

**Wentworth Select Board
Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2020**

Those present: Arnold Scheller, Paul Manson, Chief Ames, Chief Trott, Francis Muzzey, Palmer Koelb, Andrew Lasser, Linda Franz and other residents. In attendance via Zoom conference call was Omer Ahern. Jordan King was excused from meeting due to a personal commitment.

Called to Order: Arnold Scheller, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:07pm.

Select Board non-contemporaneously signed the following documents, as permitted by NH Governor's Executive Order 2020-04:

Vendor and payroll checks.

Select Board Meeting Minutes for April 21 and 30, 2020.

Abatement request for Pine Haven Campground.

Timber Tax Warrants for Reed, Stuart, Brunt, Boucher and McKinnon.

Current Use Application for Herlihy.

Elderly Exemption for Toomey.

Highway Dept. Capital Reserve payment request.

Veterans Tax Credit application.

Francis Muzzey called a Point of Order to read a document he wrote regarding meeting procedures and minutes for previously held meetings as well as some other comments. A copy of this document is attached to these minutes.

Chief Jeff Ames reported on two fire calls, one at Wentworth Transfer Station and another in Grafton (no response necessary). Fire Department did not have access to the Transfer Station. He did not have a key, and the lock box combination had been changed.

A.Scheller made a motion for Paul Manson, Road Agent, to provide a key for the Transfer Station gate lock to the Fire Department. Seconded by O.Ahern. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes, O.Ahern voted yes. Quorum voted in the affirmative, and motion carried.

Discussed the need to carry on with completion of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

A.Scheller made motion for Jeff Ames and Paul Manson to contact June Garneau to set up dates for future Hazard Mitigation Meetings. Seconded by O.Ahern. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes, O.Ahern voted yes. Quorum voted in the affirmative, and motion carried.

Chief Trott presented his report which is an attachment to these minutes.

Per a suggestion by Francis Muzzey regarding the need for clean fill for cemeteries from Town Highway Department road ditching. **A.Scheller made a motion to have the Cemetery Trustees contact the Administrative Assistant to request delivery of**

available clean fill. Seconded by O.Ahern. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes, O.Ahern voted yes. Quorum voted in the affirmative, and motion carried.

Discussed purchase requests of bridge materials by the Highway Department. Put on hold pending adherence to the Town's Purchasing Policy. Purchases over \$1,000 require three (3) written quotes. J. Ames suggested changing the policy to include all purchases except verbal/telephone quotes versus written quotes. To be addressed in future policy revisions meetings by Select Board.

J.Ames discussed the possibility of having two burn sites at the Transfer Station to avoid future burn hazards. J.Ames, R.Rugar, and P.Manson to come up with a plan and report to Select Board.

A.Scheller inquired of status of delinquent minutes. OAhern reported that he reviewed and notated amendments to some of the 2019 minutes. O.Ahern is not able to make these revisions to the existing draft minutes and notes due to his physical limitations. He suggested contacting previous Select Board member to assist in getting minutes up to date. A.Scheller will contact State municipal agency for advice and direction.

L. Franz reported financial position of Town funds. With a large June 1st payment due to the schools and lower tax income expected, it is recommended that discretionary spending be suspended. Due to the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, it is unknown at this time if residents will have difficulty with tax payments that will be due in July 2020. A.Scheller will reach out to School Board regarding possible payment deferrals. L.Franz to provide contact information.

Francis Muzzey requests contact information for Cemetery Trustees, L.Franz to provide.

A.Scheller made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by O.Ahern. Quoram voted yes and the meeting was adjourned at 6:22pm

Respectfully submitted by:
Linda Franz, Administrative Assistant



Arnold Scheller
Chairperson



Omer C. Ahern, Jr.
Board Member



Jordan King
Board Member

There was a meeting on March 16. That was a Monday. The annual meeting took on place on Saturday, March 14. The 15th was a Sunday and does not count in the number of hours prior to the notification of a meeting. Therefore the meeting of March 16 was illegally conducted.

At this meeting of March 16 papers were handed out indicating procedure by which the meetings would be conducted. The manner in which this was done indicates clearly that some decisions had been made prior to the meeting and outside the meeting because nothing relating to these actions were shown in this meeting. There cannot be decisions made outside the meeting.

There was a meeting on March 17 at 1:45. I was at that meeting but my name does not appear in the list of those present.

There was a meeting on April 7. At this meeting Linda made comments alluding to a complaint which I had requested in an email to be read but was not read. The reason this request was in writing was to avoid coming to the meeting and also because you said you wanted things in writing to be brought up before the board. Yet when it was brought up you neglected to discuss it openly and the video does not reflect any action taken on this matter. Yet unknowingly I discovered that this email was included in the April 7 minutes yet no motion was made during the televised meeting, which best indicates what really took place, as to any action being taken on the request. All correspondence coming into the office must be made known to the public. The minutes do not properly reflect the actions within the meeting and further indicates a 2nd occasion in which decisions are being made outside the meeting without public knowledge. Had I not read the minutes in addition to viewing the video I would not have known they were included. There is no vote taken in the meeting to include the email in the minutes. This is a cover-up of a topic that you did not wish to discuss and hoped it would go away. Furthermore on the email annexed to the minutes there were additional words not a part of my original email. No vote was taken in the meeting to add these words nor do they properly reflect what I originally wrote. Any addition such as these should have been a part of the minutes and not on anything that is annexed to the minute and composed by somebody else.

Also in the April 7 meeting a motion was made and the minutes reflect "no vote was taken but acknowledged by those participating in the meeting". This is not a proper way of doing municipal business. If a vote is made, it needs to be 2nd. If it is not seconded it cannot be acted upon. Why it was done this way is out of order. Even the road agents report was not read at the meeting in its entirety. **if it had been read the public would realize how ridiculous some of the things in the construction project for the summer really are such as now we seem to need a fourth person to get things done according to one of the paragraphs in the road agents report.** Furthermore there was no motion to include the road agents report in the minutes. I think it should have been included but the proper procedure was not followed in either of the circumstances. As a point of information for a later moment I asked when is my email going to be read or can I read it.

There was a meeting on April 9 for the purpose of observing town equipment. It certainly wasn't an emergency meeting and unnecessary. If it could not be brought up in the April 7 meeting it should've waited until meeting of April 21. The public needs to be properly notified and informed and the board can not be doing business outside of meetings.'

WPD Activity Report
Presented 05/05/2020

Please note that the following is a summary of notable activity conducted by the Wentworth Police Department, (WPD), but does not reflect “all” of WPD’s activity during this time frame.

The WPD continues to take part in in the scheduled conference calls held during the week regarding updates concerning COVID-19.

The WPD took a report of a discarded syringe laying on the side of Rte#25. Chief Trott located the syringe and it was packaged and disposed of properly.

The WPD assisted the California Highway Patrol with a background investigation on a potential candidate applying for a position with their agency.

The WPD assisted the NHSP with a background check regarding a Wentworth resident applying for a Security Guard/Private Detective/Bail Enforcement license.

The WPD took a report of a Wentworth resident who was obtaining prescription drugs and then allegedly selling them. The prescribing physician was notified of the report and the report is being investigated.

The WPD took a criminal mischief report where a window had been broken at the WES. It appears that it may have been done accidentally with a ball, but it was never reported to the school.

Last but not least, thanks to Linda’s perseverance and hard work, Wentworth claim with PRIMEX regarding the theft of more than \$84,000.00 from the Town.

**Wentworth Select Board
Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2020**

Those present: Arnold Scheller, Jordan King, Chief Ames, Paul Manson, Francis Muzzey Andrew Lasser and Linda Franz. In attendance via Zoom conference call, Omer Ahern, and Chief Trott.

Called to Order: Arnold Scheller, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

Select Board signed the following documents:

Vendor and payroll checks.
Eversource letter.
Forms transferring ownership for Doll House.
Abatement/refund request for Perry.
Timber Tax Warrants for Morrison and Comeau.
Land Use Change Tax for Owen and Georges.

A.Scheller announced that the NHDOT plans to resurface a portion of Route 25. The letter and map are attached and are a part of these minutes.

Discussed the Governor's Emergency Order #25 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 which authorizes municipalities to use their abatement authority to abate interest on liens and delinquent tax bills.

A.Scheller made a motion to continue to charge interest on liens and delinquent tax bills. Seconded by J.King. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. Jordan King voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. All voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

A.Scheller reported that a culvert on Goves Lane collapsed, and an Emergency Order was approved for repairs. On behalf of the Town, he thanks the Highway Department with the help of equipment and labor provided by Jared King. All did an outstanding job.

O.Ahern addressed the issue of missing non-public and delinquent minutes. He cited RSA91-A:5 which indicates that any personal notes taken during a public meeting are not subject to open records law, and what the Town has is sufficient. No decision, motion or vote was made by the Select Board.

A.Scheller read the Police Report, and a copy is attached and is a part of these minutes. Chief Trott commented about Face Book postings to the Wentworth Bulletin Board page. He emphasized that posting on social media is not an acceptable way to report a crime. If anyone feels that they are a victim of a crime, they are encouraged to call the Police Department or 9-1-1.

Chief Ames presented a new Purchasing Policy for the Town. A.Scheller thanked him for his hard work and for taking the initiative and coordinating with Chief Trott to get this done. O.Ahern is of the opinion that a public hearing should be held.

A.Scheller made a motion to adopt and accept the new Purchasing Policy. Seconded by J.King. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. Jordan King voted yes. O.Ahern voted no. The motion carried with a vote of 2-1.

Chief Ames also reported that there were three call over the past week; a Warren grass fire, false alarm at King Forest and a structure fire in Benton. The department also met for hose training. He also announced that the Fire Department will hold its annual plant and bake sale on Saturday, May 23, 2020 from 9am to 1pm.

Road Agent reported that ditching on Zoe and Auguste Roads is going well, and a resident is accepting the fill. Some residents have requested the magnesium chloride application. **A.Scheller made a motion to purchase one tankful of magnesium chloride at approximately \$5,500. Seconded by J.King. By roll call vote, A.Sheller voted yes. J. King voted yes. O.Ahern voted no. The motion carried with a vote of 2-1.**

Road Agent also discussed his purchase request for wood to repair bridges. **A.Scheller made a motion to purchase the wood from Chris Crowe for \$1,860. Seconded by J.King. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. Jordan King voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. All voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.**

Road Agent updated situation with the roller. It needs a hydraulic motor and is too expensive to fix. He suggested selling it for \$3,000 to \$5,000 and renting a roller for 1-2 months.


At 6:05 pm, A.Scheller made a motion to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c) *Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.* Seconded by J.King. By roll call vote, A.Sheller voted yes. J. King voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

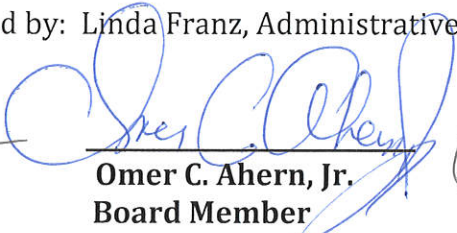
Reentered Public Meeting at 6:45pm.

O.Ahern made a motion to seal the minutes of the just concluded non-public session. Seconded by J.King. By roll call vote, A.Sheller voted yes. J. King voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

A.Scheller made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by J.King. All voted yes and the meeting was adjourned at 6:47pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Linda Franz, Administrative Assistant


Arnold Scheller
Chairperson


Omer C. Ahern, Jr.
Board Member


Jordan King
Board Member



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Victoria F. Sheehan
Commissioner

William Cass, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner

May 4, 2020

Re: Bethlehem-Carroll, Wentworth 42780

Chairman of Selectmen
~~Douglas Campbell~~ Arnie Scheller
PO Box 2
Wentworth, NH 03282

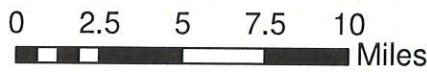
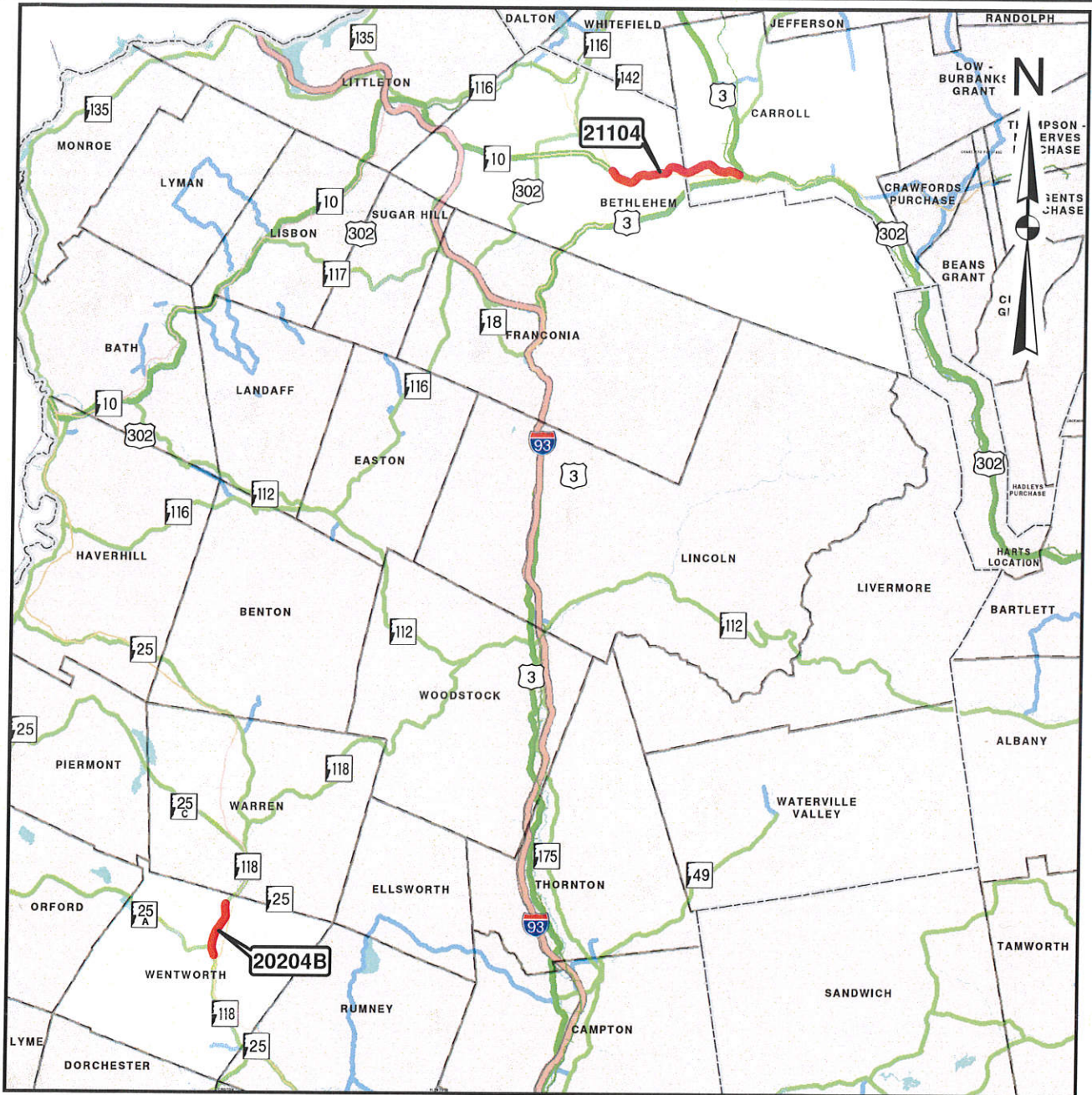
Dear Mr. Campbell:

The proposed project is a pavement preservation project and involves resurfacing 7.5 miles of roadway in Districts 1 and 2. The project is located in the Towns of Wentworth on NH 25 and Bethlehem-Carroll on US 302. The purpose of the project is to extend the life of existing pavement and prevent more expensive improvements from being needed in the immediate future. The proposed actions include full width shim overlay, full width leveling course overlay, spot inlays, shoulder leveling, pavement markings, adjusting catch basin inlets within existing pavement limits, and replacing plug joints on bridges. Drainage, guardrail, and signing will be assessed and may also be included. All proposed work is within the State right-of-way.

Engineering studies have been initiated to refine the scope and limits of work necessary for this project. The Department's Bureau of Environment is in the process of evaluating the potential environmental impacts associated with the project. To assist in this evaluation, I am asking that you notify me of any concerns relative to the project's potential impacts on environmental, social, economic, or cultural resources, such as wetlands, historic properties, and invasive plant species.

Some transportation projects require mitigation for possible wetland/stream impacts. The natural resources in this project area have not yet been identified and investigations are forthcoming. Preliminary engineering studies have begun and the Department will attempt to avoid, and minimize impacts through design before determining if there will be any stream or wetland impacts that may require mitigation. **As a proactive measure the Department would like to request a list of the Town's preferred/priority mitigation efforts that the Department may evaluate and consider undertaking if it is determined that the project does in fact require mitigation. Please let us know if your Town has identified such priorities.** In the absence of any Town priorities to evaluate the Department will pursue permittee responsible mitigation through the Stream Passage Improvement Program (SPIP). If it's determined that no viable options exist through the SPIP, the Department will pursue a payment into the Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund (ARM Fund), at which time those funds will become competitively available through the ARM fund grant process.

Bethlehem-Carroll, Wentworth 42780



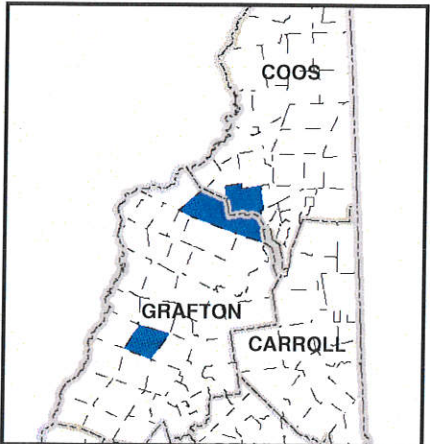
LEGEND

- 42780
- Interstates
- US Routes
- State Routes
- Unnumbered Routes



State #: 42780
Federal #: X-A005(012)

LOCATION MAP



WPD Activity Report
Presented 05/19/2020

Please note that the following is a summary of notable activity conducted by the Wentworth Police Department, (WPD), but does not reflect “all” of WPD’s activity during this time frame.

The WPD continues to take part in in the scheduled conference calls held during the week regarding updates concerning COVID-19.

The WPD handled a sex offender registration this past week. The registration was completed which is mandated by statute and the required completed paperwork was forwarded to the sex offender registry in Concord.

The WPD responded to a domestic dispute between a mother, father, and an adult son. There was also another adult female on scene at the time. The domestic was very heated at the time but Chief Trott was able defuse the situation and the adult son and his female friend agreed to the leave the property. The mother and father were satisfied with their son just leaving and no further follow up was required. There were no reported crimes during this incident.

The WPD took a theft report from a property owner on North Dorchester Road. It was reported that a \$500.00 chain hoist had been stolen from the property. There was some video and photo evidence obtained at the scene and Chief Trott is currently investigating this theft.

Chief Trott responded to an open door at a property on Rowentown Road. This door has been found open in the past and was secured by Chief Trott. Please note that this reported by an observant neighbor and we thank them for notifying the police department.

The WPD assisted the Wentworth/Warren Ambulance with several calls for service within the town of Wentworth over the last couple of weeks.

**Wentworth Select Board
Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2020**

Those present via a Zoom meeting: Arnold Scheller, Omer Ahern, Jordan King, Dan Rossner, Kevin Kay, Lauren Youngs, and Linda Franz

Called to Order: Arnold Scheller, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:05pm.

This was an informational meeting, and intended to develop lines of communication between the Select Board and the School Board.

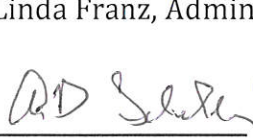
A.Scheller pointed out that the Town may experience a deficit during the pandemic and inquired of the school's plans to handle. It was determined that it is solely the Town's responsibility as there are more resources available to the Town.

D.Rossner briefly explained the school's budget process and how tax rate is established.

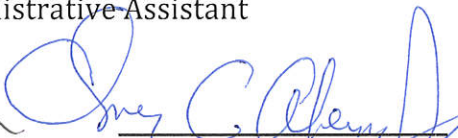
O.Ahern inquired about any discussions of school consolidation. D.Rossner informed that there are no ongoing discussions. It would not be cost effective as there would be bussing and special education costs.

A.Scheller adjourned the meeting at 4:41pm

Respectfully submitted by:
Linda Franz, Administrative Assistant



Arnold Scheller
Chairperson



Omer C. Ahern, Jr.
Board Member



Jordan King
Board Member