

**Minutes
Town of Skowhegan
Regular Selectmen's Meeting
5:30 P.M.
Tuesday, June 8, 2021
Municipal Building – Opera House**

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

Board of Selectmen:

Paul York, Chairman
Betty Austin, Vice Chairman
Charles Robbins
Todd Smith
Roger Staples

Town Manager:

Christine Almand

Executive Secretary:

Cara L. Mason

Call Selectmen's Meeting to order.

Paul York called the meeting to order.

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

The Second Bridge Committee met today and voted to move forward with a focus on the downtown and downstream bridge options. We will hold the 3rd Public Meeting in 3-4 months on the same date of an anticipated Special Town Meeting.

The 2021 CSO Phase 3.6 Bid closes on June 30th at 2:00 pm. For more information visit our website or contact Brent Dickey.

If you are a registered voter in Skowhegan and have not voted yet, please do so before polls close at 8:00 tonight.

I would like to thank Greg Dore for 29 years of dedicated service and congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

3. Selectmen's Items

Todd Smith said that last week he attended an awards ceremony where 17 of our grade-school students each received \$100 gift certificate. It was very inspiring to hear the stories of these young kids that are attending our school district.

He walked in the Memorial Day parade as a proud veteran and member of American Legion Post 16. Chief Bucknam gave a phenomenal and moving speech at the Veteran's Memorial.

He was disappointed in the attendance at Town Meeting. He would like more people to show up and have an impact on our town.

Charles Robbins said he also was disappointed in the attendance level at Town Meeting. A lot of important things are voted on that day.

He reminded people to vote and thanked Todd and Roger for running a clean election.

Roger Staples said he thinks it's important to get things moving on the Second Bridge.

He said there was a good attendance at the Memorial Day parade even though it was a cloudy day.

Betty Austin said that the Memorial Day parade was awesome.

She read her resignation letter to the Selectmen.

Paul York thanked her for her service, and said that she would be missed.

A motion was made by Roger Staples and seconded by Todd Smith to accept the resignation of Betty Austin as Selectman effective June 16, 2021.

Vote: 5/0

Paul York said that he attended Greg Dore's retirement get-together. He wished him the best of luck and thanked him for his time.

4. Department & Committee Reports

Chief Howard congratulated Greg Dore on his retirement. He thanked him as a department head for his assistance.

He congratulated Betty Austin and thanked her for her service to the Town and her support.

5. Items by the Public

Jason Gayne said that Hospice Volunteers has its memorial garden tomorrow night at Coburn Park at 5:30 p.m.

The BBQ is going on Father's Day weekend at the Fairgrounds. Looking for more students to participate, ages 8 to 16. We have sponsors to accept up to 40 kids. They will walk away with a grill. State Cookoff is ages 13 to any age. \$150 entry fee, with a chance to win \$500. Looking for first responders and veterans for a chicken wing cookoff. We have sponsors for

this as well. There is a judge coming from Switzerland. We have judges from all across the U.S. There will be 15 teams for the international competition. You get an invitation to the competition in Tennessee. \$5 per car load for people to come out and enjoy.

Public Hearing:

1. Public Hearing. Discussion and decision to approve the Applications for Victualer or Innkeeper License for the following contingent upon approval from the Code Enforcement Officer and the Chief of Police:

Unwined LLC
151 Water Street

Paul York opened the Public Hearing at 5:41 p.m.

There was no discussion.

Paul York closed the Public Hearing at 5:42 p.m.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Todd Smith to approve the Applications for Victualer or Innkeeper License for Unwined LLC contingent upon approval from the Code Enforcement Officer and the Chief of Police.

Vote: 5/0

Recording Time: 15:33

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve the Minutes from the following:

Regular Selectmen's Meeting – May 11, 2021

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Roger Staples to approve the Consent Agenda with corrected Minutes.

Vote: 5/0

Regular Agenda:

1. Discussion and decision to appoint Donna McGorty to the SEDC Board with a term expiring June 30, 2021.

A motion was made by Roger Staples and seconded by Betty Austin to appoint Donna McGorty to the SEDC Board with a term expiring June 30, 2021.

Vote: 5/0

2. Discussion and decision to approve the Application for Special Taste Testing Event License to allow Main Street Skowhegan to hold the Craft Brew Festival on Water Street and Commercial Street on September 4, 2021 from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Roger Staples and seconded by Betty Austin to approve the Application for Special Taste Testing Event License to allow Main Street Skowhegan to hold the Craft Brew Festival on Water Street and Commercial Street on September 4, 2021 from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Charles Robbins asked if someone on the Board had pre-approved this. It has been advertised for over a week.

Christine Almand said that it happens quite often.

Charles Robbins said that we vote on things that have already been set into action. He is in favor of this event. If we say no, they have wasted all of that money on advertising.

Kristina Cannon said that she has spent zero on advertising. She also needs to get the Parades & Processions Application turned in.

Vote: 5/0

3. Discussion and decision to approve the Application for License for Incorporated Civic Organization to allow Main Street Skowhegan to serve alcohol at the Dinner in the Park at Coburn Park on August 7, 2021 from 5:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Charles Robbins to approve the Application for License for Incorporated Civic Organization to allow Main Street Skowhegan to serve alcohol at the Dinner in the Park at Coburn Park on August 7, 2021 from 5:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Vote: 5/0

4. Discussion and decision to approve the Resolution Providing for Support of Asian and Pacific Islander People. Tabled at the last meeting.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Roger Staples to approve the Resolution Providing for Support of Asian and Pacific Islander People.

Todd Smith said that he reviewed it. It is better written than it was last time. He would support stopping the resolution at "a resolution condemning hate crimes." The City of Waterville put this forward for our joint support. He feels that we may be causing more division by singling them out. He thinks that condemning hate carries a much stronger message than to say "against Asian and Pacific Islander people". He would be more supportive of a resolution that doesn't single out a specific group of people.

Roger Staples said that there are a lot of other people that we could be condemning hate for, not just Asian Americans. Having said that, he said he has no problem signing this.

Christine Almand said that the language that was brought at the previous meeting was language that was adopted by the Waterville City Council. After the last meeting, she did some research and pulled the replacement language came from a U.S. Senate resolution. The statistics came from Stop AAPI Hate, which is a collaboration of three separate entities. She said that she is always open to solutions. She is willing to receive replacement language.

Todd Smith said he would have felt better about it if it had come from one of our town's people, and not from a different community.

Vote: 4/1 (Todd Smith opposed)

Recording Time: 22:56

Paul York said that he does not disagree with Todd Smith. There shouldn't be any hate crime out there towards anyone.

5. Discussion and decision to approve the Application for Parades and Processions to allow AT&T to set up a booth and conduct business in the Municipal Parking lot for 42 days during the months of June, July, August and September.

A motion was made by Charles Robins and seconded by Todd Smith to approve the Application for Parades and Processions to allow AT&T to set up a booth and conduct business in the Municipal Parking lot for 42 days during the months of June, July, August and September.

Roger Staples said that AT&T, a giant communications company wants to take up two of our parking spaces downtown all summer for free.

Jason Gayne said that they are paying a \$30 fee. The two spots on the side of the Chamber and Information Center office.

Charles Robbins asked what the long-term goal of AT&T is.

Jason Gayne said that the long-term goal is...AT&T Mobility wants to get clients first. They are unknown in this area. As they gain some clients, they want to have a retail front store in the community. This is a way to get them to have clients, and let people know that they are in the area. This will assist them over the summer, to have a storefront in our community. For years he has talked to Jeff about getting Wifi for tourists coming through town. They are offering free Wifi. A lot of people that come through here, heading north, have AT&T. It allows people to use Wifi from them on the weekends for free. It also gives them the opportunity to shop in our stores.

Paul York said if we approve this, what's to say that anybody else that wants to set up shop downtown...interested in starting a business...wanting to see if it will take off...now we have others asking to set up shop in the parking lot for free.

Betty Austin said this is a large company who could afford to rent someplace. We have places downtown that they could rent. If they really want to do this they could rent someplace.

Charles Robbins asked if we are concerned about parking spots being taken up.

Paul York said that a business is asking to come in and set up shop for free. Why can't you go down there and set up shop for free? Next thing you know, you have the whole parking lot set up with all these different shops. Now you have no parking.

Roger Staples said Verizon might have a problem with it.

Charles Robbins said that is competition. It's on Friday, Saturday and Sunday for four months. Potentially they take off in Skowhegan. This is a pro-business decision.

Betty Austin said that they have been hanging around downtown for a while. She doesn't know why they can't rent someplace.

Christine Almand said that she shared some initial concerns with Jason Gayne. She thinks that this would set a precedent. We would be doing something that is highly unusual. She doesn't know of any other towns or cities that allow businesses to set up shop in parking spaces on their public properties. She did suggest that they would be better suited on private property. She even asked if the Visitor Center could house them. She was told they could only offer them two weeks. It puts their competitors at a disadvantage, who are already here with regular business expenses. There is an expense to setting up and running a business, which includes rent or owning a property. Even subletting for a smaller amount of money for short term.

Jason Gayne said it would come before the Selectmen any time that it happens. We are trying to become a more business friendly community. If you have no clients and it's a major expense...let's give them the opportunity to see if they can gain something. Have them open up and become a taxpayer. There is no ordinance against this. If you think this is going to become an issue, maybe an ordinance needs to happen. We are trying to do everything by the book. They have been on a couple of private properties and the landlords have given them a hard time. This is the opportunity for them to come to town. He doesn't see this as a bad advantage. AT&T and Verizon are both members of the Chamber. We have to look at it as doing things in different ways.

Todd Smith said he sees it as a positive. He sees it as a pop-up shop. Let these businesses come in and set up short term to see if they will be successful. If they are then they move into a more permanent retail location. If we have people coming into town and then calling this home...that is only a benefit. If we dismiss this opportunity right now, although it is a little unusual, we are doing a disservice to the Town of Skowhegan. These are potential businesses that we could be bringing here.

Paul York said we are certainly business friendly, and he encourages them to come into town. Unwined is coming in. They don't have any clientele. They have to build their clientele. They have rented space. They put money into this building. If we let AT&T set up, then you have five others that want to do the same thing. At what point do you tell somebody that they can't. How do you do that? You can't pick and choose. We could have an issue.

Todd Smith said it was the same with Solar. We addressed that with a Moratorium and an ordinance that we are going to vote on tonight. If this does become an issue, then we take that same step. We create an ordinance that makes sense for the Town and any interested businesses.

Charles Robbins said that last year we approved the food trucks to be downtown for several weeks. We had no issue with that.

Jason Gayne said we had "Food Truck Fridays" for July and August. Jason Gayne said that there is another business downtown that uses an entire end of the parking lot. Nobody seems to have any issues with that. Dodging forklifts and tractor trailers that are blocking the entire end and using a ton of parking spots. The Town doesn't seem to have any issue with that. It happens non-stop. It's been going on for years.

Christine Almand said that is not true. If you have a complaint about that business, please bring it to her. She has addressed it on numerous occasions.

Jason Gayne said that he has also discussed it with Bryan.

Betty Austin said that when Verizon and U.S. Cellular came to town, they didn't have any clientele, and they rented. The food trucks are small businesses. They are not large like AT&T.

Charles Robbins said that a business is a business.

Roger Staples said that AT&T has plenty of resources to advertise, rent buildings, put out the words to their clients. He does not think they need two of our parking spots.

Jason Gayne said that they are also advertising with a lot of our current businesses. They have partnered with Hero's, H.P. Nutrition and others.

Todd Smith asked if it is the number of days that is the concern. Is it the size of the business? What is the hesitation? If we limit this to a trial...if it doesn't work...if we end up with complaints, then we address it. That is very similar to what we did with the food fridge. That has turned out to be very successful. He feels like he is hearing a lot of hatred towards a conglomerate such as AT&T, compared to a small business. Their dollars are just as green as a small business.

Charles Robbins asked if these are the two spots next to the building where Jason usually parks.

Jason Gayne said that is correct. They are empty all weekend.

Paul York said he has a hard time believing that as big as AT&T is, that they haven't done their homework to figure out if setting up business here is viable for them. They know whether it is going to work or not. He has nothing against AT&T, he just thinks that if you want to start a business you rent some space.

Christine Almand said she is not sure that a Parades and Processions Application is the right vehicle for something like this. We have used it in the past for food trucks. It is more for events that happen on Town property. She urged the Selectmen, that if we are going to engage in allowing businesses on Town property...to discuss a different type of ordinance with the Planning Board. This is highly unusual.

Todd Smith said he fears that there may be other business interests that are watching that will say that maybe they are not wanted here. Maybe AT&T is looking for what the vibe of the town is...maybe they are interested in the Run of River project. He believes that this is a business that is considering locating here. We are essentially saying, we think you are too big...rent a space.

Charles Robbins said that he initially made the motion on this. He asked if we amended it to half the time...he doesn't think that we should say no to AT&T. He thinks it's foolish. This is an opportunity to get another business in a storefront. Is 21 days reasonable?

Christine Almand said that this is highly unusual because it is a business looking to do business on Town property for free. She is super supportive and appreciates all of the new businesses. They are all doing the hard work that it takes to create a strong business. That includes business expenses. It is highly unusual to be able to use Town property, that is paid for by taxpayers, free of charge in order to do business. If we want to set up a town-owned property that can be used as a pop-up shop...maybe that is a different discussion.

Charles Robbins said that last year we approved two months of Food Truck Fridays. They were conducting business on Town property, rent free, earning an income for two months. It is unusual, but we have approved something similar.

Christine Almand said that she thinks that this crosses that line. She would suggest that the Selectmen consider a different ordinance for something like this. So that you can collect a fee, as other communities do.

Todd Smith said that after this he thinks that is a great idea. We can't pass an ordinance now. He says we allow what is in front of us. There is no ordinance against it. Let's task the Planning Board with coming up with an ordinance. Maybe you rent a parking spot for X number of dollars.

Jason Gayne said that it is also unusual that they are offering free internet for tourists and community members. It is an opportunity for people to stop and shop. We don't have any businesses that are offering to do that.

Vote: 2/3 (Paul York, Betty Austin and Roger Staples opposed)

Recording Time: 43:00

6. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00 from the Planning Reserve Account, Conservation Commission Designation to purchase trees for the tree planting program.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Roger Staples to expend an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00 from the Planning Reserve Account, Conservation Commission Designation to purchase trees for the tree planting program.

Paul York asked if we know where they plan to plant these. Everything that we plant downtown seems to get taken out.

Bryan Belliveau said that he doesn't know if there is a set-in-stone plan for placement of the trees. He knows that the Sidewalk Committee came to the Conservation Committee to ask about combining funds to get some trees planted. They are still working out the details.

Paul York said that every time we plant them on the sidewalk they get cleaned out in the winter. We planted four last year...one is completely gone. He hates to spend money and then have them disappear.

Christine Almand said that if the Selectmen prefer, they can have them come back with locations.

Paul York said that he is for this program. He just thinks that we need to be cautious about where we place them. It becomes an issue for highway in the winter, trying to clear sidewalks. We also need to be aware of what size we get. If they are too small, people hang off of them and they snap.

Vote: 5/0

7. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$600.00 from the Municipal Building Reserve Account, Repairs Designation to have Otis Elevator on hand when Eastern Fire does the upgrade to the alarm system in the Municipal Building.

A motion was made by Todd Smith and seconded by Betty Austin to expend an amount not to exceed \$600.00 from the Municipal Building Reserve Account, Repairs Designation to have Otis Elevator on hand when Eastern Fire does the upgrade to the alarm system in the Municipal Building.

Vote: 5/0

8. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$600.00 from the DARE Reserve Account for items for Camp POSTCARD.

A motion was made by Charles Robbins and seconded by Todd Smith to expend an amount not to exceed \$600.00 from the DARE Reserve Account for items for Camp POSTCARD.

Vote: 5/0

9. Discussion and decision to expend an amount not to exceed \$137,953.00 (\$92,950.00 from the Highway Department Reserve Account, Streets and Sidewalks Resurfacing Designation and \$45,003.00 from the Highway Department Reserve Account, Sidewalks Designation) for the reconstruction of Crescent Street and West Front Street Sidewalk.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Roger Staples to expend an amount not to exceed \$137,953.00 (\$92,950.00 from the Highway Department Reserve Account, Streets and Sidewalks Resurfacing Designation and \$45,003.00 from the Highway Department Reserve Account, Sidewalks Designation) for the reconstruction of Crescent Street and West Front Street Sidewalk.

Christine Almand said that these projects were thoroughly discussed at previous meetings. This is more of a housekeeping item. The work has already been done. The approval for the Reserve Account expenditure did not occur. We figured that out last week when putting the bills together.

Paul York said that he asked that it be put on the regular Agenda so it didn't look like we were just trying to pass something through.

Vote: 5/0

Recording Time: 48:12

10. Discussion and decision to award the Jewett Street Engineering Proposal. The following proposals were received:

Haley Ward	\$18,500.00
Dirigo Engineering/Baryon & Loguidice	\$35,000.00
Plymouth Engineering	\$38,500.00

Greg Dore recommends awarding the Jewett Street Engineering Proposal to Haley Ward with a total amount of \$18,500.00 and expending that amount from the Highway Department Reserve Account, Roads and Sidewalks Resurfacing Designation.

A motion was made by Todd Smith and seconded by Charles Robbins to table this item.

Charles Robbins said he doesn't think that we need to do it. The pole has not been hit since it was moved.

Paul York said that it is much bigger than the pole. That pole is going to get moved, because we are changing the lights. This is nothing more than the design for this project. If we don't like the design, we don't have to approve it. The lights will be on poles instead of hanging on wires. The pole that was moved, is probably going to disappear. The project is bigger than widening the intersection or moving a pole. Paving, changing some sidewalk stuff.

Charles Robbins said that the business owner that could possibly be affected at that corner sent an email asking us to table it. He was unable to attend tonight. He wanted to address the Selectmen with some questions. This project isn't going on for a year. It isn't going to hurt anything to table this for two weeks.

Todd Smith said that if we are looking for a design idea...Don Skillings is very concerned...we debated about the right-of-way and the size of his parking lot. If we know what the setbacks are, why can't we go out there with a tape measure and a line of chalk? Show him and us, without having to spend \$18,000.00 to \$19,000.00 to have somebody do it for us.

Roger Staples said that we are not engineers.

Todd Smith asked if he could read a tape measure. It doesn't matter who is doing it. If the setback is X number of feet from a certain point, what difference does it make who does it?

Roger Staples said it makes a lot of difference who does it, to the public.

Todd Smith said that we are also the public.

Roger Staples said that it has to be done by DOT and federal guidelines.

Todd Smith said that we must know the setbacks. Right?

Betty Austin said that if an engineering firm does this, then there would be time for Don Skillings to come and ask his questions. Then the Selectmen would be voting on it. This isn't doing anything yet. It is getting the study and design done correctly.

Todd Smith said that his motion was to table it for two weeks, not to do away with it.

Paul York said that he has talked to other parties in this whole thing. We have read all of the provided information. We have read what the responses were to some of those questions. If we table it, what are we going to gain? We don't even know what this design is going to look like. It may not even be an issue. It's still going to come back to us. If we look at the design and say absolutely not, then it's not going to happen. He is not sure that we can get out of having it engineered since it is a state highway, and the State is paying for half of it. The State has their own rules and regulations.

Todd Smith said nobody is arguing that. He just says we kick it down the road two weeks, get some of these questions answered. Maybe get a tape measure out to see where that line is going to fall. Maybe this will put his mind at ease.

Roger Staples said if he were the property owner, he wouldn't trust some guy out there with a tape measure.

Charles Robbins asked, if you were the property owner and you sent us an email asking us to table it for two weeks, and we said no...wouldn't that upset you? That is all he is asking.

Paul York asked what would be gained by doing this. Right now, he has had the conversation with him, in his mind we are automatically taking his parking lot. That is not the case. We don't know, that is why we need the engineer. We need to know what we can do to make this intersection better. He would not be in favor no matter who's property would be affected. We don't know what they are going to propose. There may be several options.

Betty Austin said that here are no questions to ask until we get the design from the engineers.

Paul York said he isn't opposed to tabling it if it makes everybody feel better, he just isn't sure what we will gain.

Charles Robbins said that we are not gaining or losing, we are just waiting two weeks to make the decision. He wants to be here to have his voice heard.

Todd Smith said we have time. There is no urgency. Whether we are taking the right-of-way or not...Christine Almand stated in her email that we do not intend to take the right-of-way.

Christine Almand said that Greg Dore wanted her to remind the Selectmen that the widening of the intersection is only a small part of this project. It also involves changing the traffic lights, the Park Street light, sidewalk reconstruction and resurfacing the road. He said it is not the intention to take the full right-of-way. He has said this over and over. Christine Almand has said this over and over and put it in writing again. Paul York has reiterated this as well. She doesn't know how many different ways we can say that that is not what we are trying to do. There is nothing different tonight then there was when you approved to put this out to bid. There is no new information that this business owner can provide. She doesn't want to get into a situation of answering hypothetical questions about a plan that we haven't even started. This has been approved by the State. They are happy to engage in a project that will be a much better intersection. They understand that there is complication with this business on the corner. The only difference in two weeks will be that Betty Austin will no longer be on the Board. That means we only have four Selectmen. It takes three votes for anything to pass. What we could be at is a stalemate, which means that it doesn't pass.

Charles Robbins said that potentially Todd and Roger won't be here at the next meeting. It doesn't matter who will or will not be here, other than the business owner will be here at that meeting.

Christine Almand said and to provide no new information.

Charles Robbins said we don't know that. He could have an engineer that has done a private study.

Christine Almand said that his engineer could have been here tonight.

Charles Robbins said he may have had prior business too.

Vote: 3/2 (Betty Austin and Roger Staples opposed)

Paul York said he is going to vote to table this, even though it isn't going to change anything. We know where the right-of-way is and so does the property owner. We have had these discussions when the pole was moved. Two weeks isn't going to hurt anything. This is just trying to come up with a design.

Recording Time: 01:02:43

11. Discussion and decision to award the Tree and Stump Removal Bid. The following bids were received:

Belanger Tree Care	\$13,075.00
Arbor Mountain	\$13,680.00
Paul Salley	\$37,650.00

The Cemetery Committee recommends awarding the Tree and Stump Removal Bid to Belanger Tree Care with a total bid amount of \$13,075.00 and expending that amount from the Cemetery Reserve Account, Tree Care Designation.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Todd Smith to award the Tree and Stump Removal Bid to Belanger Tree Care with a total bid amount of \$13,075.00 and expending that amount from the Cemetery Reserve Account, Tree Care Designation.

Vote: 5/0

12. Discussion and decision to award the Southside Cemetery Reconstruction Bid. The following bid was received:

Elias Monuments	\$21,650.00
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The Cemetery Committee recommends awarding the Southside Cemetery Reconstruction Bid to Elias Monuments with a total bid price of \$21,650.00 and expending that amount as follows:

\$18,000.00 from the Cemeteries, Monument Reconstruction Account
\$3,650.00 from the Cemetery Reserve Account, Cemetery Maintenance Designation

A motion was made by Charles Robbins and seconded by Betty Austin to award the Southside Cemetery Reconstruction Bid to Elias Monuments with a total bid price of \$21,650.00 and expend that amount as follows:

\$18,000.00 from the Cemeteries, Monument Reconstruction Account
\$3,650.00 from the Cemetery Reserve Account, Cemetery Maintenance Designation

Vote: 5/0

13. Discussion and decision to enter into an agreement with Olver & Associates to investigate sewer service connections on the Bush Valley sewer line (on Bush Street, between East Leavitt Street and Water Street) and expend an amount not to exceed \$2,500.00 from the Pollution Control Reserve Account, Sewer Collection System Upgrades Designation.

A motion was made by Todd Smith and seconded by Roger Staples to enter into an agreement with Olver & Associates to investigate sewer service connections on the Bush Valley sewer line (on Bush Street, between East Leavitt Street and Water Street) and expend an amount not to exceed \$2,500.00 from the Pollution Control Reserve Account, Sewer Collection System Upgrades Designation.

Todd Smith asked if this was the fault of a prior contractor.

Brent Dickey said he wouldn't use the word fault. It was an oversight on their part.

Vote: 5/0

14. Discussion and decision to allow Jeff Hewett to go out to bid for Masonry Repairs to the Municipal Building.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Roger Staples to allow Jeff Hewett to go out to bid for Masonry Repairs to the Municipal Building.

Vote: 5/0

15. Discussion and decision to allow Jeff Hewett to hold a Public Hearing to discuss the acceptance of the 2021 Community Enterprise Program Grant on June 22, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Roger Staples to allow Jeff Hewett to hold a Public Hearing to discuss the acceptance of the 2021 Community Enterprise Program Grant on June 22, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m..

Vote: 5/0

16. Discussion and decision to approve and sign the following resolutions for the 2021 Community Enterprise Program Grant:

- Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance plan
- Standards of Conduct
- Equal Employment Opportunity Policy Statement
- Fair Housing Resolution

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Roger Staples to approve and sign the following resolutions for the 2021 Community Enterprise Program Grant:

**Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance plan
Standards of Conduct
Equal Employment Opportunity Policy Statement
Fair Housing Resolution**

Todd Smith asked if these were new.

Jeff Hewett said that we have to update them every seven years.

Vote: 5/0

17. Discussion and decision to move forward with the Utility Scale Solar Energy Facility Ordinance as written.

A motion was made by Charles Robbins and seconded by Todd Smith to move forward with the Utility Scale Solar Energy Facility Ordinance as written.

Roger Staples said that most of it is pretty good. He thinks that the visual impact assessment portion is subject to interpretation. It seems a little tough. It mentions line of sight profiles and path of real or imagined eyesight. He thinks it could be simplified. Sounds like somebody is going to have to hire these analysts to do that.

Charles Robbins said this was approved as written at Town Meeting.

Christine Almand said that the Solar Moratorium was approved at Town Meeting. This is the proposed ordinance that we would take to a special town meeting to put in place.

Roger Staples said there is a setback of 100', including fencing. 100' seems excessive. The Porta Potty business is 5' from people's houses.

Todd Smith said that on the Steven's Road project the developer came it at 75' on their own. 100' seems within the ballpark.

Charles Robbins said we are only asking for an additional 25'.

Paul York said he would have to agree. If you read this, you will never have another solar farm. They are not attractive. You might get a few abutters that will say go for it. A lot of people are going to say they don't want it in their backyard. Therefore, they won't be able to do it because of this ordinance. He doesn't know if we want to go that route.

Roger Staples said that if the visual assessment isn't simplified, it is going to discourage a lot of people.

Christine Almand said that it almost reads as though, if you can see it, they shouldn't be able to do it. She asked Bryan Belliveau how much discussion was had about that.

Bryan Belliveau said that it is just giving the Planning Board more discretion. If the visibility is too high, they may require a different level of buffering...trees or some other visual aspect to shield an abutters property.

Roger Staples said that it is hard to follow and may discourage people from even trying.

Todd Smith said discourage, but not prevent. We have an obligation to the landowner and the abutters. This is a very new thing that is being tossed upon us right now. Just like with the AT&T thing. If we had approved it, we may need to create an ordinance. This is what the people have asked for. They passed the Moratorium so that we could create this ordinance. This is the draft from the Planning Board. He would have added construction hours, which can be a condition of the permit depending on location. Noise of construction was a concern on the Steven Road. If we can ask that they put in an eight-foot tree instead of a four-foot tree to improve the visual aspect. The landowner gets their project and the abutters don't have to look at it. He likes the decommissioning portion. These are multi-year contracts. We don't know the lifespan of these project or the companies that are developing them. This means that the Town will not be left behind to clean up the mess.

Roger Staples said he didn't have a problem with creating an ordinance. He just had a problem with the Moratorium.

Paul York said that this is a tricky topic...trying to find a happy medium. People wanting the projects for financial gain and the abutters who have to look at it.

Vote: 5/0

Recording Time: 01:17:13

18. Discussion and decision to approve the Police Department union contract.

A motion was made by Betty Austin and seconded by Roger Staples to approve the Police Department union contract.

Vote: 5/0

19. Treasurer's Warrants to be approved:

#92	\$	47,841.46 (Payroll #21)
#93	\$	15,436.78 (State Payables)
#90	\$	49,860.06 (Payroll #22)
#95	\$	878,157.18 (FY 2021 Accounts Payables)
Total	\$	991,295.48

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

Vote: 5/0

20. Other Business

Todd Smith said we have two new business owners in the audience who have submitted an application for an updated Victualer's License. He would like to move that through so that they can get back to work and serve some food.

Christine Almand said that as soon as we receive those applications, we will look at the date requirements according to statute on hearing notice periods. If there is a way to move it along faster, she said she would contact them to see if they want to do a special Selectmen's Meeting. There are some posting requirements prescribed by state statute.

Cara Mason said that the requirements are that it must be posted publicly for seven days prior to the public hearing for the Victualer License. For the Liquor License it must run three days in the newspaper prior to the public hearing. Unless the Selectmen want to hold a special meeting, that would go on the agenda for the next Selectmen's Meeting.

Paul York said that we just need three Selectmen there. He would like to do it now, but we have certain regulations that we have to follow. He will volunteer as one of the three for a special meeting to fast track this.

Todd Smith said that nothing has changed with the license that was recently issued, except the ownership. Can they still operate under that?

Christine Almand said that as far as she is aware the owner is part of the license. Unless there is some other information from the state...other than what is in the statute...their license has to include all of the information that is in the statute.

There was discussion about when the special meeting could occur.

A special meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

Bryan Belliveau said that Code Enforcement also needs to issue a new occupancy permit before any business is conducted.

Christine Almand said that they should not be open until they have these licenses and permits.

Todd Smith said that Skowhegan has had 429 cases of COVID. That is 4.5%. We need to lose the masks.

A motion was made by Todd Smith and seconded by Charles Robbins to remove the mask mandate put in place at the last meeting.

Christine Almand said that the current policy is unvaccinated people are required to wear masks. We are not requiring proof from the general public, but we are requiring proof from employees, board and committee members. That is for inside public buildings.

Vote: 2/3 (Paul York, Betty Austin and Roger Staples opposed)

Charles Robbins said he doesn't understand why we are stopping the live streaming of committee meetings on Facebook. The Selectmen and the Planning Board meetings are still going to be live. We talk about transparency. Today we had a Second Bridge Meeting which was not on Facebook. He watches these meetings at odd hours.

Christine Almand said that in all of the previous discussions about this...she stated from the beginning that she intends to continue doing that with the Selectmen and Planning Board meetings. At no point in time was it mentioned that we would ever continue with all of them. It does require extra time and effort out of her staff, mostly Cara. Cara is behind on minutes based on the extra time and effort that she is putting in. She is not opposed to continuing, but if we do she is going to need some other resources. There are committees that have been inactive during COVID. Once they get ramped up with their meetings, it is going to be even more time and effort. She doesn't believe that we can sustain, let alone increase, the amount of work that is being put into that.

Charles Robbins said that should have been discussed as a board.

Paul York said that it was. First of all, Christine took it upon herself to start live-streaming these to begin with. It wasn't a decision of the board. Two, his thought is...he takes offense to Charles saying that we are not transparent, because we are very transparent. Most committee decisions come through this board for a final decision. It is a lot of extra work. If we are going to do that, we need to be prepared to give her more people to make it happen.

Charles Robbins said that last week he went to a Planning Board Meeting. Cindy was there by herself. Nobody was running the camera. He doesn't know what extra resources we are talking about.

Paul York said you have to have somebody there who knows how to run the equipment. It would be Cara who would end up having to go to all of these committee meetings. That is a lot to ask.

Cara Mason said that after Town Meeting this setup in the Opera House was supposed to stay setup for two meetings today. It mistakenly was torn down by another staff member. She had to be up here for an hour and a half to get it set back up for the meetings. Every time stuff is moved, every time you have a different meeting, it all has to be set up. Not everybody on the staff knows how to do it, so whenever there is an issue, they come get her. She is having to run back and forth to the Community Center. She made nine trips in two weeks. Now with the smaller committees starting to have meetings, it is just too much. That could potentially mean that she is pulled out of the office a half a day every other day.

Charles Robbins said this should have been a discussion in front of the board.

Todd Smith said it should be better now. After elections, all meetings will be back in the Council Room. That will eliminate a lot of setup and travel.

Christine Almand said that not all committees meet in the Council Room.

Chief Howard said that he isn't sure that we have the means to set that up at meetings that take place offsite. Through COVID we have looked the other way on some safety aspects. What you see in front of you here (cords and wires), this can't continue to happen. Things need to be hard-wired to meet codes.

Cara Mason said that also means you can only ever have one meeting at a time. They all have to run through one Facebook page. Sometimes we have multiple meetings going on in different places at the same time.

Christine Almand said that also means that every single meeting has to be coordinated through Cara before it is scheduled.

21. 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

22. Sign Documents

Adjourn Selectmen's Meeting.

Approved and signed on June 22, 2021.

_____	_____
_____	_____

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