

**Select Board Meeting Minutes
Town of Wentworth
November 14, 2023**

Those present: Arnold Scheller, Richard Ducheneau, Brian DuBois, Chief Trott, Chief Ames, George Morrill, Stanley Kulenski, Eve & John Michaud, Paul Manson, John Reed, Nancy Strapko, Keith Bousquet, Gary Fowler, Phil & Kim Chandonnet, and Erin Ganzel

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

R. Ducheneau reports on a recent School Board meeting. The exhaust system repair is complete.

R. Ducheneau reports on a recent WWAS meeting. They are fully staffed with an increased pay rate. He expects the bill will be \$105000.

Chief Ames inquires if there is a formula used to determine the costs for each town?

G. Morrill reports that it's based off the population, and not the number of runs.

P. Chandonnet reports that the C&D dumpster was difficult to get to and anticipates it will be even more so with snow. He has requested bids to repair the wall. He requests to move the C&D back to the block to prevent snow and ice buildup. The Select Board approved. He reports that the burn pile is done, but some of the heavier stumps may need to be removed with the help of the Highway Department.

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

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

P. Manson reports that plowing in higher elevations, such as Atwell Hill Rd, has begun. There is a lip by Ephraim Page Rd that will need to be repaired. Without much snow and unable to do road work, the Highway Department has been working on small projects in the shop.

K. Bousquet shared photos of the completed bridge. It is 9 ft wide and 2 ft tall. There are mats under the blocks and the ledge is lined with 6 inches of stone. He will forward copies to the Select Board.

The Select Board comments Keith and all those involved for the cooperative effort to repair the bridge.

R. Ducheneau makes a motion to reopen Hooper Hill Road for snowmobile access. Seconded by B. DuBois. All voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

I. Mercier is working on handouts for the Warrant Articles pertaining to the Town Forest walking trails.

Chief Trott thanks the Select Board for holding the services on Veteran's Day at the Memorial site.

A. Scheller reports the service created a sense of community across many generations. He thanks the school for hosting breakfast for the veterans.

J. Reed inquires if it is possible to send assessment cards when sending out tax bills. The tax bills sent to not give a clear breakdown of the assessment that is used when calculating the total due.

N. Strapko states that there was a 33% increase in the tax rate.

A. Scheller reports that unfunded mandates have continued to increase, specifically with the school. The Town budget is relatively the same as it was in years prior. He reports that the tax rate is set as a function of revenues and expenditures, so both must be taken into consideration.

A. Scheller states that \$105000 has been given to WWAS alone for the past 4 years.

S. Kulenski states that many folks are on Social Security and simply cannot afford a 33% increase in tax rate.

K. Chandonnet inquires which mandates are unfunded.

R. Ducheneau states that there are 16 Special Ed students at WES. This requires astronomical costs for the services needed for the students. Many services are not offered locally, so students must travel to places such as Plymouth or Concord.

K. Chandonnet states that Medicaid will typically cover associated costs. She inquires whether the school is reimbursed.

B. DuBois states that, similar to the situation with FEMA, it can take time for reimbursements to be received.

A. Scheller states that we just began the final stages of a FEMA disaster from 2017.

J. Reed states he is a concerned citizen for many local people in town that will not be able to afford to pay. He hopes for a resolution.

S. Kulenski inquires if the 2024 Tax Rate will decrease.

N. Strapko states many are not using the services that are incorporated into their tax rate, so it is tough for them to pick up the brunt of these increases.

P. Chandonnet suggests using a different assessing company.

G. Fowler states that costs in general have gone up so unfortunately we should expect to see this across many different areas.

Chief Ames suggests more attend School Board meetings.

A. Scheller makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:20pm. Seconded by R. Ducheneau. All 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 11/14/2023

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 took a call for a burglar alarm activation at a local business in Wentworth early one morning. Follow up on the call determined that it was weather related and not a burglary.

Chief Trott took a report of a dog that had been struck on Rte#25 by a vehicle and the dog ran off into the woods. After checking the area, the dog was not located. Chief Trott checked with some residents in the area and no one reported their dog missing.

Chief Trott responded to what was first reported as a verbal domestic where a husband reported that after arguing with his soon to be ex-wife, she was now outside in a vehicle in the driveway with a lanyard around her neck trying to hang herself. Upon arrival Chief Trott contact the female who was inside the residence and advised that she had no idea why the police were called on her and her soon to be ex-husband was in another part of the state.

Chief Trott took a report of some young hunters shooting to close to a residence. Chief Trott was able to make contact with the hunters who took Chief Trott to the area where the shot was taken. In viewing the scene, it was determined that the distance was very close to the 300-foot requirement. No charges were filed and Chief Trott used the incident to educate the young hunter.

Chief Trott took another report of a neighbor shooting to close to another neighbor’s property. This has been an ongoing issue between the two neighbors. Chief Trott explained to the calling party that they are not in a compact zone as outlined in RSA 644:13, and Wentworth does not have any town ordinance restricting that activity, the other neighbor is within his right to do so as long as he does so safely.

Chief W. Trott
#1

Please note that this circumstance is different from the above call. The young people who were hunting were hunting on someone else's property so that rule falls under RSA 207:3-a.

Chief Trott and Sheriff Steigler assisted the Warren Police Department with a reported domestic that was reported as just verbal at first but becoming very heated. While responding units were advised that the male subject had left with a juvenile child without the mothers' permission and in the mothers' vehicle. Sheriff Steigler and Chief Trott stopped the vehicle on Rte#25 in Glenclyff and the subject was detained until the Warren Chief arrived on scene. After investigating the matter the vehicle and child was returned to the mother and the male subject was taken into custody on unrelated charges and later released.

Chief Trott returned some weapons and ammo that had been previously taken per a court order. A hearing was heard on the original matter and the court ordered that the weapons and ammo be returned to its owner.

Chief Trott took part in one of several safety meetings that will be held throughout the year at the Wenworth Elementary School.

Chief Trott also help organize and take part in a school wide field trip to a pumpkin patch owned by Gladstone Farms. The owners, Walter, and Margaret Gladstone, donated almost 100 pumpkins to the students and staff at the Wentworth Elementary School. Each student picked their own pumpkin which was carved and or decorated by that student during the week of Halloween. It was also an opportunity for the students to learn about pumpkin growing and some other facts about pumpkins which was shared by the staff at the WES.

The holiday season is upon us and with it comes an uptick in several areas of concerns ranging from domestic violence related calls for service, motor vehicle accidents, and vehicles off the road. Please plan accordingly and be prepared when going on a road trip whether it be short or long.

VETERANS DAY

Chief Trott
#2

(No Subject)

From: j&l redbones (jlredbones@yahoo.com)

To: jlredbones@yahoo.com

Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 01:16 PM EST

Calls for service

9/27 Tree and wires down rt 25a ,
10/9 MVA rt 25 assist Rumney at 25 and intersection of 118,
10/14 assist the ambulance with patient lift and carry,
10/20 assist Orford with technical rescue cancelled in route,
11/2 Assist Canaan Fire with a building fire,
11/4 Wentworth, Person trapped under a dump trailer. This was a fatal accident. Multiple Wentworth fire, ems and police on scene as well as Medical Examiner

Other,

We have had donations made to the Wentworth Firemans Fund

We had an individual come to the the chief with a check in the amount of 6 thousand dollars to be used for turn out gear, air packs etc. This person wanted no names used or recognition for the donation. This money is being put to use for Replacement air bottles for our air packs. as we have some that must be taken out of service. The bottles have a new cost of approx.1,200 per bottle. Some of our bottles can be used for 15 years and then fall into the end of life service category. That money has been used for that purpose and we will have some new bottles in place some time in December, this helps by not having to increase our budget next year for these items

A big thank you for this donation it helps so much. We received other donations as well and included our fundraising money that will be used for further bottle purchases. We have a total of twelve bottles that are reaching their end of life.

We received a nice gift of a coffee maker,coffee,hot coco, waters and packaged cookies that can be carried on our fire truck for those extended on scene uses thank you Cheryl and Walt greatly appreciated.

We have had various training's such as Rural water supply,Fire dynamics, along with extracation,vehicle/truck operation, and pump ops. Thank you to all those that support us and as always Stay Safe

Jeffry Ames
Chief Wentworth Fire Department

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