

**Minutes
Town of Skowhegan
Regular Selectmen's Meeting
5:30 P.M.
Tuesday, May 10, 2016
Municipal Building – Council Room**

Board of Selectmen:

Donald Skillings, Chairman
Paul York, Vice Chairman
Betty Austin
Darla Pickett - Absent
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

The revaluation fieldwork is continuing. They are currently working on tax map 5. For more detailed information, visit our website.

Congratulations to Firefighter Scott Libby. Scott received the Wellness Employee of the Year Award for the Town of Skowhegan this morning.

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

Main Street Skowhegan's Dance and Dine fundraiser will be in the Municipal Building parking lot on May 19th from 4:00 to 8:00.

Bradley's School of Dance will hold their dance recitals on May 20th and 21st at 7:00 pm in the Opera House.

The Annual 10+ Mile Yard Sale is on May 21st and 22nd. For safety reasons, we again ask that bargain shoppers obey the "No Parking" signs.

Donald Skillings said he had some people ask him about photos being taken inside of homes for the revaluation.

Christine Almand said that photos are not being taken inside, only outside.

2. Items by the Public

There were no Items by the Public.

3. Selectmen's Items

Betty Austin said that she is excited about the direction our town is headed. There was an article in the newspaper about inspections. There was also an article about the Barkery, and about Rolling Fatties coming to town. The Gristmill has added more equipment to keep up with orders.

Paul York said he attended the firefighters' awards banquet. It was great and he enjoys the slide show that they do every year.

Four firefighters are leaving on Friday to attend the Maine State Fire Academy.

Reminder to property owners...we have a safety forum on May 18th at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center. We will be talking about the inspections. This is an opportunity for the landowners to find out why we are doing it and to ask questions. This will help them start bringing their buildings up to code before the inspection happens.

4. Department & Committee Reports

Chief Howard said that Shawn Enright was named firefighter of the year. Mike Savage was recognized for the work he has done to secure \$1.3 million in grant funds for the Fire Department. Mike Savage and Ty Strout were recognized for a life-saving rescue in October.

Randy Gray said that he and Cindy Kirk attended the Solid Waste and Recycling Conference.

Greg Dore said that we got most of the asphalt ground up. We ran out of money. We still have about 800 yards left to grind.

Gail Pelotte said we should be receiving our State of Maine B allots for the Primary and our Municipal Election ballots in the next ten days.

Chief Bolduc said that Ryan Blakeney and James Gordon are in week 17 at the academy. They will be graduating on May 20, 2016.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Paul York to allow Chief Bolduc to apply for and accept the Bullet Proof Vest Grant in the amount of \$2,400.00.

Vote: 4/0

Chief Bolduc said that this grant is \$2,400.00 which covers half of the cost of the vests.

Public Hearing:

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

Whit's End
123 Madison Avenue

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 Paul York to approve the Application for Special Amusement Permit for Whit's End.

Vote: 4/0

2. Discussion and decision to approve the Amendment to the Downtown TIF Plan.

Donald Skillings opened the Public Hearing.

Kristina Cannon said that she will be receiving comments on suggested changes until May 27th.

Jeff Hewett said that the early Downtown TIF was from Coburn Park and over to the walking trail on the south side of the river. This brought in funds that were used for the downtown.

This expansion will enlarge the TIF area to include more project areas. The area marked in red on the map is the new proposed TIF area. This is not just strictly for downtown.

Donald Skillings closed the Public Hearing.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Paul York to approve the Amendment to the Downtown TIF Plan.

Vote: 4/0

Recording Time: 12:13

Regular Agenda:

1. Discussion regarding parking restrictions in the Indian Parking Lot.

Donald Skillings said that this was a discussion that Selectman Pickett wanted to have to see if there was something that we could do. Chief Bolduc's opinion is that there is little that we can do.

Chief Bolduc said that the issue is that there were people that were parking there for 10 to 12 hours at a time...using it as a park-and-ride. The issue here is Cumberland Farms employees wanting to park there because they get out late at night.

Donald Skillings said he would like to see Chief Bolduc work with them the best he can.

Paul York said that he feels that this is a safety issue, and that we need to assist this employer who has been here for a very long time. A police officer isn't always going to be available (to walk an employee to their vehicle) when they are on call. He would like to see the employees be able to park close enough that this is not an issue.

Donald Skillings asked if doing six hour parking in the parking spots directly behind the building would fix this.

Betty Austin said she would like to see how things go now that the park-and-ride people have been taken care of. That is really where the complaints came from.

Soren Siren said he agrees with Paul York. This business is different from the other businesses, because it is open 24 hours. They were supposed to come back in to discuss this. He would like to see how it works now, and encourage them to come back in to discuss it.

Recording Time: 17:37

2. Discussion and decision to nominate somebody to the MMA, Legislative Policy Committee.

No action taken.

3. Discussion and decision to approve the Application for a Farmer's Market Malt, Vinous License for:

Skowhegan Farmer's Market
42 Court Street

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Soren Siren to approve the Application for a Farmer's Market Malt, Vinous License for Skowhegan Farmer's Market.

Vote: 4/0

4. Discussion and decision to approve the Application for Parades and Processions to allow the Skowhegan Area Chamber of Commerce to hold a Memorial Day Parade on May 30, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Soren Siren to approve the Application for Parades and Processions to allow the Skowhegan Area Chamber of Commerce to hold a Memorial Day Parade on May 30, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

Vote: 4/0

5. Discussion and decision to approve the Contract with Redington Fairview General Hospital (RFGH) for the Hospital Resource Officer position and authorize Christine Almand to sign the contract.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Soren Siren to approve the Contract with Redington Fairview General Hospital (RFGH) for the Hospital Resource Officer position and authorize Christine Almand and Chief Bolduc to sign the contract.

Donald Skillings asked about the language regarding restraint in the contract. He wanted to make sure that this did not restrict the officers from doing what is necessary.

Chief Bolduc said that it has to rise to a certain level before action is taken. The officers would treat these situations the same way they would treat any situation. This contract is to protect us and the hospital. He said that he is very comfortable with this contract. It also can be reviewed in a year.

Vote: 4/0

6. Discussion and decision to appoint Kyle Haseltine as a full-time Hospital Resource Officer with a term expiring June 30, 2016.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Betty Austin to appoint Kyle Haseltine as a full-time Hospital Resource Officer with a term expiring June 30, 2016.

Vote: 4/0

Kyle Haseltine was sworn in as a full-time Police Officer.

7. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$550.00 from the Cemetery Reserve Account to replace 10 fence posts in the Southside Cemetery.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Paul York To expend an amount not to exceed \$550.00 from the Cemetery Reserve Account to replace 10 fence posts in the Southside Cemetery.

Vote: 4/0

8. Discussion and decision to award the CSO, Phase 3.4 Bid to Sargent Corp. with a total bid price of \$1,993,360.00. This will be paid from the Sewer Bond.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Betty Austin to award the CSO, Phase 3.4 Bid to Sargent Corp. with a total bid price of \$1,993,360.00.

Bill Olver passed out some information.

Skowhegan is a CSO community. During peak rain events we have raw sewage going out into the river. We are required by DEP to do remediation projects on the sewer to get rid of the high flow that is causing this.

Skowhegan has 30 miles of sewer lines. At the beginning of this project about 60% of the sewer lines were old clay pipes, which allow water to infiltrate the sewer lines. Many of the lines were combined sewer/rain water.

In the last 15 years, we have had as many as 362 overflow events in a year and as few as 35. It really depends on how much rain we get. Last year we had 60 overflow events. He talked about rain events and said that we have made progress, shown in a decrease of millions of gallons of overflow.

The phases of this project:

Phase 1 – Upgraded the waste water treatment plant.

Phase 2 – Upgraded a couple of pump stations and built a storage tank in the parking lot next door.

Phase 3.1 – Replace the pump station by the Fire Station.

Phase 3.2 – Sewer work and separation on Elm Street, Summer Street, Bennett Avenue, etc.

Phase 3.3 – Sewer work and separation on Main Street, Bailey Street, Willow Street, Bloomfield Street.

Phase 3.4 that will be voted on tonight, is the Joyce Street area.

After this year, there is one more project; North Avenue and Madison Avenue.

In 2018 the Master Plan has to be updated.

The last three projects have come in under the allocated total.

This is an important part of the project, because it accounts for up to 20% of ground water infiltration of the whole 30 miles of sewer. That amounts to 500,000 gallons a day for every inch of rainfall.

This Phase came in higher than expected. During the design of this project, three decisions were made that changed the project.

1. We envisioned that this would be replaced under the swale, but it makes more sense for the long term to get it out of there and into the street where it can be accessed for repairs. This would abandon the sewer down in the Joyce Valley.
2. Four catch basins over on Milburn Street were identified that are putting storm water into the line. We put this in the bid as an alternate to pick up those catch basins.
3. We found that there is no road base over on Mt. Pleasant Avenue. It is pretty much tar on top of clay. As part of the project we thought it would be best to rebuild the road. The concern was that if we trenched through the clay, we would never get that road back together.

We designed the project this way because it is what is going to be best for the town.

Three bids were received; Sargent Corp., Jordan Excavation and Stetson & Watson.

Sargent Corporation was the low bid @ \$1,993,360.00. The alternate bid to pick up the basins on Milburn Street was \$126,000.00. Total bid of \$2.12 million. The estimate for this project was \$1.5 million. That makes this \$600,000.00 over budget.

\$102,000.00 is because of the deeper cut to place the sewer under the road.

\$127,000.00 is the alternate bid, which we can just leave off of the project.

\$371,000.00 would be for the reconstruction of the road.

If you decide to rebid this project, there is no guarantee that you will get a better price. Sargent Corporation is one of the better firms in Maine.

What the Staff has recommended is to award the bid to Sargent Corp. @ \$1.993 million without the alternate bid.

Recording Time: 38:42

After this there will be \$2.8 million left in the sewer bond to complete the last two projects. Of the two project left after this one, North Avenue is the most important. We left Madison Avenue until last because we are not sure of the extent of the work we need to do there.

Donald Skillings asked if we are now not in as much jeopardy with the violations of the CSO.

Bill Olver said that the overflows are licenses because of the Master Plan. If the Master Plan was not in place, and positive steps were not being taken to correct this, then you would be in violation. As long as you are still making progress, they are not technically violations.

In 2018, the Master Plan will be updated. Right now there are still two more projects to complete as part of the current plan.

Donald Skillings said that we don't have enough money to complete both projects, based on the projected costs. We are already under, should we not spend this money right now.

Betty Austin said that she feels that we should move forward on this as suggested by the Department Heads. The State expects us to do these things. If we don't, we will be in trouble. If we wait, it will cost more.

Paul York said he agreed. Although, it is not the best time to spend money, we need to keep going with this.

Bill Olver said that the federal law is to get down to zero discharges. The only reason that the discharges are not illegal, is because you have a Master Plan. You could decide to halt the project, but it would likely result in a consent agreement.

Donald Skillings said that we are already at \$1.2 million per year on these bond payments. That is 10% of our budget. This is an enormous debt load for a small town.

Paul York said that we are better off doing this on our terms, instead of waiting until they force us to do it. The cost will be higher and we will have no choice.

Bill Olver said that the Master Plan is included in the wastewater discharge license. If we stop the project, we could be fined when that license renews. It is a lot of money, and a lot of towns are faced with this right now...but it is a federal requirement.

Brent Dickey said that it is not certain that we won't have enough money to complete the projects. Although the bids came in higher on this portion that does not mean that they won't come in lower for next year's project.

Donald Skillings asked if we could bid that out now, so that we will know.

Bill Olver said that the project has been surveyed, but has not yet been designed.

Brent Dickey said that he would like to see the bids go out in December or January.

Donald Skillings said that whatever we do, we are still going to have to do both North Avenue and Madison Avenue whether we have the money or not.

Bill Olver said that it is not whether all of the roads are done, it is whether we are at zero discharges or not. If we can get to zero discharges, we have met the plan. North Avenue is much more important in terms of the amount of water coming from that area. Madison Avenue is already partially separated by DOT.

Recording Time: 46:33

Donald Skillings asked, if we can meet the requirements without doing Madison Avenue, then why don't we add the alternate to this year's project. That would still leave enough money to complete North Avenue next year.

Bill Olver said that the catch basins on Milburn Street are not a significant source of water infiltration. He feels that the Staff recommendation is the way to go.

Vote: 3/1 (Donald Skillings opposed)

9. Discussion and decision to approve the Town Meeting Warrant for June 2016.

Christine Almand said that the Selectmen had already received a revision to Article 54. Gail Pelotte has brought it to her attention that she feels that Article 56 for the Cemetery Ordinance should read to "repeal and replace" rather than "amend".

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Soren Siren to approve the Town Meeting Warrant for June 2016 with an amendment to Article 56.

Vote: 4/0

10. Treasurer's Warrants to be approved:

#90	\$	42,089.08 (Payroll #17)
#91	\$	33,941.07 (Payroll #18)
#92	\$	12,398.38 (State Payables)
#93	\$	251,715.70 (FY 2016 Accounts Payables)
Total	\$	340,144.23

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

Vote: 4/0

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

These items are still being worked on.

13. Sign Documents

The Selectmen signed documents.

Adjourn Selectmen's Meeting.

Approved and signed on May 24, 2016.

A True Copy Attest: _____
Cara L. Mason, Executive Secretary