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SAVOY SELECT BOARD MEETING

SAVOY TOWN HALL

May 27, 2025 5:00PM

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by Justin Kaczowski, second by Marie Saucier.

The minutes from the May 13th select board meeting were approved by Brenda Smith; seconded by Justin Kaczowski.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A town resident inquired if the Black Brook Road Bridge could be opened to just one lane of traffic or if a Bailey bridge (a portable, prefabricated, truss bridge) could be put in place until the bridge is replaced. The resident brought to attention that with the bridge being closed there is only one means of entry and exit in case of emergency for residents living in that area.

Jon Choquette, Highway Superintendent, stated the bridge can't be opened to one lane as per the MassDOT inspection report that states every other beam has deteriorated beyond what is safe for transportation. Jon will inquire with MassDOT if a Bailey bridge could be utilized on top of the bridge until it is repaired and/or replaced. Jon will consult with area construction businesses to determine whether the cost of renting a Bailey bridge is a feasible option.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Highway Department...Jon Choquette, Superintendent

- The reopening of Rte 116 Bridge went according to plan. The GPS mapping services updated accurately to reflect the change.
- Tannery Road was washed out with the recent rainstorms; a blockade was put in place so vehicles can't access it. The Highway Department will be working to repair the damage.
- A motion was made by Marie Saucier to sign the contract with Camolli Group to move the placement of the new generator from the side of the Highway building to the back of the building. The motion passed unanimously.

Conservation Commission...Dan Harris

- The Conservation Commission has had several meetings with the property owner of 585 Main Road. The property owner was operating under the assumption they were exempt from the Wetlands Protection Act because they filed an agricultural exemption in 2017. The Conservation Commission consulted with the Department of Environmental Protection regarding the 2017 filing, and it was determined due to a technicality on the original notice of intent the property is exempt from the Wetlands Protection Act. The Conservation Commission has concluded its wetlands protection violation investigation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks & Recreation Committee...Steph Harris

- The first rental of the Town Park building for an outside event went smoothly. The portable toilet will be available for the next town resident renter(s) at half price for the rest of the month to offset the initial rental fee.
- A mattress that was taken off of New State Road will be brought to Casella Waste by the end of the week.
- No residents signed up for the emergency preparedness event that was to be held on May 22nd. The event did not happen due to lack of interest.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

DPU-Savoy Aggregate Power Supply-Indicative Pricing

- The Select Board reviewed the supplier indicative pricing sheets provided by Colonial Power Group. The Select Board opted to keep the same pricing option as is currently in place, it is the lowest cost option.
- There is no Select Board member available to attend the zoom meeting on June 3rd at 12:30pm to mark the indicative pricing selection; a motion was made to have the Select Board Administrative Assistant attend the webinar meeting in their stead; the motion passed unanimously.

Annual Town Meeting: Warrant Review & Signing

- The Select Board reviewed the draft warrant for the Annual Town Meeting; necessary adjustments were made.
- Select Board Chair, Justin Kaczowski, made a motion to sign the ATM warrant; the motion was passed unanimously. Five copies were printed and signed by the Select Board members. They will be posted by a town constable on or before May 28th .
- The Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 11th at 7pm at the Fire Station on Center Road.

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116 Bridge Inspection Review

- The most recent 116 DOT bridge inspection report was reviewed by an independent bridge engineer who stated the Town has the option to replace the decking of the bridge at a cost of approximately $55,000.
- The $55,000 would need to be funded by the town, there is a possible federal match grant that could offset the cost. This option circumvents most, if not all, of the DEP permitting and cost because construction would not involve the water below or the riverbanks.
- Select Board member, Marie Saucier, would like there to be a town vote to poll if there is interest in the town funding the $55,000 that would reopen the Rte 116 bridge to two lanes of traffic much sooner than waiting years for the state to fix the bridge.

Police Chief Stipend

- The police chief's stipend has not been issued on a monthly basis; the stipend will be distributed by the end of the fiscal year.

Safety Committee Policies-Signing

- Select Board Chair, Justin Kaczowski, made a motion to sign the Safety Committee Policies tabled from the May 13th Select Board meeting that needed to have a signature page added to each policy; the motion passed unanimously.
- The Select Board signed the signature pages of the Safety Committee Policies.

Town of Savoy Police & Fire Insurance Policy-CHUBB

- The Select Board reviewed the renewal insurance policy for the Police and Fire Department. Select Board member, Justin Kaczowski, made a motion to sign the renewal policy; seconded by Marie Saucier. Justin Kaczowski signed the CHUBB renewal policy.

BRTA Advisory Board-Designate a Representative and/or Alternate

- Select Board member, Brenda Smith, made a motion to nominate Justin Kaczowski as primary representative to the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board; seconded by Marie Saucier.

CORRESPONDENCE:

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

- Select Board member, Brenda Smith, put before the board to waive back tax assessments on two acres of land that was moved within the Savoy town limits in 2015 when town lines were moved due to remapping. The land is unusable; the landowner had been unaware of

unanimously, it was through no fault of the landowner. The two acres are being acquired by the DCR as part of an existing contiguous piece of land.

- A quote for plumbing work to be done in two bathrooms and the senior center kitchen faucet was reviewed and approved.
- There has been no progress by the property owner to relocate the massive pile of swamp mats that were dumped on the side of 100 Horton Road. The Select Board will draft a letter to be sent to the property owner and the current resident of 100 Horton Road with a deadline for removal of the swamp mats with consequences outlined for failure to comply. The Assessors will assist with providing the property owner's name and mailing address.
- Select Board Chair, Justin Kaczowski, is recusing himself from Town IT matters with MadMac's. He will give no advice or participate in any decision making regarding IT services for the town. The company he works for is merging services with MadMac's, the town's current IT service provider, and it would be a conflict of interest.
- The Select Board Administrative Assistant asked the Select Board to clarify the vacation policy as it is not specific in the employee handbook. The Select Board identified the Administrative Assistant position as a 40 hour bi-weekly position; therefore, it is considered full time. The Select Board approved the Select Board Administrative Assistant to have every Wednesday off for the next five weeks.

Meeting Adjourned: Marie Saucier moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:41pm; Justin Kaczowski second.

DATE APPROVED: 6/10/25

Justin Kaczowski, Chair

Marie Saucier

Brenda Smith