

**Minutes
Town of Skowhegan
Regular Selectmen's Meeting
5:30 P.M.
Tuesday, April 12, 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

The Waste Compactor Electrical Work Bid closes on April 13th at 10:00 am. For more information visit our website or contact Bryan Belliveau.

The Town offices will be closed on April 18th in observation of Patriot's Day.

The 16th Annual "Skowpendous" Family Fun Night will be held in the Municipal Parking Lot on April 22nd from 5:00 to 7:30 pm.

3. Items by the Public

Bob Risner said that Skowhegan needs zoning laws and a noise ordinance. He handed out some pictures. There is a business near him that is disruptive to him and to people who live near him. Initially a Planning Board review is necessary, but everything that follows requires nothing.

He played a recording, and said that it plays to a lack of a noise ordinance. This is all summer long...weekends late in the evening. There are no rules. Literally somebody can start a business that is an assault on your home...on its property value...on how you live. Your home is your refuge that you go to at the end of the day. When somebody takes that away from you...what do you do then?

There need to be rules that are less open to interpretation. There is a rule that if you have more than three unregistered vehicles, you have to have a junkyard permit. Next door to him, you could have thirty vehicles leaking antifreeze and oil all summer long. That is ok because that is a hobby. He does not see any allowance that allows them to do this.

He said he will be back to speak about this again later. If you took a noise polluting business like this, even though there are no rules, and moved it a couple miles closer to Skowhegan...like on Timberview Estate...it would never happen. He's sure it would attract a much greater police presence. He wants to see rules and zoning change. He can hear, a mile away from his house, people practicing with vehicles...people tearing up Madison Avenue at will.

4. Selectmen's Items

Steven Govoni said he appreciated what the department heads put together for us on Saturday. That went really well.

Todd Smith thanked the department heads and the Selectmen for giving up their Saturday.

He said he attended the ribbon cutting for the Skowhegan Center for Entrepreneurship. Main Street Skowhegan has done a wonderful thing with that space.

5. Department and Committee Reports

Gail Pelotte said that Nomination Papers are due on Friday by 4:30 p.m.

She said that the Saturday meeting wasn't popular with a lot of people. She is for it and feels that we are a lot fresher versus working all day and doing five or six nights until 8:00 p.m.

Jeff Hewett said that the applications for the Façade Grant program have closed. We had a lot of good projects come in. We should be able to get the projects finished as long as we can get contractors to do the work.

Mickey Hoyt said that the Easter events will be at the Community Center this weekend. Ages 4 and under are at 9:00 a.m. ages 5 to 9 are at 11:00 a.m. The craft fair and flea market will also be going on, on Saturday.

Next week, during school vacation, we have April Vacation Camp. There are still some openings for that.

We will be at Skowpendous with the rock wall.

Summer brochures will be out in the next couple weeks. Looking for volunteers for baseball. Looking for someone to do a tennis program.

Chief Bucknam said there are a couple new police officers...Tyler Lefreniere and Scott Christianson.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve and sign Minutes from the following:
Regular Selectmen's Meeting – March 22, 2022
2. Approve and sign a Taxi Driver Permit for the following:
Terri Lynn Foulkes

A motion was made by Charles Robbins and seconded by Harold Bigelow to table the Selectmen's Meeting minutes until the next meeting.

Vote: 5/0

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

Vote: 5/0

Regular Agenda:

Item #9 taken out of order

9. Discussion and decision to send a letter to the Maine Appalachian Trail Club in support of their Main Trail Center.

Lester Kenway from the Appalachian Trail Club gave a presentation on their plans.

They are asking for a letter of support for their project. They are applying for congressionally directed spending for this project.

The trail project is a project they have been working on since 2010. The Trail Club was created in 1935 to maintain and protect the Appalachian Trail, from Katahdin to Grafton Notch. The Appalachian Trail Project started in 1921 in Bear Mountain, New York. Sixteen years later it was completed on Sugarloaf. 267 miles of the Appalachian Trail are located in Maine.

He showed some pictures and talked about the trail and the Trail Club. He talked about damage to the trail due to erosion and improper drainage. He spoke about the volunteer crews, and how COVID impacted the way they operate.

For years they operated their volunteer crews out of a couple of small camps. Skowhegan is an ideal location for the clubhouse because the Kennebec River is in the center of the 267 miles of trails here in Maine. They need a central location, to be located where they can access all parts of the trail within a reasonable distance.

They also were looking for a property that could be used as a woodlot. One of their functions is training people in chainsaw safety. They have leased a 55-acre parcel on Malbons Mills Road from Somerset Woods Trustees. They can have chainsaw training and other types of events there.

This property was acquired by Somerset Woods Trustees in 1921. It has been in conservation and primarily managed for harvesting wood.

He showed the site plan for the development.

Recording Time: 24:13

There is a 1,100' driveway, a main building and a maintenance building that are connected with a drive-through. Crews would come in each week to get supplies. More convenient than anything they have ever had.

He showed the architectural drawings of the buildings.

This would be available to conservation groups, and other groups, for meeting space.

Budgeting has been a challenge with this project because of inflation. It took ten years to raise the funding for the project. You have to spend money to raise money. This is a \$1.8 million project right now. Within the club, they raised \$400,000.00. A lot of supporters are people who have hiked the trail. Donations came from 36 different states. With two anticipated gifts, they will have raised just over \$1.6 million. They are continuing with fundraising. This opportunity with Senator King's office would be very helpful.

Architectural drawings are ready. Harriman Associates were very good. The civil engineering plans are complete. The Town of Skowhegan has approved the project. They have put the project out to bid...there was a pre-bid meeting this morning. Eight contractors showed interest in the project. Matc.org is where you can go to get the bid information and information about the project.

They have a commitment from the National Guard, 136th Battalion, based in Skowhegan. They will spend a two-week drill to take out the organics and put in the sub-grade. They will start August 13th.

Once the driveway is completed, construction of the buildings will begin in October. They hope to have the project completed by the end of May 2023.

A motion was made by Charles Robbins and seconded by Paul York to send a letter to the Maine Appalachian Trail Club in support of their Main Trail Center.

Vote: 5/0

Recording Time: 30:37

1. Discussion and decision to appoint Patric Moore as a member of the SEDC Board with a term expiring June 30, 2022.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to appoint Patric Moore as a member of the SEDC Board with a term expiring June 30, 2022.

Vote: 5/0

2. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$400.00 from the Police Department Reserve Account, Protective Vest Designation to purchase body armor.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to expend an amount not to exceed \$400.00 from the Police Department Reserve Account, Protective Vest Designation to purchase body armor.

Vote: 5/0

3. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$2,100.00 from the Solid Waste Reserve Account, Equipment/Vehicle Designation to extend power to the guard station.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robins to expend an amount not to exceed \$2,100.00 from the Solid Waste Reserve Account, Equipment/Vehicle Designation to extend power to the guard station.

Vote: 5/0

Steven Govoni asked if he already has the transformer. They are getting hard to get.

Bryan Belliveau said that he has Cyp's Powerline. This allows him to get into the que with CMP quicker, rather than including it in the electrical bid. The goal is to have CMP take over that line. This speeds that process up.

4. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$7,000.00 from the Highway Department Reserve Account, Equipment Designation to purchase a street sweeper.

A motion was made by Charles Robbins and seconded by Harold Bigelow to expend an amount not to exceed \$7,000.00 from the Highway Department Reserve Account, Equipment Designation to purchase a street sweeper.

Paul York said he thinks this is a bad idea. What are you getting for \$7,000.00? Previous boards have had this discussion before. We rent one in the spring. We are not maintaining a piece of equipment that just sits there for the rest of the year. For the price, it looks good until it breaks. Once we get used to having one, they are going to come back asking for a new one.

Harold Bigelow said it is \$6,000.00 to rent one. To purchase it and it has a rebuilt Continental engine in it.

Don Kinney said that the problem with renting it, is that nobody rents them no more. He checked everywhere. There are none out there to rent. This one has all been rebuilt. The engine has 500 hours on it. There is a dealer that said if we don't take it, they will buy it for \$15,000.00.

Harold Bigelow asked how long we rent one for \$6,000.00.

Don Kinney said 80 hours...two weeks.

Harold Bigelow said your run out of time, before you run out of sidewalk. If we could use this.

Don Kinney said they could use it for a good month. It will double pay for itself. He expects that we will get two or three years out of it. This one has brooms that sweep and then picks it up. Ours is a vacuum. It don't do good on the heavy dirt. This one will pick it right up.

Charles Robbins asked if we rent a machine like this every year.

Paul York asked how much the brooms for these are.

Don Kinney said they are not that expensive. We'll get probably two years out of these brooms.

Paul York said that brooms for those are not cheap.

Don Kinney said that we put brooms on the other one, but it is a vacuum.

Charles Robbins asked if the mechanic has gone over the machine.

Don Kinney said that he had. He said it is in good shape.

Steven Govoni asked about previous boards looking into this.

Paul York said we had been offered a used machine previously. A company bought it and we ended up renting it from them. The board felt that we were going to use this for a few weeks and then it was just going to sit there. We felt that if they have it, they will always feel that they need it. If something happens to this one, we will then be purchasing two. If there isn't a used one available, you are going to pay a lot of money.

Charles Robbins said he doesn't disagree with Paul, but if we are going to rent one for \$6,000.00 or buy one for \$7,000.00...if we get a year or two out of it, we are ahead of the game.

Harold Bigelow said we run out of time when we rent one. This way they can use it as long as they need...we can use it for other things. If we think it's a bad decision, we've only got \$7,000.00 tied up in it. We could junk it out for that.

Paul York said be prepared. If we purchase this there is going to be maintenance to it. We have to have the money in the budget to do that.

Don Kinney said there is maintenance on every piece of equipment.

Steven Govoni asked if there was a use for this during fall.

Don Kinney said it will pick up leaves somewhat, but it is mostly for dirt. We sweep downtown every Monday. This will be a lot quicker for that. This belonged to Brunswick. They have three of them. It was in the rotation to be replaced.

Todd Smith said he was in the audience when the other sweeper was discussed. He feels a little different about this one because of the cost. The mechanic that we trust with our other equipment has given his blessing on this machine. If later on more money is needed, maybe we think differently about it.

Vote: 4/1 (Paul York opposed)

5. Discussion and decision to allow Don Kinney to go out to bid for paving.

Todd Smith said that there is updated info from what was in our packets.

A motion was made by Steven Govoni and seconded by Charles Robbins to allow Don Kinney to go out to bid for paving.

Steven Govoni said that liquid asphalt prices are up from what they were a couple months ago. He asked about a couple of the roads that are getting two coats. He wanted to know what designates these roads to get a finish coat.

Don Kinney said that the 10mm is a bigger stone. 9.5 is a little bit smaller stone. If we got 2" we try to use the 10mm.

Steven Govoni said on a lot of these roads we are using the 9.5 as the finish. Why are we using 2" of the 9.5 and then a finish course on Pratt Court?

Don Kinney said it is no difference in price for 9.5 or 10mm. Mainly just want to finish Pratt up...get it done.

Steven Govoni said that they went and looked at Jones Avenue. That sidewalk, in particular, needs to be on this list. He is not approving this because he desperately wanted Jones Avenue on this sheet. He kept asking for Sidewalk Committee meetings. We are now three months of not having a Sidewalk Committee meeting.

Don Kinney said that he was told, today, that the water company is going to be digging up Jones Street in the next year or two.

Christine Almand said it was in the next five years. We also discussed contacting the hospital in regards to some of that sidewalk.

Don Kinney said that they had heavy equipment in there and wrecked the sidewalk.

Steven Govoni said that these things would have come up in a committee meeting. It is important...this goes back to his very first meeting. We have these committees and we should be using these committees. He is personally not accepting this without Jones Avenue sidewalk being on this list. If we have a sidewalk people shouldn't have to be walking in the street.

Don Kinney said that he thinks that the highway department can do some work on that, without being on that list.

Harold Bigelow said that a lot of the hospital employees, they go out there on the noon hour and do a jog around or whatever. The ambulances also go that way. There was ice and water in the road when we looked at it. There is a blind corner there. We would like to see people on the sidewalk.

Charles Robbins if the water company is tearing up Jones Street in the next five years, is that going to affect the sidewalk?

Steven Govoni said that when we allowed a driveway to go in, it directed that water into the street, instead of flowing to the gutter and into a catch basin. By approving something that shouldn't have been approved, we created the issue. Now there is a sheet flow across the street. The hospital actually sands that road, because their ambulances go that way.

Harold Bigelow said that the water was going right in this guy's driveway. His brand-new pickup was right up to the hubcaps in mud...due to the fact that there is no drainage.

Don Kinney said that they can do a lot of that themselves and straighten it out this summer.

Harold Bigelow said even if it's a temporary fix to get it through. Out of respect for the hospital.

Jeff Hewett said that he believed the water company does have some flexibility on when that happens...maybe they can advance it a little quicker. If there is a way to coordinate it with them.

Charles Robbins said that we took Jewett Street off this list for that reason. We don't want to pave it and then tear it up again. If the highway department can at least fix the sidewalk issue this summer...

Steven Govoni said that the sidewalk is a hump. It is about 16 or 17" above where it should have been. You would climb it...you wouldn't walk it.

Todd Smith said he sees hospital employees walking that loop every day. It is a horrible sidewalk.

Don Kinney said that they would do something with it this summer.

Todd Smith said that one of the other streets that disappeared from this list is Pine Street. Pine Street is horrible.

Don Kinney said that to bring the budget back in pace, we had to leave it off this.

Todd Smith said you can't just keep putting cold patch on it.

Don Kinney said hopefully next year.

Vote: 3/2 (Steven Govoni and Harold Bigelow apposed)

6. Discussion and decision to allow Chief Howard to offer Engine 13 for sale with an asking price of \$25,000.00.

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to allow Chief Howard to offer Engine 13 for sale with an asking price of \$25,000.00.

Chief Howard said that there is some local interest. We could go with an auction company and maybe get a little more money out of it. We might have to sit on it for a while. His hope is that a mutual aid department will buy it. We benefit from that.

Vote: 5/0

7. Discussion and decision to move forward with the following amended ordinances:

Sign Ordinance
Site Plan Review Ordinance

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to move forward with the following amended ordinances:

**Sign Ordinance
Site Plan Review Ordinance**

Steven Govoni mentioned article inconsistencies. The purpose was probably written in house. Authority section says it is pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule. He wants to make sure that the purpose is consistent with the Home Rule.

He had a question about the flat iron block...so just the interior of the downtown triangle or is that both sides of the road? If it is both sides of the road then it is actually the flat iron district.

He wanted to make sure that the flow made sense. He wouldn't appeal this unless he didn't meet any of those standards. Standards...permitting...appeals...etc.

Bryan Belliveau said he just needs to know what the changes are, before he brings them here.

Todd Smith said he attended the Planning Board meeting and they were very adamant that the flow flowed on your behalf.

Vote: 5/0

Recording Time: 01:02:27

8. Discussion and decision to schedule a public hearing for April 26, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the following ordinances, that will be on the Town Meeting Warrant for approval:

- Animals & Fowl Ordinance
- Sign Ordinance
- Site Plan Ordinance
- Street Naming & House Numbering Ordinance
- Property Maintenance Ordinance

A motion was made by Paul York and seconded by Charles Robbins to schedule a public hearing for April 26, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the following ordinances, that will be on the Town Meeting Warrant for approval:

- Animals & Fowl Ordinance**
- Sign Ordinance**
- Site Plan Ordinance**
- Street Naming & House Numbering Ordinance**
- Property Maintenance Ordinance**

Vote: 5/0

9. Discussion and decision to send a letter to the Maine Appalachian Trail Club in support of their Main Trail Center.

Discussed and decided at the beginning of the meeting.

10. Discussion and decision to approve a pay increase for the Road Commissioner from \$27.00/hr to \$30.41/hr.

A motion was made by Charles Robbins and seconded by Harold Bigelow to approve a pay increase for the Road Commissioner from \$27.00/hr to \$30.41/hr.

Paul York said he thinks that is a big jump. If we put him there, we are putting him where other people are that have been here and been certified. He doesn't feel that is appropriate at this point.

Todd Smith said he agrees with Paul. He isn't saying that he doesn't deserve a step increase, but he thinks that is a pretty large jump, given the fact that he has not obtained the certifications yet to really be free on the job. He is not opposed to an increase, but not six steps.

Harold Bigelow said he ought to at least get halfway. When certification comes...

Todd Smith said he has heard a lot of positives.

Charles Robbins said he thinks he is doing a great job. He thinks step 4 is more in line.

An amended motion was made by Charles Robbins and seconded by Harold Bigelow to approve a pay increase for the Road Commissioner from \$27.00/hr to \$28.65/hr effective April 18, 2022.

Charles Robbins asked if \$27.00 was the entry level for elected positions.

Christine Almand said that it is for this position, if they are doing the job. If they are not doing the job, there are other things that we can do.

Charles Robbins said he doesn't think there is any doubt that he is doing the job.

He asked Don Kinney if he is working on certifications.

Don Kinney said that because of COVID they haven't had any classes or anything. They are just starting to open back up now.

Charles Robbins said he sees Don as more than an entry level road commissioner. He proved himself this winter. It was a challenging winter with all of the ice and snow.

Vote: 5/0

11. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$36,175.00 from the ARPA funds to pave Coburn Park.

A motion was made by Charles Robbins and seconded by Paul York to expend an amount not to exceed \$36,175.00 from the ARPA funds to pave Coburn Park.

Paul York said if we are going to jump into this one item, we need to start discussing the rest of this money now. We are going through this money fast. We have had workshops and we have our list of requests. The last time we had this discussion, we decided we were putting some stuff off. We weren't going to spend the second round until we had the money, but we are spending the second round. He doesn't want to get to the end and realize that the stuff that was kind of agreed upon...we were all in agreement that the rec. needed a generator...we spend all of this money and then we get to the end and we don't have the money for the generator. They are all good projects, but we don't have the money to fund it all. We need to figure out what we have left and figure out where the money is going.

Todd Smith said he doesn't disagree. He liked the list that Paul York proposed at that workshop, this being on it. He also agrees with what Paul is saying now. We don't have the money quite yet. To pick one out of a group of a lot of good ideas, might not be...

Paul York said he was a little confused, we had two items that we put the money up now to show that we were in the game. There was discussion that we might be able to hold off a little bit longer.

Charles Robbins said that we have a balance of the first half of a little over \$14,000.00, looking at the spreadsheet from Christine Almand.

Charles Robbins asked if just the entry section was done it would cost about \$10,000.00.

Bob Haynes, President of the Coburn Park Commission, said that the park gets a lot of use. There are some issues with speed bumps and high roots. They have taken a toll on some small cars. Having a smooth surface will mean more outdoor use...roller blades, skate boards and that sort of thing...and wheelchairs. He would highly recommend this project. For the \$34,000.00 you can do the whole park.

Charles Robbins said that his concern is the roots. He would support doing the entry this year, and then get a better estimate to get those roots fixed. They are going to pave over the roots.

Bob Haynes said that they would use enough to go over the roots. Those roots aren't going to get much bigger. Those trees are mature.

Charles Robbins said that they shift and crack.

Bob ?? said it has been 30 years since it was paved.

Davida Barter was speaking, but it was indiscernible.

Steven Govoni said that the wind moves the trees and the roots. He doesn't see how going over the top of them is going to make a difference. He would love to see it get paved, because he walks down there. Generally, he is there when it is dark, so he is guessing where his feet are going. It is so rutted out down by the pond, that you are guessing where your feet will land.

Recording Time: 01:17:09

Steven Govoni said he wanted to make sure that the roots get done properly, if we are going to spend this money.

Todd Smith said that Coburn Park is one of his favorite things in Skowhegan. He has spent a lot of time there in his youth and as an adult. His fear is that if we don't act, when and if it is going to get done. We don't even have the money to spend on it right now. If we vote to do this, we won't have the money until we receive it.

Christine Almand said that we anticipate receiving it in September.

Bob Haynes said that they know that prices will probably go up, they intend to pick up the additional costs.

Todd Smith asked if there is a way to get a better feeling for us on the roots...so in another five years we are not going to have another...

Bob Haynes said it has been 30 years since it was paved. This is the only damage due to roots. The big elm tree is the one that is making this. That is the nicest elm tree we have in town. He doesn't want to remove the roots for that to make a ten-foot smooth spot.

Todd Smith said he feels that these funds are for projects just like this.

Paul York said if we are going to do it, do the whole thing. It's going to be cheaper. It is a big asset for the Town of Skowhegan. If we don't do it, he doesn't feel that it will ever get done.

Charles Robbins asked if we got more money.

Christine Almand said that there was \$505.49 that we received, because some of the communities didn't respond.

Steven Govoni said that the County has said they are counting on their money in July.

Christine Almand said that the information on the State's website says one year after...when they started sending out the checks, versus when you received the checks, versus... She has not made a phone call to see exactly when we will be getting the check.

Vote: 5/0

12. Discussion regarding the land application of compost.

Brent Dickey said this is primarily a financial issue. The window is closing on any opportunity to land apply the compost that we have. We have approximately 2,000 cubic yards on site. LD 1911, which is essentially banning land application of anything with a sludge component in it, was initially proposed as an emergency measure to take place immediately after passage. The emergency measure has been taken out of the bill. The House passed 1911 yesterday. The Senate tabled it. More than likely the bill is going to pass eventually. If it passes soon, it would be the end of July before it goes into effect. In the mean-time we would be working

under existing regulations. Do the Selectmen want to do the land application this spring? If not, the compost we have on hand will have to go to landfill. It is difficult to know the exact cost for that. Compost is measured in cubic yards. It is not weighed. The majority of it is out in the weather. There are a lot of factors, what the actual tonnage turns out to be. If we choose not to land apply any of that compost that is on site, the estimated cost will be around \$69,000.00. It is a financial consideration, but there are other considerations.

Todd Smith asked how much can be stored.

Brent Dickey said they are not creating anymore compost. There are two piles that are in the building. Those can be moved out. What we are storing now is just raw sludge right off the press.

Todd Smith asked what the landfill does with it.

Brent Dickey said that they bury it.

Recording Time: 01:27:45

Harold Bigelow said that they have a liner.

Brent Dickey said that all of the producers of sludge, have to go to a landfill. You can't put this material that is 32% solids...it's truckable, but you are not going to drive on it. You're not going to place it in one spot. These landfills are going to need the proper bulking agent. You are going to have sludge from the entire state going to landfills. The question is what are they going to do with bulking agents. We are getting slow walked on any decisions on whether we can even go to landfill. All of these companies are looking at this huge influx of sludge...you can't place it in one spot.

Steven Govoni asked if they are accepting it now.

Brent Dickey said that they are accepting it under existing contracts. Anybody that is already in, is going to stay in. We thought it would be a simple process. We had considered getting a profile for the waste to go to a landfill at one point. We never did that. When he talked to them in February, the regional manager said it shouldn't be a problem. As the PFAS issue has turned up more and more, the whole waste management industry is rethinking what they are going to do. He has submitted an application for a profile, but they are not going to act on it. They are trying to figure out what they are going to do internally.

Paul York said we know it is an issue. Financially it is huge. We don't have a choice. He wouldn't think that we would spread this and compound the issue that we already have. The question is where is that money going to come from. None of us would think it wasn't an issue if it was in our backyards. We are going to have to start budgeting for this.

Christine Almand said that the budget that was reviewed on Saturday included some anticipated increases for landfilling the sludge. The amount we are talking about right now is the sludge that has already been composted. We wouldn't compost the sludge if we were just

going to landfill it. We are adding material which costs more money, it's turning it into a different product. We were hopeful that the landfill would take it, because it is a useful product and could be used as cover.

Brent Dickey said that seemed like a good option, but that has stalled.

Christine Almand said that now we are anticipating that it could cost about \$70,000.00. If you choose not to land apply it, we have nowhere to take the funds from. We would recommend taking it from the reserve account, which is not what our original intentions were.

Charles Robbins said that land application is off the table. He says we truck it to waste management and pay the bill. It is only going to cost more as the rain hits.

Brent Dickey said that we can wait. It isn't supposed to remain on site for longer than two years. It is in piles that are nine feet tall. We could spread it or tarp it. It doesn't dry very well...it acts like a sponge. We could potentially reduce the weight, but is it worth our time and effort.

Christine Almand said that based on the conversations, she isn't sure that we could truck it over there tomorrow if we wanted to. We are waiting on a response from them. Once we hear from them, we will come back to you for the expenditure of the funds. We wanted to bring this up sooner rather than later because if you intend to land apply it, we need to know.

Brent Dickey said he is not intending to change anyone's mind, but the compost is an entirely different animal than sludge. You have all seen cow manure spread...that is essentially what we were doing until 2018. Sludge mixed with lime. The fields were useless to them, they were completely depleted. Within a couple years of apply sludge, they were getting two crops of corn. Those days are gone and they are not coming back. Now everyone has switched to the safer form of composting. Now you've got class A compost. We have a license to manufacture it and we do all of the testing on it. Land application of compost can be spread on any field where the owners are willing. You can distribute it at will with no license. We spread it at 5 ton per acre. You would have to look pretty hard to see what has been applied.

Paul York said that even though it is legal to spread it, it still has PFAS.

Brent Dickey said that it does have a PFAS component in it, as does almost everything else.

Paul York said we are making a decision. There are consequences to whatever we decide. We created it and now we have to fix it. The state is trying to figure this out. It doesn't make sense to compound the issue.

Recording Time: 01:40:06

Brent Dickey said it makes their lives easier. They just let it go to the landfill in a truck. It is unfortunate. This has been, and should be again at some point, a valuable resource. It shouldn't be buried in a hole in the ground. It is what it is right now.

Todd Smith said we have a timeframe, so it isn't an emergency today. He does not support land application. The state is still discussing this. For the time being, keep it where it's at...don't land apply it. We will revisit this once the Senate speaks and they put a law out so we know what we are supposed to do.

Christine Almand said that right now the only alternative is to landfill it.

A motion was made by Steven Govoni and seconded by Charles Robbins to landfill the current compost supply.

Harold Bigelow said when you spread this it is thin. Now you have a concentrated spot that is nine feet high. He thinks it would be a good idea to cover it.

Brent Dickey said we may be a little late on that. These piles have been exposed to the elements since 2006.

Garrett Quinn said he thinks that they are making a good decision. There are elections. Everybody sitting here, doesn't always sit here. He asked about placing a moratorium on all future spreading of compost material in the Town of Skowhegan. Brent has mentioned that it is a negligible amount of forever chemicals. If you are sitting on a well that is testing 17 times above the EPA recommended limit, any amount is too much. Regardless of what the state does. We have laws that are more stringent than what they are at the state level. We are not required to have the Kennebec River in resource protection, but we have it in resource protection.

Christine Almand said a moratorium ordinance would have to go through Town Meeting. It is a moot point, if the legislature makes it illegal.

Garrett Quinn said this LD 1911 doesn't put a moratorium on sludge spreading. It must test at a level of 50 part per billion or less. They are not putting a state-wide moratorium on all spreading. They have set a standard for future spreading. Where he sits, one part per billion is too many. The EPA limit for acceptable drinking water is 20 parts per trillion.

Brent Dickey said that the EPA is 70 parts per trillion. DEP changed their standard at 20 parts per trillion.

Garrett Quinn said that Brent Dickey is wrong. He is at 353 per trillion.

Todd Smith said that the stuff we have will not be land applied. We can discuss a moratorium after this vote.

Christine Almand said a moratorium only gets you so long by law. Then you would have to disallow it a different way. You would have to develop an ordinance and have it passed at Town Meeting.

Bryan Belliveau said we do have a sludge ordinance, that allows for municipal sludge to be spread. If a moratorium were passed, we could work on the existing ordinance.

Christine Almand said that she would suggest that they discuss it at the joint meeting in the fall for the next Town Meeting.

Todd Smith said that he thinks you can rest assured that the compost will not be spread for now. We can review it at the joint meeting in the fall.

Steven Govoni said the sludge ordinance only allows the municipality to spread.

Christine Almand said that the sludge ordinance allows it if you have all of the proper permits, so it is not just the municipality.

Bryan Belliveau said that for municipal sludge you do not need a permit. For any other sludge coming into town, you would need a permit.

Steven Govoni asked if that was through site plan review.

Bryan Belliveau said that is just through the sludge ordinance. It requires the property owner to give the Town \$25,000.00 for any issues. They have to put in ground water wells that get tested. There is a whole list of regulations they have to follow.

Christine Almand said they need to get DEP permits and all of that too. She thinks that we can clean it up by adjusting that ordinance.

Garrett Quinn said we are going to start seeing a lot more stuff surrounding this. There will be a lot more attention paid to it. It's not just down in Fairfield. It is all over the State of Maine. He had an investigator for an attorney in California call him last week. They have assured him that there is going to be a lot of momentum to make the municipalities work harder and make people more aware and be more diligent in dealing with this situation. He would suggest that the Selectmen and Planning Board start a conversation about mitigation. These are forever chemicals. They don't go away.

The Geologist at DEP told him that, in the time that they have been studying it, they have never seen the levels go down. We have been land applying dozens of fields all over town. Those aren't always going to be farm fields. Those could be subdivisions one day. If people forget about it and drill a well, we've got more public health issues. The Town should start being proactive and look at mitigation...corn, hemp, bamboo. It all has to be incinerated. Currently in the State of Maine we do not have an incinerator.

Bob Risner said before it gets in the sludge it has to come through us and our households. When we are talking about acceptable levels, how do we outrun this. Before it got into the sludge and onto the field, it came through my home.

Garrett Quinn said that you don't get levels like he has from the home. It comes from industrial. They traced the chemicals that are in his well to 3M. They manufacture scotch guard, which is sprayed on shoes at shoe manufacturing companies.

Bob Risner asked the question, is the everyday that the rest of us have ok?

Christine Almand said she has educated herself some on this. She is not an expert. There are links on our website. Do some research. We are all exposed to it. It's in our bodies. It is getting into the sludge through our bodies. A good deal of what is passing through your body, is being consumed. Some fast-food restaurants are still using these materials. It is in a lot of places. We are all still learning now. The whole country is going to be dealing with this.

Vote: 5/0

Recording Time: 02:00:31

13. Treasurer's Warrants to be approved:

#80	\$	47,105.68 (Payroll #12)
#81	\$	54,016.01 (Payroll #13)
#82	\$	6,687.05 (State Payables)
#83	\$	46,771.60 (Payroll #14)
#84	\$	11,436.03 (State Payables)
#11	\$	12,568.25 (FY 2022 PSB Accounts Payables)
#85	\$	394,491.02 (FY 2022 Accounts Payables)
Total	\$	573,075.64

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

Vote: 5/0

14. 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

No unfinished Business discussed.

15. Other Business

Todd Smith said he spent a lot of time on the Planning Board. The Noise Ordinance was specifically looked at previously. We decided not to move forward with one. We don't have any enforcement to hold it to. In talks with the Police Chief, if there are noise complaints, they will address it. Often times, the noise complaint is gone when they get there.

In this instance it may be multi-hour or multi-day function. We have other things in town that last multi-hour or multi-day, that may not be able to happen with a noise ordinance. He isn't going to say that it will never happen. He encourages people to bring their concerns forward. Zoning proposals have been brought forward to the Town may times and have been voted down at Town Meeting. Perhaps at some point, zoning may happen.

Bob Risner said that it would seem that the Skowhegan State Fair would not be an issue. That would be something that could be exempted. He has heard that argument before. That fair has been going for 200 years. Anybody who rents or buys a home, knows about that fair. That is not even an issue. It is a different thing when a business or an individual moves into your area and starts a business that impacts your quality of life. He thinks that it needs to be reconsidered. He doesn't buy that argument that every person would have to comply with that.

Todd Smith said that he is 51 years old. When he was 10 years old, he raced snowmobiles on that track. That track is not new.

Bob Risner said that he has lived there for 50 years. That track was originally used for harness racing. There has never been automobile racing there, contrary to what the owner says. Snowmobiles doesn't carry as much in the winter. He asked that the materials that he brought be passed on to the Planning Board. It has a good overview of what would constitute reviews and public input. Would it be ok for him to move into Timberview and start a chipper mill and have it run every day of the week until 11:00 p.m.? Probably somebody would object to that. Probably something would happen. Because of where he and his neighbors live, nothing ever happens. There needs to be a zoning for that. As far as the noise ordinance, he's sure Dave Bucknam and Christine Almand are tired of hearing from him. The police don't do anything. They can't do anything, because the Town has no ordinance. If you ask them if they went and talked to anybody, the answer is no because they are busy. You ask, the next day, the answer is no because it is over. Anybody who has a noise complaint because of tehri neighbors, they will probably never even hear about it. That is frustrating too. He is definitely not going to go away with his concerns.

Charles Robbins asked if there was a noise ordinance, is there a grandfather clause. These businesses that have been in business. We can just pass an ordinance and shut these businesses down?

Bryan Belliveau said it would be up to the voters to approve it. What's good for one is good for all. It should be a level playing field.

Chief Howard said for a lot of years things like demolition derbies were handled by the Fire Marshall's office. That is no longer the case. From a fire department standpoint, we have no authority on how those operate. We have a long history with the Skowhegan State Fair. They work well with us and take our safety recommendations. If the Town wishes to address some of these things, while it may not address noise, there are other things that we can address. We can make sure that things like raceways and derbies are done in a way that is a safe manner. That may be a way for the Town to explore having some regulation.

Steven Govoni said that based on Todd Smith racing there at 10...that puts us at 1981. Any business that was made after 1979 falls under site law. This business must have been permitted prior to site law.

Chief Howard said it wasn't in operation when he grew up out there. He rode his dirt bike there, but it was an overgrown field.

Steven Govoni said that DEP site law does have a noise component in it. He doesn't like to see businesses get shut down, but there is an avenue here. File a complaint with the DEP. If they have not met the requirements for a business...they will have to meet the site law requirements. It's like 50 decibels at the property line during certain hours and 70 decibels during other hours.

Chief Howard said that the business that is running there is a business. It brings people into town. It's not all bad. He doesn't think that we want to be in the business of regulating businesses out of town. We want to look at this and put some regulations on it that make it tolerable and safe. We want to be careful there.

Steven Govoni said that there are also ways to mitigate noise, which is sometimes just fencing and screening.

Bob Risner said he has nothing against the people that go there. If he knew he started a business that was ruining the lives of his neighbors, and their ability to live in their home...and ruin their property values...there are five or six other neighbors who feel the same way...money from the business for the town, or the quality of life for the people that live there. He guarantees that if this was next to your property, you would lose your mind. He has lots of videos. Just because something is legal, doesn't make it right. The health. He looks forward to it pouring or when winter comes. He can't even sit on his deck. We are concerned about running a business out of town, which is really just a big party. It has somewhat grown into a business. Or the lives of the taxpayers who live on the road. Nobody really cares about this issue, because they don't live next to it. If this was one mile closer to town, the Town of Skowhegan would be losing their mind.

Harold Bigelow asked how often this happens.

Bob Risner said it has been going for 14 or 15 years. It used to happen once a month, and we looked the other way. It has grown to where it is 3 weekends a month. People roll in on Friday...they do Saturday sometimes Sunday. They practice on other days. They now have camping. Every step of the way, this business has been out of compliance. DHS oversees permits for event related camping. The only reason they are in compliance now, is because he talked to DHS. The running of the food truck. They have started having concerts...bikini bike wash...wet t-shirt contests...the list goes on and on. Over ten years of texting, writing letters contacting the entities that run this, they have not once responded. He would love to have some people come out and see what they think about it. He has asked the police to come to his house to see what it's like. They have never come to his house.

Todd Smith said his concerns would be passed on to the Planning Board.

16. Sign Documents

The Selectmen signed documents.

Adjourn Selectmen's Meeting.

Approved and signed on May 10, 2022.

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