

Town of Oakham

Board of Selectmen

Regular Session

Minutes of January 8, 2023

Present: Don Haapakoski-Chairman, Lucy Tessnau- Vice Chairman, Aaron Langlois-Clerk

In attendance: Maribel LaRange-BOS admin asst., Walter Nutter, Alan Flagg, Paul Rochette, Lucille DiLeo, Sue Adamski, Tom Hughes, Denise Collette

Via Zoom: Barbara Piucci

Meeting opened at 6:00 PM by Chairman, Don Haapakoski

Approve Warrant WR24-14: Aaron made a motion to approve warrant WR24-14, Lucy 2nd, Don all in favor.

Approve Minutes: Aaron made a motion to approve minutes 10/16/23, 11/13/23 & 11/21/23, Don 2nd, Lucy abstain, passes.

Public Session:

- **Lucille DiLeo**

- Concerned about the plowing of the private roads- Skyline Dr.
- Sent letter to BOS through the website on Dec. 12, 2023
 - Aaron received it, Don did not receive it, Lucy did not receive it
- Concerned about spending Town funds
 - Don informed there will be a call with Planning Board and Town Counsel
- Aaron informed the BOS voted to plow as a temporary vote until road accepted
- Mrs. DiLeo expressed concern on using taxpayer's money to plow private roads on violation of a Supreme Judicial Court case
- Road does not fall under 40C, it's a cul de sac, not public use, only for the benefit of the people that live on it, not to the benefit of the Town
 - Don said will wait to see what Town Counsel says
- Mrs. DiLeo said Town is not legally obligated to plow it, owners should pay
- Strictly concerned on a financial bases to save the Town money
- Focused on Skyline Drive (not Old Schoolhouse Road) because it's a coulter sack
 - Tom Hughes said Planning Board sees both roads as an entity

- **Paul Rochette**

- The BOS in the interest of the public safety would plow the current winter to allow the process of the road acceptance

- **Barbara Piucci**

- Asked if the phone call with Town Counsel will be an open meeting? Don said no, it will be with one member of the Planning Board and one member of the BOS. Mrs. Piucci asked if there will be notes available to the public, in which Don said sure.

Special Town Meeting Warrant: Aaron made a motion to sign Special Town Meeting Warrant, Lucy 2nd, Don all in favor. Denise Collette signed and posted the warrant as the constable.

Update to Volunteer Policy: Aaron made a motion to amend #6 on the volunteer policy by removing provide evidence of insurance to the Town, also remove original application for appointment, the waiver release in the policy is sufficient, Lucy 2nd, Don all in favor.

Lucy did state she liked to the original application for appointment, Aaron explained that the appointment application is more for being appointed to boards / committees and can continue to be used as such.

Community Compact IT Grant: BOS Admin reported the Town of Oakham received the Community Compact IT Grant for \$25,587 to update the website. During the grant process the BOS Admin along with the help of Capital Strategic Solutions obtained proposals from the current website platform, CivicPlus. The BOS will then decide on how they would like to move forward. Upgrades will be covered in the grant funds but then the reoccurring fees will be for the town to sustain. Don suggested once get information from CivicPlus then reach out to department heads/boards/committees for their input. Aaron suggested to get the publics input as well.

Oakham Center School repairs: Mr. Nutter reported on some of the repairs the Oakham Center School need, potential ARPA funds for some of the repairs.

- Gym wall- mold
- Water heater- leaking
 - Aaron asked if there are yearly inspection, Mr. Nutter said yes
- Parking lot- pavement- traffic circle at the front of the school & back lot
- Basketball Court- repaved
- Gym floor- crack
- Fence- school field
- Roof

The Oakham Center School is also the emergency shelter for the Town. Get quote for the administration for gym wall repair and priorities.

ARPA Funds: Senior Center

- Electrical Panel

- Aaron made a motion to approve the electrical system upgrade and exit lighting, subject to 1 or 2 additional quotes, Lucy 2nd, Don all in favor.
- Floor resurfacing in the office area
- Outside storage key receptacle- done, Fire Chief provided
- Signage indicating Senior Center by the Town Hall to direct to the back
- More permanent sign for listing activities
 - Can continue to submit request for the current electrical sign
- Face lift for entire area, paint & floor
 - Sheriff's Office- pay for paint and lunch
- New round tables for the dining area
 - Round tables would take more space due to limited space
- Outdoor picnic table
 - Limited space, slope, limited parking space

Senior Center dishwasher repair: Gasket around the door and repaired.

New Business: Don stated they are lots of branches on Route 148, North Brookfield Rd that need clipping. Notify Tree Warden and Highway Superintendent.

Old Business: Aaron informed the public on behalf of the Board of Health, Covid test kits expire 1/23/24 and don't anticipate getting anymore.

BOH purchased with ARPA funds a trailer for about \$7,000 it's registered. BOH will work on moving everything stored at the upstairs of the Town Hall into it and will be stored on an off site secured location.

Credit Card payments are up and running with an additional fee. Soon there will be a link on website to be able to look up bill and ACH option & debit card.

Cleaning crew over the Christmas break volunteer at the Town Hall. Three residents, Four scouts from troop 144 and two leaders. They have agreed to come back to volunteer. Aaron thanked them all. Shredding will only be for the cleaning project, BOH will have another shredding day for the community on June 8, 2024 at the town wide clean-up day and recycle from 9am-12pm at the Safety Complex.

Don asked for an update from the Accountant for ARPA funds to update website.

Paul Rochette suggested to watch Adam's Pond with all the rain that has occurred and still to come. Paul suggested that the owner's of the pond should be responsible for any damage occurred. Tom Hughes informed that the owner is repairing the pipe for the pond.

Aaron reported that the COA were able to get the donated laptop set up. Requesting a subscription for Office 365. Future vote.

BOS Admin will follow up with MIIA to make sure the Police Department building and Old Schoolhouse building are covered on the insurance. Lucy said the Old Schoolhouse committee still exists but have not met recently. Aaron said he believes he saw an issue with support side.

Correspondence: No correspondence.

Don made a motion to open executive session to return to open session

Executive Session MGL Chapter 30A Section 21 (2)

Opened at 7:39 PM by Chairman, Don Haapakoski:

Roll Call: Don Haapakoski-Aye, Lucy Tessnau- Aye, Aaron Langlois-Aye

Return to open session: Donald Haapakoski-Aye, Aaron Langlois-Aye, Lucy Tessnau-Aye

Open at 8:50 PM by Chairman, Don Haapakoski:

Aaron moved to accept the contract for the Administrative Assistant to the BOS, Lucy 2nd, Don all in favor.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:51 PM: Aaron made a motion to adjourn, Lucy 2nd, Don all in favor.

(Original meeting disconnected, therefore, two meetings for the same night. Second meeting when BOS return to open session from executive session.)

Next Regular Meeting: January 22, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

To view the Board of Selectmen's meeting please visit: [youtube.com/@TownOfOakham](https://www.youtube.com/@TownOfOakham)