

**Minutes
Town of Skowhegan
Regular Selectmen's Meeting
5:30 P.M.
Tuesday, March 22, 2022
Municipal Building – Council Room**

****Anyone wishing to view this meeting may also do so from the
Town of Skowhegan Facebook page****

Board of Selectmen:

Todd Smith, Chairman
Charles Robbins, Vice Chairman
Harold Bigelow
Steven Govoni
Paul York

Town Manager:

Christine Almand

Executive Secretary:

Cara L. Mason

Call Selectmen's Meeting to order.

Todd Smith called the meeting to order.

1. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Town Manager's Report

We were able to obtain a \$2 million federal earmark for the Skowhegan River Park. She appreciates all of the work that Kristina Cannon did to help acquire that.

3. Items by the Public

There were no Items by the Public.

4. Selectmen's Items

Harold Bigelow said he has spring fever.

Steven Govoni congratulated Chelsea Gardiner.

Two people are interested in joining the Sidewalk Committee.

Todd Smith said that the MaineBiz newspaper. Amber Lambke was recognized as a Maine business leader.

He said the \$2 million for the river park is very exciting.

5. Department and Committee Reports

Trisha Austin congratulated Chelsea Gardiner. She will be posting the Clerk's Office position tomorrow.

Audit is going pretty well so far. We have one more day next week and then we should be finishing up on that.

Gail Pelotte said that nomination papers are available and due back April 15th.

The police department's gain is the front office's loss. She is happy for Chelsea, but sad for us.

Jeff Hewett said that the mandatory façade meeting was last week. Seven businesses attended that. This is the second round of funding. We are going to try to get as many of these dedicated as soon as possible.

Chief Bucknam said he is excited to have Chelsea Gardiner downstairs. We are going to make sure that her transition is smooth and doesn't leave anybody with too much stress upstairs.

There was a pool of 20 applicants for this position. Hopefully some of those qualified applicants will look towards the Clerk's Office. If they would reapply for that, that would be beneficial to support the Town in a different manner than working for the police department.

Chief Bucknam said that somebody asked about the spike strips at the last meeting. They are single use. Our other spikes are pushing 10 – 15 years. The cases are cracking and the spikes themselves are starting to deteriorate. We have moved to the easier and safer spike strips. This will keep officers from being stuck with the spikes. He is trying to upgrade as we move forward.

Chief Howard recognized the service of Wendell Taylor. He was a call firefighter for Skowhegan in the 80s. He recently passed. He offered condolences to his family.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve and sign Minutes from the following:

Regular Selectmen's Meeting – March 8, 2022

Special Selectmen's Meeting – March 15, 2022

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

Cara Mason said that a couple of typos had been corrected in the Minutes.

Vote: 5/0

Regular Agenda:

1. Discussion and decision to approve the Application for Parades and Processions to allow KVCAP to hold a vigil at the veteran's park and outside of the Municipal Building on April 5, 2022 from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. They have also asked for permission to place pinwheels and a sign at the Municipal Building for the month of April.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to approve the Application for Parades and Processions to allow KVCAP to hold a vigil at the veteran's park and outside of the Municipal Building on April 5, 2022 from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. and to allow them to place pinwheels and a sign at the Municipal Building for the month of April.

Vote: 5/0

2. Discussion and decision to proclaim April as Child Abuse Awareness Month.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to proclaim April as Child Abuse Awareness Month.

Vote: 5/0

Recording Time: 15:09

3. Discussion and decision to proclaim August 26th as Margaret Chase Smith Day. Recommended by the Heritage Council.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to proclaim August 26th as Margaret Chase Smith Day. Recommended by the Heritage Council.

Harold Bigelow asked why August 26th. Her birthday is December 14th.

Robert Washburn said he didn't know the answer. Evelyn Bowman talked with David Richards at the MCS Library and came up with this date. He believes it might be when the 19th Amendment was passed, giving women the right to vote.

Robert Washburn said that today is Abner Coburn Day.

Vote: 5/0

4. Discussion and decision to authorize Christine Almand to send the letter to MDOT.

A motion was made by Steven Govoni and seconded by Harold Bigelow to authorize Christine Almand to send the letter to MDOT.

Paul York said he gets the whole Village Partnership Initiative that we are jumping into...looking at all of the projects. It seems like every time we try to move forward, we keep kicking these projects down the road. The Jewett Street/Madison Avenue project has been thrown around for a while. We are limited to what we can do with that intersection. There was never intentions of taking parking lots. He doesn't believe that project is going to change even as we move forward with these different traffic patterns. He said he is not necessarily in support of the letter.

Steven Govoni said that he Todd and Christine met with MSAD 54 today. Steven Landry from MDOT and the engineering team from the school were also there. The Superintendent said he had no idea that we had so many projects going on. These projects are in the permitting process. Steven Govoni said that each one is going to impact another one.

Jewett Street is a perfect example. We have a bus garage going over there that was not anticipated in the designs that we have. That also impacts North Avenue. Further down North Avenue all of those streets will be impacted. \$2 million has been earmarked for this project...that will impact traffic patterns. We need the professional support that MDOT can offer in looking at it from that holistic point of view. These projects were moving along fast, but independent of anything else.

Charles Robins asked where the Jewett Street plans are. Why are they not done? In those plans it was for a 40' box truck...which is a school bus. Someone knew that a bus garage was going to go there.

Christine Almand said she has seen some of that. She believes that that was forwarded. We were waiting on information from CMP in order to finalize those plans.

Don Kinney said they sent a sample plan of what it's going to be. The original plans won't be done until we hear from CMP. Should be in a month or so.

Charles Robbins said to chop up this Town with four different projects is a joke. They don't care in Augusta.

Steven Govoni said it is 12 projects within a mile and a quarter radius...all on one side of the river.

Christine Almand said that the letter that has been draft, and is available on our website, is basically asking the DOT to delay two current projects (the traffic signal at Commercial Street and the Jewett Street project). We do have a contract with Haley Ward and we do have preliminary plans. This letter is asking them to delay both projects, to make them part of the Village Partnership Initiative.

Paul York asked if this is going to cost us more money. They were planning for the bus garage to be on Jewett Street. He is having a hard time with the language saying delayed. How long are we going to delay this and is it going to cost us more money? Haley Ward is going to change this, this and this and now they want more money. You can only do so much with that intersection...unless we are going to start buying WalGreens and widening it out.

Steven Govoni said that the changes also impact the other end. You've got Greenwood, Dane and North Avenue. Those buses are coming in or out from that end. We don't know which end they are coming in or out from. This is before the MSAD 54 goes through their whole scoping process. We have one ahead of the other.

Charles Robbins said he was not a fan of the Jewett Street project from day one. Pumping the brakes is ok but we are spending a ton of money. Are we going to figure this out and then come back for the North Avenue end? The money that gets spent here is disgusting.

Steven Govoni said if it's found that the school causes issues, it may end up as their line item. It's not just one or two intersections. They've got crosswalks, how are they moving the students. It's bigger than just an intersection. We just found out that Constitution Avenue/Madison Avenue is part of the plan in 2025.

Harold Bigelow said that DOT was out front...they spent quite a bit of time on the corner by Hight's, by Knowles & Dressel's going all the way down to Stern's. They spent 2 or 3 hours out there walking back and forth...taking measurements.

Vote: 4/1 (Paul York opposed)

Recording Time: 28:53

5. Discussion and decision to approve the Cemetery Sexton's contract from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Recommended by the Cemetery Committee.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to approve the Cemetery Sexton's contract from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Vote: 5/0

6. Discussion and decision to waive the bid process and allow Don Kinney to participate in the joint purchase/bid program with KVCOG for the purchase of salt, calcium chloride and culverts.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Harold Bigelow to waive the bid process and allow Don Kinney to participate in the joint purchase/bid program with KVCOG for the purchase of salt, calcium chloride and culverts.

Charles Robins said he doesn't like the term "waive the bid" but this is something we have done for several years. Correct?

Christine Almand said a bid process is happening. We are not putting the bid out. We are joining with other municipalities for KVCOG's bid process.

Charles Robbins said we are not up here waiving the bid process.

Vote: 5/0

7. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$4,724.84 from the Solid Waste Reserve Account, Equipment Designation for repairs to the GMC pickup truck (Total repairs of \$5,735.07...\$1,010.23 paid by insurance).

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to expend an amount not to exceed \$4,724.84 from the Solid Waste Reserve Account, Equipment Designation for repairs to the GMC pickup truck (Total repairs of \$5,735.07...\$1,010.23 paid by insurance).

Vote: 5/0

8. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00 from the Cemetery Reserve Account, Tree Care Designation to purchase trees for the East Skowhegan Cemetery.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to expend an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00 from the Cemetery Reserve Account, Tree Care Designation to purchase trees for the East Skowhegan Cemetery.

Paul York said that this is part of the plan. We spent a lot of money cutting down a lot of trees. Now we want to plant trees. The committee was looking to...especially the East Side Cemetery is in an open field...try to add trees and shrubs. Try to strategically place these so we are not, later on saying we need to cut these trees down again. To make these cemeteries a little more comfortable looking. We are starting with the East Side because that is the one that there is nothing there. Starting slow to see how it goes.

The ones that we have been cutting down is because they are old and are breaking and causing damage to the stones. This costs us a lot of money.

Todd Smith asked how many trees that gets us.

Paul York said we don't know because, we just came up with a number. We want to spend this much. Trying to figure out what types they wanted.

Vote: 5/0

9. Discussion and decision to award the Clerk's Office Flooring Bid. The following bids were received:

Floormaster North	\$8,015.00
Maine Highlands Contracting	\$18,979.00

Jeff Hewett recommends awarding the Clerk's Office Flooring Bid to Floormaster North with a total bid price of \$8,015.00 and expending that amount from the Municipal Building Reserve Account, Repairs Designation.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to award the Clerk's Office Flooring Bid to Floormaster North with a total bid price of \$8,015.00 and expend that amount from the Municipal Building Reserve Account, Repairs Designation.

Vote: 5/0

10. Discussion and decision to award the Waste Compactor bid. The following bids were received:

Atlantic Recycling Equipment LLC	\$101,625.00
Reaction Distributing, Inc.	\$112,633.00

Bryan Belliveau recommends awarding the Waste Compactor Bid to Atlantic Recycling Equipment, LLC with a total bid price of \$101,625.00 and expending that amount from the ARPA Funds.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robins to award the Waste Compactor Bid to Atlantic Recycling Equipment, LLC with a total bid price of \$101,625.00 and expend that amount from the ARPA Funds.

Vote: 5/0

11. Discussion and decision to award the Cruiser Bid. The following bid was received:

Hight Family of Dealerships	\$37,498.00
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Chief Bucknam recommends awarding the Cruiser Bid to Hight Family of Dealerships with a total bid price of \$37,498.00 and expending that amount from the ARPA Funds.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to award the Cruiser Bid to Hight Family of Dealerships with a total bid price of \$37,498.00 and expend that amount from the ARPA Funds.

Vote: 5/0

Recording Time: 35:48

12. Discussion and decision to award the Cruiser Upfit bid. The following bids were received:

Yankee Communications	\$12,444.93
201 Service	\$14,214.98

Chief Bucknam recommends awarding the Cruiser Upfit bid to Yankee Communications with a total bid price of \$12,444.93 and expending that amount from the ARPA Funds.

A motion was made by Charles Robbins and seconded by Harold Bigelow to award the Cruiser Upfit bid to Yankee Communications with a total bid price of \$12,444.93 and expend that amount from the ARPA Funds.

Steven Govoni said he had a chance to inspect the last car that came through. He used to do this for a living. His father owned Automotive Marine in Kingston Mass. He found the work to be sub-par at best. He understands that the car was sent back to be redone. He is concerned. If they are bidding low and then giving us sub-par work.

Chief Bucknam said that when he got back from vacation, he spoke with his fleet manager. He felt there were some issues that we had received from Yankee Communications. He actually sat in the back of that cruiser, so he could see what they were talking about. It comes down to a lack of communication...what we expect and what they provide to us. Nothing had been communicated to them, about what we were looking for. We have been doing business with them for 30 plus years. We have always just given them a car and said, build it.

Another business in town has done two cars for us and did a magnificent job. We asked him to show us what he could do. He would eat off the floor...it was that well put together. We didn't do that with the other company. They have been doing them for forty plus years. The fleet manager has had the opportunity to say, hey look this is what we are actually looking for. We took the cruiser back to them. It took less than 24 hours to get it back. He fixed the majority of what we wanted to see. It is currently on the road and working. The invoice was \$1,500.00 lower than what the bid was. Because of the length of time in business and the amount of service...right now getting some parts is extremely difficult...he had some stuff that he utilized from his own business. He donated that at no charge. We didn't get window bars that go up and down, we got some with squares. He is not upset about that. We have two people working on our cars. One does it one way and one does it another. We are pitting them against each other. Now we are nit picking each other's work. Without that communication to the bidder that won the work, then he doesn't know what we are expecting. We have now crossed that communication issue.

Steven Govoni asked if this bid would be at that caliber. The caliber of work was significantly different and he's not talking about window bars.

Chief Bucknam said the other business was asked to show us what he's got, and he did. When you have been in business for forty years, you find shortcuts to cut down of time and costs. We are talking about whether the extra wire was thrown inside the center console. Nobody is going to see that until you take it apart. Or we color code the wires. Either way, he doesn't care...as long as the lights work when he hits the switch. It's no different than looking at the motor...whether it's a Dodge or a Ford. If the car starts, he's happy. If it goes when he hits the gas, and it stops when he hits the brakes, he's happy. If it is built two different ways, it doesn't matter to him. At the end of the day, is it safe? Can he get from point A to point B for an emergency, and everything that he paid for is in the car? Right now, he can say yes. He's excited that he can argue that he has two companies that are working extremely hard to get our business. All he cares about is that the cruiser is out back getting loaded up with equipment and his officers responding to calls with it. He is happy with both people's work.

Charles Robbins asked if the last car was built to the specs of the bid.

Chief Bucknam answered yes. One company is extremely retentive, probably like your father did. Very meticulous...you've got to respect that. The other company instead of being dress right dress, they take everything put in up in there and go. He has no hardships over that. He doesn't see it. It's not going to cause a danger to him. He could roll the car and he still wouldn't be worried about it.

Steven Govoni said that there were some examples...maybe this is the communication piece...when you shut off the car the gunlock unlocks.

Chief Bucknam said that that has been corrected. When you are putting 1,000 pieces into a car, you are going to mess something up. It was a few second fix. He didn't lose any sleep over it. We noted the error, called and it was fixed right then...to include some of the other issues you probably looked at in the car.

Steven Govoni said he did it for a living.

Charles Robbins said he looked at both cars. You could tell that they were done by two different companies. It's the functionality and the cost. We would be setting a bad example, to bidders moving forward, if we don't respect the bid process.

Steven Govoni said it is quality of work. You could hire two plasterers to do that wall...one makes it straight and one makes it look like he was being hit by a baseball bat the whole time...and you say that is the bid process. That is not the bid process. The quality of work...it's the expectation of the quality of work.

Charles Robbins said that is why he asked if everything that was on the bid specs is on that cruiser.

Steven Govoni said that the Chief answered that by saying that the communication needed to be. Maybe that communication on the bid needs to change. If you are asking a recommendation right now for Yankee Communications, when this car comes out...we are doing that inspection and it looks good.

Chief Bucknam said he didn't have any issues, except for the gunlock, with the other car. He didn't tear the car apart to see if they ran the wires up on the right-hand side instead of the left-hand side. He doesn't care about that. What he cares about is that there is nothing unsafe with the vehicle; everything that he asked for is in the vehicle and it is all working properly. Wiring stacked in a center console that is out of sight out of mind...he doesn't have an issue with that.

Steven Govoni said, coils of cable behind the seat. When he moved the passenger seat back, it didn't move all the way back. We had to move the cables in. That's seems to me like...

Chief Bucknam said this is where that lack of communication with the other company went to...specifically how we want that in the future. That was addressed and taken care of. There was also a question about the computer module in the back. It was mounted to the back cage. It is a technique that has been utilized. When he worked for Kennebec Sheriff, the module was back there. Tucking it underneath makes sense. It has been addressed. We shouldn't have that problem anymore.

Steven Govoni said that is what he is asking, specifically. If we approve the low bid, that is the quality...

Chief Bucknam said he is recommending the low bid, because he respects the bid process. He respects both companies. They have both done a good job and neither one of them has let him down. Both are there at a moment's notice to make sure things are taken care of. He recommended the low bid. There is a substantial difference in the amount. If it met the threshold for local preference, he would have recommended the local company. He is happy no matter which way the Selectmen choose to go. Either way he will get a product that he will be happy with.

Paul York said we keep throwing out, following the bid process...price. We are still following the bid process, if we choose to go with a higher price. Whatever job that we send out bids for...if we got the lowest bid from an individual that we have had issues with...he hopes the Selectmen wouldn't go with the lowest bid.

Chief Bucknam said he completely understands that, but he does not have that issue.

Harold Bigelow said he can see where Steve is coming from. We are all geared differently with our own quality control. When he was a body man, he could pick out some people's work. They were all right, but you could tell when there was a little extra. He understands where Steve is coming from, because he is pretty critical on that as well. Sometimes it's not the cheapest price.

Chief Bucknam said if he had long-term issues with something...that would be on the forefront of his thought process. He does not have that. Whichever way you go, he will have a smile on his face because he will get a product that he will be happy with.

Todd Smith said that he appreciates department head recommendations. He appreciates the bids that we received. For the cruiser we only received one. He thanked Yankee Communications for stepping up and providing this price. However, from his perspective, given that the funding is coming from the ARPA funds...which were given to the Town of Skowhegan...he thinks that because the bids are close and we do have that exclusion in the Purchasing Policy...he wants those funds to stay in town. Therefore, for this vote, he is for going against the Chief's recommendation and keeping these rescue funds in town where they were intended to be used.

Charles Robbins said that he would warn the board, in the past we had a bid...the reason there is only one bid for the cruiser is that O'Connor's came in lower than Hight's and we went with Hight's. Now O'Connor's doesn't bid anymore. We are setting a bad...we can do whatever we want to do...it doesn't look good for the people out there.

Christine Almand said that on that cruiser, we did award that to Hight even though, with local preference, they were still not lower. This is the same situation here. Even with local preference, the bid does not meet our local preference amount. That is a \$1,700.75 difference.

Charles Robbins said that 201 does excellent work. They are his biggest competitor...but he can't speak ill of them. Their work is \$1,700.00 more than the work...it is a quality of work.

This is a dangerous road. We have one cruiser bid. Hight's could have jacked that up \$10,000.00 and with them being the only bid, we would have all raised our hand doing it. Whether they are ARPA funds or taxpayer funds...it is a dangerous road.

Steven Govoni said he is not opposed to either one. What he is opposed to is the difference in work quality. If the communication between Chief Bucknam and Yankee Communications is clear that the quality of work needs to be this...not the car he saw. You can say all of the functionality pieces you want. The car he saw was atrocious. If they are stepping up to the quality of work, the he is fine going with Yankee Communications. The number they are bidding, should be with putting their best foot forward. Any contractor bidding to the Town of Skowhegan, should be putting their best foot forward every single time. He doesn't want to receive a car that we have to send back in another week. That is not how he wants to go through the bid process.

Chief Bucknam thanked Harold Bigelow. He was out picking up trash along the sides of the road.

Vote: 3/2 (Paul York and Todd Smith opposed)

13. Discussion and decision to accept criminal forfeiture funds in the amount of \$11,000.00 and deposit those funds into the Police Department Reserve Account, Drug Forfeiture Designation.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to accept criminal forfeiture funds in the amount of \$11,000.00 and deposit those funds into the Police Department Reserve Account, Drug Forfeiture Designation.

Vote: 5/0

Recording Time: 57:30

14. Discussion and decision to accept the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, 2021 Stream Crossing Public Infrastructure Improvement funds in the amount of \$125,000.00 for the Steward Hill Road crossing.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to accept the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, 2021 Stream Crossing Public Infrastructure Improvement funds in the amount of \$125,000.00 for the Steward Hill Road crossing.

Paul York asked if this is going to cover the cost. Are we going to have additional costs to this?

Steven Govoni asked what we are doing.

Paul York said that we are changing a culvert.

Don Kinney said it would have to go out to bid. He wouldn't have a clue. He showed a picture of the culvert.

Steven Govoni said this is going to have to be engineered to make sure it meets the qualifications of the Army Corp. and DEP for aquatic stream passage. A 14' culvert might end up being a 50' bridge. That's what he just did on the Molunkus Road. That is now a 70' bridge.

Don Kinney said that the State looked at it and surveyed it. They said that it will probably be like a box cement culvert, open bottom with rocks so the fish will go up there.

Steven Govoni said they think it is going to be less than a 20' clear.

Harold Bigelow asked if it is two blocks and one across the top.

Don Kinney said it is all one piece. Then they just put them together.

Steven Govoni said that some are.

Vote: 5/0

Harold Bigelow said that he felt he voted incorrectly on the cruiser upfit bid. He asked if he could change his vote.

A motion was made by Steven Govoni and seconded by Paul York to rescind the following vote:

“A motion was made by Charles Robbins and seconded by Harold Bigelow to award the Cruiser Upfit bid to Yankee Communications with a total bid price of \$12,444.93 and expend that amount from the ARPA Funds.

Vote: 3/2 (Paul York and Todd Smith opposed)”

Vote: 5/0

A motion was made by Charles Robbins and seconded by Steven Govoni to award the Cruiser Upfit bid to Yankee Communications with a total bid price of \$12,444.93 and expend that amount from the ARPA Funds.

Chief Bucknam said that by awarding to the high bidder this would put him over the \$50,000.00 amount previously approved from the ARPA funds. He would need a recommendation as to where he would come up with the additional \$1,400.00.

Paul York asked where those funds would come from if we didn't have the ARPA money.

Chief Bucknam said he would have put it in his budget for FY 2023.

Todd Smith said that if this is approved at the higher amount, we will utilize the ARPA funds.

Vote: 2/3 (Paul York, Todd Smith and Harold Bigelow opposed)

A motion was made by Steven Govoni and seconded by Paul York to award the Cruiser Upfit bid to 201 Service with a total bid price of \$14,214.98 and expend that amount from the ARPA Funds, including the additional funds.

Vote: 3/2 (Steven Govoni and Charles Robbins opposed)

15. Discussion and decision to allow Bryan Belliveau to go out to bid for the electrical work for the new waste compactors.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Steven Govoni to allow Bryan Belliveau to go out to bid for the electrical work for the new waste compactors.

Vote: 5/0

Recording Time: 01:06:53

16. Discussion and decision to approve the release of lien for the property located at 145 North Avenue and allow Christine Almand to sign the documents. This was one of two properties used to secure the RLF Loan for Unwined.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Steven Govoni to approve the release of lien for the property located at 145 North Avenue and allow Christine Almand to sign the documents.

Vote: 5/0

17. Treasurer's Warrants to be approved:

#75	\$	53,815.52 (Payroll #10)
#76	\$	55,587.35 (Payroll #11)
#77	\$	11,434.09 (State Payables)
#10	\$	5,170.20 (FY 2022 PSB Accounts Payables)
#78	\$	2,033,911.36 (FY 2022 Accounts Payable)
#79	\$	20,737.44
Total	\$	2,180,655.96

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

Vote: 5/0

18. Unfinished Business

- Review Policies and Ordinances
- Run of River/Economic Development
- Utilizing Outside Services
- Marketing/Celebrating Skowhegan
- Public Safety Building
- Sidewalks and Bike Trails/Lanes
- Second Bridge
- Solar Power
- Current Fire Station
- Mechanic Street School
- DEP PFAS Investigation

Paul York said that Garrett Quinn's PFAS test came back at 17 times the EPA amount. A filtration system has been installed. They will be having quarterly testing. They will continue to do whatever needs to be done as long as there is funding. The testing would fall on him if he chose to continue to test. The State has done some studying on what may deal with this. If you grow corn, the stalks will take it on and absorb it, but the corn doesn't. Maybe that can be done in the future to deal with that.

Steven Govoni said that the State will come out and test every quarter. Bi-annually they change the filters. They will do this until the funding runs out. After that it will be on the property owner to continue that process. He still has questions he needs to get answers to. He has apples and raspberries on his property. Are those edible at this point?

Todd Smith asked if this initiates anything for us.

Christine Almand said that we are one of thirty communities that the State is testing. They reached out to property owners to schedule testing. We also have information on our website. If the State hasn't reached out to you and you want this testing done, the information on who to contact is on our website. We have received good news from some other sites that have been tested. Until we get the information from the State and know how wide spread this is, it is hard to address.

Harold Bigelow said if you spill gasoline on the ground, it gets down deep...into the well supply. You can plant all the corn you want...apple trees, whatever. Once that gets into the water supply, that can travel. There was a question on the dump in Norridgewock on some of the stuff they were hauling in there. Apple trees and stuff like that doesn't take care of it. It travels a long way. You don't go across the street and get rid of it.

Christine Almand said she has also read a report that growing hemp. There are a lot of different things that people are looking at in order to mitigate this. This is a problem, not just here, but everywhere.

Chief Howard said there are no updates on the PSB. Mobilization date is set for April 25th.

Steve Govoni said that he a Harold went to look at some of the sidewalks on this year's list. The Jones Street sidewalk, where a driveway cut was made, the water just flows across the street instead of running to the catch basin. He thinks we need to reassess the priorities. On the east side of the street, the sidewalks don't even exist. These are in much worse shape than the ones on Mechanic Street.

Harold Bigelow said that this is just past the hospital. Employees of the hospital walk that loop. The sidewalk is pristine until you get past that parking lot.

Steven Govoni said every single night during the freeze/thaw cycle that turns to a sheet of ice. The hospital actually has been sanding that, because the ambulances use that route.

19. Other Business

Christine Almand said that last week she approved an emergency reserve account expenditure for the highway department. A garage door spring snapped and needed immediate repair. She approved an amount not to exceed \$2,500.00.

20. Sign Documents

The Selectmen signed documents.

Adjourn Selectmen's Meeting.

Approved and signed on April 26, 2022.

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