

**TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN**  
**WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**September 12, 2022 – PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING**

**Present:** Jasmin Couillard, Clayton Woodworth, Chris Peloquin, Rodney Graham, Chris Wade

Town Manager, Jackie Higgins

**Call to Order** - Jasmin called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

**Set the Agenda** – Chris P. made the motion to add Warrant SB 22010 to the agenda. Chris W. seconded. So moved.

**Review of Open Public Comments**

**Public Announcements – None**

**Commissions/Committees/Trustees/Other Board Announcements** – Chris P. made the motion to move the Rec Board appointment up on the list. No action was made.

**Approve Warrants: Payroll 8/14/22, 8/28/22 & SB22007, SB22008, SB22009 & SB22010** – Rodney made the motion to approve payroll and SB Warrants. Chris P. seconded. So moved.

**Selectboard Meeting Minutes – 8/08/22** – Chris P. made the motion to approve the minutes. Clayton seconded. So moved.

**Town Manager Report: See attached.**

Rodney asked about the ditching on Graham Road. Jackie said that ditching was going to be done on Graham Road as well as Ferno Road. Chris W. asked if it was all of Ferno Road or only a portion. Jackie responded with the portion to be ditched. Clayton asked about the Mitchell Property, Jackie mentioned putting the swale back in.

**New Business:**

**Code of Ethics** – Rodney said that the Code of Ethics policy is really a Conflict-of-Interest policy. Which we have and it is not enforced. Will the new policy be enforced if it is created? What we have is not followed. Is the policy to be enforced or just to make people feel better? Jackie responded that people do recuse themselves when necessary. Rodney requested making adjustments to the policy of Section 2D as well as Section 11 Exemptions. Chris P. said that anything that pertains to a public trade company does not apply. Chris W. made the motion to table the discussion until the next meeting and each member can go through the policy. Chris P. seconded. So moved

**Cell Phone Policy** – Chris P. suggested to mold one policy together that would pertain to all Williamstown employees. We need to have all department heads meet to create one policy together. Rodney asked if we are creating a committee. Chris P. said that Jackie should gather the Department heads and provide the policy to the Selectboard to approve. Chris P. made the motion to table until our next meeting. Chris W. seconded. So moved.

**Garden Street Water-** Joe Flammia discussed the dried up well issue with the town. Chris P. asked if the town could prevent Joe from drilling a new well. Jackie advised that with the Town Ordinances, the Selectboard can waive the ordinance to allow the drilling. Chris P. made the motion to waive the ordinance and allow both properties to drill a new well. Chris P. also stated that the town would not be taking any responsibility for the well or process. Chris W. seconded. So moved.

**Trustee of Public Funds Update-** Gary Storrs provided updates on the accounts from Wells Fargo and Bar Harbor. Rodney asked if the Seaver fund was also called the Playground Fund. Gary said that to his knowledge the fund has always been called "Playground Fund"

Chris P. thanked Gary for being on the board for another term as well as the information. Gary said that the notes from previous meetings are being researched and parameters need to be set up to what/where the money should go. He said that the "community fund" was created to help and provide for the community.

**Harassment Investigation Update** – Jasmin read the letter from Rikk Taft. Chris P. thanked Rikk Taft as well as Chris W. for seeking him out. Rodney said that it clearly states that the policy only affects that employee of the town and not the elected officials. Chris W. said that it would be best if we can move forward and do what's best for the town. Chris P. mentioned that we are all in it together. Donations are meant to be shared. We need to create a policy so there is no question about donations. Chris P. said he is not there yet.

**Charter Change – Recall of Elected Officials** – Jackie reported that the Secretary of State is sending out ballots directly. Discussion was had regarding mailing out ballots and cost. Barbara Graham said that she wasn't sure if people in town would return them to the Town Office.

Rodney commented, We are elected to make decisions for the town. If the board wants to make a Charter Change, then we should do it for Town Meeting. Chris P. said we don't need a charter change, people can vote for each of us or not. Chris W. said that a mailout was not necessary. He said there is no accountability for elected officials. Everybody needs to be held accountable. If the board is choosing to do a charter change, then it needs to be done.

Rodney stated that the reason the town elects officials is to conduct the business of the town. If they don't like what you are doing, they will recall you or just not vote for you. If we do a charter change it should be for Town Meeting. Chris W. made the motion for the Selectboard to create the Charter Change for Town meeting. Motion failed.

**Recreation Board** – Pete DeVerna updated on the upcoming events. The Receptions Board requested Depot Street be closed from Meadow Street – Beckett Street for use during the Touch a Truck Event during the Harvest Festival on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Clayton made the motion to close the street during the event for the use of Depot Street for the event. Chris W. seconded. So Moved. Chris P. abstained from voting.

Clayton suggested bringing a truck from Barrett Trucking down for the event. Jill Plastridge suggested putting up a fence or something to keep the kids away from the street. Jackie responded that she had requested use of the Snow Fence to put on either side of the road to keep everyone safe.

Chris P. made the motion to appoint Heather Funk to the Williamstown Recreation Board. Chris W. seconded. So moved.

**Ainsworth Public Library** – Rodney made the motion to appoint Russell Hotchkiss to the Library Board. Chris P. seconded. So moved.

Jill Plastridge spoke on behalf of the Library questioning the accounts being under the General Fund that was voted on at Town Meeting. Chris P. said that he has not seen the accounts. Jackie commented on the Town Attorney writing a letter with the town for the Library. No response was received from the Library regarding that letter. Rodney stated the by law, the Selectboard has control of who the General Fund would cover.

Jill stated that the board requires updates on the accounts for the Library and if not given, they cannot be held financially responsible. Jackie told Jill that if provided with a list of questions, they could be given to the Treasurer for clarification. Rodney questioned the late payments referred to by Jill, and asked if there were Warrants signed. Jill stated that the Library meeting is the second Friday of each month.

Chris W. questioned why the Library doesn't have their own banking. Jill said that the Library can't afford to hire an accountant. Jackie spoke about the standing warrant that the Selectboard has preapproved and that is an option for the Library as well. Chris P. suggested that there is a communication issue with the Library and Town Office.

**CV Fiber Update** – Ted Barnett introduced himself as the town delegate for our area. He said that construction should start late this year and continue through next year. Hoping to be completed by 2026. Chris P. made the motion to support Ted Barnett. Chris W. seconded. So moved.

**Highway Garage Committee** – Jackie reported on the members to be voted upon for the Highway Garage Committee. David Wilder, Mike St. Lawrence, Chris Wade, Ivan Leblanc & Clayton Woodworth. Chris W. made the motion to accept the committee members. Clayton seconded. So moved.

**Class 4 Funding Request** – Chris P. questioned the history on Getz Road for funding. Chris P. tabled the request until the Selectboard could do a site visit on their own time. Clayton seconded.

**Around the Table**

Rodney said that there was a Grant by the state for funding for planning a municipal building project.

Chris W. spoke regarding the incident recently at the DMV regarding the First Amendment Rights. Chris said that the town should provide training for employees for situations like this and future awareness of proper response.

Chris P. reported hearing positive feedback regarding our Road Crew and Roads.

**Adjourn** Chris P. made the motion to adjourn at 9:19pm and Chris W. seconded. So moved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Keys

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Jasmin Couillard

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Clayton Woodworth

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Chris Peloquin

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Rodney Graham

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Chris Wade