

Select Board Meeting Minutes
Town of Wentworth
October 17, 2023

Those present: Arnold Scheller, Richard Ducheneau, Carol Young, Paul Manson, Chief Trott, Ron Giroux, George Morrill, Shawn Leone, and Erin Ganzel

A. Scheller called the meeting to order at 5pm.

R. Ducheneau reports on a recent School Board meeting. The 8th grade students are going to Hershey Park for their class trip. They will be designing their own roller coasters, while using the amusement rides for their experiments. The School Board is working on contracting a company for winter plowing. They received a bid to repair their HVAC system, which was around \$5000 less than budgeted. The school has opted to stop using their PO Box to save costs, so a mailbox will be put up across the street.

R. Ducheneau reported the WWAS meeting did not take place today.

Chief Trott shared his report, which is attached to these minutes.

P. Manson reports that the North Dorchester Bridge is officially open for traffic. All signs have been removed along the roadways directing detours, closures, etc. He states the Highway Department is working hard to get all of their equipment ready for winter weather. The large trucks are ready except for their chutes and spinners, then the plows will be put on to be tested. The plow for the freightliner will need some minor welding repairs. He reports the shop sander needs some work after 15 years of use. A hydraulic motor was ordered and put on backup because the motor is getting ready to fail. He requests that the Select Board sign an updated Winter Weather Policy.

A. Scheller reviews ongoing FEMA projects, including years 2017 and 2023 relative disasters. With these disasters, the Town is responsible for a portion of the costs to repair with FEMA being responsible for the remainder.

P. Manson states that the Town will be responsible for the up-front costs. It may be possible to request a cash advance once the work has started, otherwise it can take months or even years before we are reimbursed.

P. Manson reports that we are still in the running to receive grant monies to repair the culverts on North Dorchester Road. He would like to wait until 2025 to pave, so that the culverts can be replaced first.

C. Young is organizing a Christmas tree decorating contest to be held at Christmas on the Common on November 25th. She hopes to have 2-person teams made up of various departments and possible local businesses. The crowd will be allowed to vote on their favorite tree, with the winner taking home some sort of prize. The trees will then be donated to the Grafton County Nursing Home for viewing and are to be used again next year.

G. Morrill states that WWAS meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month. They have been working hard on their budget. They are seeking new employees by offering higher pay wages and medical benefits. They are working diligently to get the amount requested from the Town lowered.

S. Leone states that Rowentown Rd and Cross Rd are in poor condition due to the higher volume of traffic coming through as detour from North Dorchester Rd bridge. He states a car had to be towed off the road due to a boulder being placed in it, there are exposed culverts, and poorly graded areas of the road. He hopes to mitigate the issues before winter.

P. Manson states that the culverts were not replaced in the fall due to the high volume of traffic still being detoured there from the bridge. He agrees the culverts need to be put in deeper in the future. This week, the highway department will dig out the culvert where it has separated, triple up fabric around it, and put gravel around the sides. He states that the boulder placed in the road was illegally cleared out of the ditch.

A. Scheller makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:44pm. Seconded by R. Ducheneau. Both voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by: Erin D. Ganzel, Town Administrator

Arnold Scheller, Chairman


Brian DuBois


Richard Ducheneau

WPD Activity Report
Presented 10/17/2023

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.

Chief Trott has received two updates regarding two previous emergency orders of protection. The updates and new orders have been incorporated with the original orders and the involved parties have been advised of what they needed to file with the courts to have property returned to them such as firearms, ammunition, and deadly weapons.

Chief Trott received and responded to a request from the Federal Bureau of Investigation regarding any juvenile records our agency may have pertaining to a resident juvenile seeking the transfer of a firearm. This is standard protocol for any person(s) under the age of 21 requesting to purchase or transfer a firearm.

Chief Trott also received a responded to a request from a court ordered guardian ad litem/evaluator from the Hampshire Probate and Family Court from North Hampton Massachusetts. The requested information was forwarded to the guardian ad litem after receiving a formal written request.

Chief Trott has handled a criminal trespassing complaint regarding an unoccupied building in Wentworth. After meeting and speaking with the owners some measures have been taken to ensure that the building is not as easily accessible.

Chief Trott assisted the Rumney Police Department, Rumney Fire Department and the Wentworth Fire Department with a bad accident at the intersection of Rte #25 and Rte 118. Initially we were advised that a landing zone would have to be established at Cersosimo Lumber Company for DHART so we prepared for that but as the injured parties were being evaluated DHART was cancelled and the injured parties were transported to Speare Memorial Hospital via ambulance.



Chief Trott completed the last OHRV Detail over Columbus Day weekend. Although the OHRV activity was very busy it was also uneventful.

Another update on our two grants with the New Hampshire Department of Highway Safety. As I stated at our last meeting both grants have been approved and we have been given the green light to start working the highway enforcement part of the highway safety grant, and regarding traffic safety equipment, we have been authorized to order the new portable radar signs that we submitted to them earlier for approval. Erin, Martha and I are coordinating with the Dept of Highway Safety on just how the grant monies will be received and dispersed. We have a meeting scheduled with them this Friday and will work out those details then.

I want to thank our highway department employees, Paul, Dillon, and Adam for taking care of the new parking area on the Police Department side of the town office building. It has worked out great and I have already had some positive feedback from residents regarding it. Even the Consolidated Communications workers are pleased with it stating it is easier for them to gain access to the hub station box on that side of the building.

In closing I would also like to retract a statement that I made in our last S/B meeting regarding Grafton County Dispatch and our dispatch rates. Just prior to that meeting I had just received our new dispatch invoice and was expecting our dispatch fees to either decrease slightly or at least maintain at where they were. I stated that I was displeased because they had increased. I advised that I would look into the matter further and try and find out why. Well, I did look into the matter further, and in doing so I found that I was **MISTAKEN** and our dispatch fees had actually decreased. I have apologized to Commissioner Ahern as well as Director Tom Andross. I mistakenly read the wrong line item in my budget when I made the comparison. As I stated our dispatch rates have gone down, and not increased, and I/we are thankful for that. Thankfully both Director Tom Andross and Commission Ahern were very accepting of my apology.

