the amendment to the Downtown TIF Plan on April 12, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

Christine Almand said that the draft of the Downtown TIF Plan is in the Selectmen's packets. She asked them to keep it for the workshop and the public hearing.

Vote: 5/0

14. Discussion and decision to allow the TIF Committee to hold a Public Hearing on the proposed Amendment (Omnibus) to the Skowhegan Downtown Municipal Development Tax Increment Financing District Development Program, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 206 of Title 30-A of the Maine Revised Statutes on May 10, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Darla Pickett and seconded by Soren Siren to allow the TIF Committee to hold a Public Hearing on the proposed Amendment (Omnibus) to the Skowhegan Downtown Municipal Development Tax Increment Financing District Development Program, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 206 of Title 30-A of the Maine Revised Statutes on May 10, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

Vote: 5/0

15. Discussion and decision to approve the revised Recycling Fee Schedule to no longer charge residents a disposal fee on Stereos, VCRs, DVD Players, Microwaves and humidifiers. All other fees will remain the same.

A motion was made by Darla Pickett and seconded by Betty Austin to approve the revised Recycling Fee Schedule to no longer charge residents a disposal fee on Stereos, VCRs, DVD Players, Microwaves and humidifiers.

Randy Gray said that right now it makes sense to process these things as household trash and not charge a fee for them. The company that handles our TVs was going to charge us a fee for these things...so it just doesn't make sense right now.

Paul York said that he feels as taxpayers that we are double charged. Anything that we are not being charged an outside fee for, we should not be charging for.

Randy Gray said that when you bring in bigger items, they take up more room. This means that they have to be shipped more often, which costs more money. These fees have been around since 1991.

Soren Siren said that he would like to see this done for other items as well. He sees things dumped in the woods all the time.

Randy Gray said that when people call about things being dumped, either his employees or Greg Dore's employees go get it and we do not charge the homeowner for that. These things were being dumped in the woods long before we had a fee structure. People that do that are going to dump it whether there is a fee or not.

Soren Siren asked about giving the tires to local farmers to use, instead of paying the disposal fee. They use them to hold down the plastic that they cover their fields with.

Randy Gray said that he gives them away all the time. He just gave a tractor tire to the Sheriff's Department for the officers to push around. There are lots of things that happen up there. There is an individual that rebuilds washers and dryers for low income people. He takes old ones for parts and drops others off all the time. The reuse program is working great.

Donald Skillings asked about not charging for white goods, and trucking it to Waye Street once a month.

Randy Gray said that we are already contracted with somebody for that. He has always charged for these things because of the extra handling and trucking. If the Selectmen want to change that or not charge for these things, that is their call. He said he will look into bringing some other items back to the Selectmen.

Paul York said he would like to see no fee on anything that we are not being charged for.

Donald Skillings said that if we are charged, we will charge...no question. He is not concerned about efficiencies. We are there 40 hours per week. If we have to move an extra piece, we move an extra piece.

Vote: 5/0

16. Discussion and decision to approve the Letter of Support for Wesserunsett Arts Council to apply for grant funds.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Darla Pickett to approve the Letter of Support for Wesserunsett Arts Council to apply for grant funds.

Vote: 5/0

Recording Time: 53:22

17. Discussion regarding the Elm Street (Map 26, Lot 98) tax acquired property.

A motion was made by Soren Siren and seconded by Betty Austin to keep the tax acquired property located on Elm Street (Map 26, Lot 98).

Vote: 5/0

18. Treasurer's Warrants to be approved:

#72	\$	38,633.81 (Payroll #8)
#73	\$	35,500.68 (Payroll #9)
#74	\$	9,889.74 (State Payables)
#75	\$	<u>273,966.32</u>
Total	\$	357,990.55

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

Vote: 5/0

19. Other Business

Greg Dore asked if the Selectmen would waive the bid process for the sweeper rental. He is honoring the same price as last year.

Soren Siren said he would hate to jump the gun, because it is warm, and then have to redo this.

Greg Dore said that when we sweep, we are picking up the bulk of it. If we had to sand again, it wouldn't be enough to make a difference.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Darla Pickett to waive the bid process and expend an amount not to exceed \$6,000.00 for the rental of the street sweeper.

Vote: 5/0

20. Unfinished Business

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

The Pay Scale Workshop is scheduled for March 15, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

21. Sign Documents

The Selectmen signed documents.

