Call to Order:
Chairperson Currier called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Select Board Present: Morgan Currier, Omer C. Ahern, Jr., and Francis Muzzey

Staff/Officials Present: Administrative Assistant – Tanya Vela, Chief of Police – Wallace Trott, Treasurer – Deb Vlk, Outgoing Highway Road Agent - Kevin Gilbert, Incoming Highway Road Agent – Paul Manson

Public Present: Kay Bailey, Adam Patten, Marni Kozak, Janice Thompson

- Review of Agenda
  o O. Ahern suggested adding “Selectmen’s Issues” or “Selectmen’s Topics” at the end of the Agenda in order to cover any outstanding (minor) questions at the end of the meeting. Chair agreed and asked if O. Ahern had anything he’d like to address specifically at this time.

  o O. Ahern made a suggestion that if Department Head has a request in the future for the Board’s vote on something which requires spending, that he/she first submit a memorandum to the Board ahead of time with the proposal, the justification and the budget line item so that the Board has time to review it and be prepared to discuss the financial impact to the Town at the meeting.

  o M. Currier agreed and added that she thinks this should apply to all matters discussed during the meeting, stating that the more information the Board can receive prior to the meeting, the more efficient they can be in making a decision.

  o K. Gilbert asked why a Dept Head would need to consult with the Board prior to spending money from their budget.

  o F. Muzzey said it’s because they have to approve all spending.

  o K. Gilbert asked, “All spending? No matter how big or how small?”

  o F. Muzzey recalled that there was a set amount and anything below that amount did not require notifying the Board, especially in emergencies where you have to do something fast but couldn’t recall the exact amount. He asked if K. Gilbert knew the amount.
- **Highway Department.**
  - The Select Board introduced the new Highway Road Agent, Paul Manson, and asked if wanted to make any comments. P. Manson said he had only been on the job for two days and wanted to thank K. Gilbert for being very helpful. P. Manson's only input was to ask that the Town try their hardest to get fuel at the shed for off road equipment because there's a tank there that should be used. P. Manson added that for the last two days, he's observed the dept having to take the equipment out and drive it on the road five miles away for fuel, so by the time they return, they've already wasted up to 5 gallons of fuel.

  - F. Muzzey had two questions: 1. "How long has it been since the tank was last used?" 2. "Has it been so long that it's rusted inside?" K. Gilbert said, "I used it until Doug Campbell came in and at that time the Board told me no more using it." F. Muzzey asked the reason and K. Gilbert said they wanted to monitor what went into the trucks. In response, K. Gilbert told them, "Okay we'll go back to the State shed for the trucks, but for the backhoe and the roller, it would be nice to use it that" (the Town shed), "and they said 'no'."

  - F. Muzzey asked P. Manson's opinion on the matter. P. Manson said he's only been here two days, but when he talked to K. Gilbert about it, he said because the last Board "nixed" it. P. Manson said his next question for K. Gilbert was, "Are you using on-road fuel in the equipment?" K. Gilbert said, "Yes, the Town was using on-road fuel in everything. Foley Oil out of Laconia was supplying it for 41 cents/gallon cheaper than the State was selling it to us."

  - Resident Adam Patten commented, "It's easy to put a meter on the pump that tells you exactly how many gallons are used, so when you have the tank filled, you get a rough idea how many gallons are getting put in there by the sales sheet." K. Gilbert said it's not that easy to put a pump on and that it's also $600 for that pump and he was told not to spend any money by the previous Board. They said, "if it costs money, don't do it".
o M. Currier clarified, “So, it’s $600?” A. Patten added, “Yes and if you put the pump on it, then it’s easy to tell how the fuel’s expended and be able to monitor it.”

o F. Muzzey asked, “What do we need to measure it for?”

o P. Manson said the pump is used to measure how many gallons are being used. He also added that at every place where he’d worked, “they’ve had a pump at the shop and a pump at the job site and it doesn’t have to be electric either.”

o F. Muzzey asked if there is any reason to expect that any fuel could go missing and K. Gilbert said no because the pump is on a timer. M. Currier asked, “So, if you guys aren’t there, nobody can go in and have access because there’s a timer which means it’s controlled inside, which means the pump outside is off, right? So, you’re not having to worry about someone coming in after hours and taking fuel, right?” Both K. Gilbert and P. Manson agreed. Then there was a brief exchange regarding the need to change the locks for the shed.

o The Board and Highway Dept then discussed how much cheaper it would be for the Town to keep fuel at the Town Shed and obtain the fuel from Foley Oil.

o Chief Trott asked K. Gilbert how many times he thinks he’s filled up the tank in a year and said if the Town’s saving 40 cents/gallon and K. Gilbert buys 1500 gallons, then “that’s the cost of your pump.”

o **Motion.** M. Currier made a motion that the Town go back to the process of keeping fuel at the Town Shed. F. Muzzey seconded the motion. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

o **Motion.** Discussion continued about security at the Town Shed and O. Ahern made a motion that the Town change the locks at the shed. F. Muzzey seconded the motion. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

o Purchase of metering pump tabled for the moment. **No decision made.**

- **Update.** O. Ahern announced that in response to a request made at the last meeting, he made arrangements for him to go up to see the Dorchester Select Board on April 18th at 6:30 p.m. since they only meet twice a month, to discuss the maintenance of Fraser and Hurricane Roads and what their understanding is of the agreement made between the Road Agents of Dorchester and Wentworth for what roads or parts of the roads would be plowed by each town. P. Manson will attend as well.
Town Common Mail Delivery.

- Marni Kozak, a Wentworth resident who lives on the Town Common stated that she would like to have her mail delivered and would like to find out what the legal process is to go about that.

- M. Currier explained that the houses on the Common have to go to the post office to collect their mail because their mail is not delivered to their houses. M. Currier said that she learned many years ago, when the post office was determining rural versus city delivery, the Common did not fall under rural and did not warrant having mail delivery, which is why residents on the Common have to go to the post office.

- M. Currier informed M. Kozak that the Town can do nothing about it, so it hasn’t gotten changed. M. Kozak will need to talk to Mike Quinn, the Postmaster in Rumney, adding that Wentworth, Warren, and Glen Cliff are remotely managed post offices.

- M. Kozak said that M. Quinn had sent her a certified letter and closed her PO box, so she had to call the Head of the postal system for the United States in Washington, D.C. to get it straightened out and that the Postmasters from both Plymouth and Holderness had to step in to fix what M. Quinn did because what he had done was illegal. She added that M. Quinn had returned her husband’s 1099 forms, which is against the law. M. Kozak said there have been a lot of issues with M. Quinn and she has reported him, so she will not go to him about anything and that M. Quinn says, “it’s on the Town.”

- M. Currier said it is not the Town’s responsibility and advised M. Kozak to go to the next level, which is to fill out and file a PS-4027 postal form with all the names of all the Heads of Households who are petitioning to have their mail delivered, including their distance from the post office and the number of pieces of mail received daily.

- M. Kozak said that M. Quinn clearly stated that the Town is the reason mail is not delivered and “when we inquired with prior Boards, they said that that side is on the State side of the road, which is no longer the State side of the road, and then they said it was because of plowing, but everybody in Northern America has a mailbox and gets plowed, except the Common here.”

- M. Currier said that what she is being told is that it has nothing to do with that but that it has to do with the number of people who were living there and has spoken with someone who works within the postal system (unnamed). M. Currier said she will ask for their permission so M. Kozak can get in touch with them. The bottom line is that M. Currier was advised to point M. Kozak to M. Quinn.
M. Kozak said M. Quinn has been reported to Consumer Affairs of the U.S. Government. M. Currier said she understands and suggests that M. Kozak take it to the next level then.

M. Kozak then asked if she could get in writing from the Board that they are stating it is absolutely not the call of the Town of Wentworth or the Select Board that mail cannot be delivered. M. Currier reiterated that it is her understanding that it is not the Board’s call and cannot do the legwork for her.

O. Ahern said, “I could not vote for that because I don’t know. To me, this is a brand-new issue. I need to research this if I’m going to be able to try to help you with that.”

M. Kozak said they would just like their mail delivered. Everybody in the Town gets their mail delivered, even in the most remote sections.

M. Currier said that doesn’t work with all towns.

O. Ahern assured M. Kozak that although he lives across the street at 789 Mt. Moosilauke Hwy, the post office will not deliver mail to his house - he needs to have a postal box to receive mail. O. Ahern reminded M. Kozak that the Towns only have the authority that the State Legislature gives them.

M. Kozak said, “Well, that’s what we’re trying to figure out. Legally, does the Town have the right to say, ‘Yes, this road can have their mail delivered or no, this road can’t.’ ‘Is that a Town call, is it a State call or is that a Federal call?’

M. Currier said, “It sounds like it’s a least State level, if not Federal.”

M. Kozak: “Okay so the State’s claiming they have absolutely no jurisdiction.”

F. Muzzey: “USPS is a self-governed body, to the best of my knowledge.”

M. Kozak: “It’s Federal.”

F. Muzzey: “We have absolutely no control over it. I heard you say something about 1099s?”

M. Kozak: “My 1099 was ‘returned to sender’.”

F. Muzzey: “I’ve heard first-hand that at least two people did not receive 1099s from the Rumney Post Office and they never were sent back.”

M. Kozak: “Well, we traced it back and it actually got re-routed from a bigger post office with a letter send to this Postmaster, which said, ‘This is a Federal document. You must deliver it.’ and we didn’t get the 1099 until the middle of
March and it was mailed on January 5th. This is not the first time Mike Quinn has done this to us or to the other people in the Common.”

- M. Currier: “So that is a completely different issue.”

- M. Kozak: “He was reported to Consumer Affairs, which is what brought me here to get my mail delivered so I don’t have to go to the post office and deal with Mike Quinn.”

- F. Muzzey: “If I wanted to get something, I think my next avenue, working up the line would probably be to head to Concord.”

- M. Kozak: “That’s just not a feasible option that I go to Concord to deal with mail issues. So, what can the Town do that I can take to the State or Federal government saying it’s not on them?”

- M. Currier: “Nothing. You need to reach out to them and find out what your next course of action is.”

- M. Kozak: “They say it’s on the Town. The Town says it’s on the State. The State says it’s on the Federal Government. I go around in circles for ten years now. Nobody can give me an answer, so I’m here to get a legal answer.”

- J. Thompson: “Suggestion for her. Try calling some of your Representatives. They can probably intervene for you – whoever the governor’s counselor is.”

- Many people voiced their opinions at this point, so the Administrative Assistant (AA) spoke up asking that only one person speak at a time because she was trying to take notes and it was very difficult.

- M. Currier: “Chief, do you have something?”

- Chief Trott: “Let me help out here. Let me help you, Marni, okay?

- M. Kozak: “Please, somebody just tell me why I can’t get my mail delivered.”

- Chief Trott: “First, for the purpose of clarification, I’ve worked for the U.S. Postal Service. It is a Federal agency. The Town, the County and the State have no jurisdiction over where post office boxes are supposed to be designated or mailboxes. That’s Federal. Now, the Wentworth, Rumney, and Warren Post Offices answer to someone in Manchester. I know that because I just had a situation that I dealt with. I have a name and phone number and I will go in my office and get it for you. That’s the person you’re going to want to talk to.”

- M. Kozak: “Thank you. Okay.”
Chief Trott: “No disrespect to the Board, but they have really no control over any of this.”

M. Kozak: “I understand that but when the post office is telling me it’s the Town saying they can’t put mailboxes up because of the plow trucks, it makes no sense to me. Then, I have to come to the Town and then the Town’s saying it’s not them and then when you call the State, they say it’s the Town and the Town says it’s not us. Then you call the post office and the post office says no, it’s the Town and I can’t get an answer from anybody on what to do about this problem.”

M. Currier: “So, the PS-4027 form is supposedly a petition form that you guys can put up, which would then petition to do the cluster boxes in front of the post office.”

M. Kozak: “That’s not really solving my issue. So, the bottom line is, can I somehow get in writing that the Town is not responsible or can’t make the decision.”

M. Currier: “I recommend Chief’s contact, that he’s going to get you, because I don’t think the Town will write you anything because none of us are comfortable with the process well enough. I would skip the post office and talk to Chief’s contact in Manchester.”

M. Kozak: “Okay, I will visit that and revisit this if that doesn’t work because now, I’m on at least 10-12 years of dealing with this problem.”

J. Thompson: “I agree when she says we have trouble with the post office. It’s terrible.”

The matter was concluded at that point.

Payroll and Accounts Payable. M. Currier stated that the former AA took care of processing payroll and accounts payable and when she left, the Treasurer (D. Vlk) took over. When the Town hired Warren’s Town Administrator (Austin Albro) to help out in the Select Board office, he informed the Town that Warren hires an outside company to do all of their payroll processing and accounts payable. The Board hired T. Vela to work 32 hours instead of 40 hours, so they need to discuss their expectations for whom will be taking care of payroll and accounts payable because D. Vlk cannot continue to do it.

M. Currier asked D. Vlk to share her thoughts and to explain how long it takes her to process all the payments.

D. Vlk informed the Board that it takes her about 3-4 hours/week to do payroll and another 2-3 hours/week to do accounts payable, for a total of 8-9 hours every week. Accounts Payable is done every week and Payroll is done every two weeks.
There are also additional tasks that need to be met which include balancing the books and meeting certain IRS requirements due to them at the end of the month.

- F. Muzzey asked, “If we go to somebody else to do it on a temporary basis, what kind of a hassle is it going to be if we want to start doing it again? Because we have to keep this information in our system as well.”

- D. Vlk agreed that it would be issue because the Town needs to keep the information in their QuickBooks (computer program) if the Town wants to look at its budgets correctly. If the Town hires an outside person/company, we will need to know whether or not that information can be put back into our system in order to keep the Town up to date.

- A discussion followed about possible options for who could do the job since it is not the Treasurer’s responsibility and the AA only works 32 hours a week and has too much on her plate.

- D. Vlk voiced an additional concern about an upcoming 3-week trip she is scheduled to take at the end of May through the middle of June because someone will have to do payroll and vendor payments in her absence.

- T. Vela made a note of the dates and said she will reassess whether it’s feasible for her to take on that additional responsibility. She said she wants to be realistic and not take on too much and have the Town suffer as a result.

- F. Muzzey asked D. Vlk how much longer she was willing to keep doing the job. D. Vlk said that since the elections are over, she can do it for a little while longer. She explained that it took her at least 8 or 9 hours just to put everything in order regarding quarterly payroll output, the payroll of all the election people, insurance stipends, plus increases in pay.

- O. Ahern noted that on pages 18-21 and thereafter of the Personnel Policy Employee Handbook, dated 2014, it talks about the services provided by the Town of Wentworth, such as Payroll, but doesn’t mention any particular office. He said it’s probably best to think about identifying someone in this policy (as long as the Town doesn’t already have a written policy on that) so that these things don’t fall through the cracks again. O. Ahern added that he appreciates the Treasurer taking on that additional duty and the new AA trying to see what she can do.

- The Board decided to table the subject for further discussion. Keeping in mind D. Vlk’s timeline and her advice to keep this duty in-house, the Board decided to readdress the issue at a later time.
• **Status of Monument Removal.** M. Currier said Ray Youngs had spoken to Nate Miles who had expressed interest in taking the monument at last year’s meeting. N. Miles said he is still interested and will retrieve it once it’s less muddy out.

**Timber Tax.** Adam Patten addressed the Board about his concerns regarding his Timber Tax. He specifically questioned the grading scale used for his Timber Tax and informed the Board that the Forester he had used “just marked down average across the board on the grading scale and he didn’t take into consideration the quality of the wood.” He added, “I have almost $25,000 in the roads to get to my property and on the grading scale of 1 to 3, he did an average on all of it, and one of the grades is for access to the lot.” A. Patten asked the Board who he needed to contact about it and if it’s Jordan King, he asked if J. King should walk the lot and give his opinion.

• M. Currier asked: “So, your concern is more with how the logger actually graded, not how the Town necessarily processed the paperwork? Am I getting that correct?”

• A. Patten: “I got on from my last tax bill from turning in the Report of Cut and it ended up being $6,000 something that I owe him. We finished the first half of my lot. We reported the wood that we cut. So, I filled that and turned it into the Town, and I had asked Deb Ziemba what I should do about taking off the road costs or trying to get that percentage down on the 1 to 3 rating scheme. I don’t necessarily want it to be down to 1, which is poor quality – maybe 1 on the road access and maybe a 1.5 on the rest of them, but I don’t want to pay average taxes on the land where the junk wood, see ground-in areas.”

• F. Muzzey: “What was the total value of your yield?”

• A. Patten: “The stumpage, right? I believe it was – before the road costs – it was $72,000.”

• F. Muzzey: “Was your bill from the Town greater than $7200?”

• A. Patten: “Yes. I believe so. We’ll have to look that up.”

• F. Muzzey: “I’ll tell you why I ask these questions this way. You said 72,000, so 10%, which is – in my mind – a fair assessment for timber tax purposes.”

• A. Patten: “Right, and a lot of towns go by 10% and that’s it.”

• F. Muzzey: “Okay, that’s why I asked you if it was greater than 7200, because that’s 10%. I do not believe that your making up roads onto the property and the fact that it costs you money to do so, should be taken into consideration on a timber harvest. It is to be taken into consideration on Current Use.”

• A. Patten: “That’s what it is. It’s Current Use property.”
F. Muzzey: “Okay, so supposedly the back 100 acres is far less than the front 50 and because you get a break that way in the Current Use. You wouldn’t be getting a break in the timber harvest because when you go to the sawmill, they don’t know whether it came from the front part of the property or the back part of the property.”

A. Patten: “Well, there’s still a grading sheet on the Report of Cut for the timber.”

F. Muzzey: “We have no experience, per se.”

M. Currier: “So, bottom line is, we are meeting with Rick Evans (Head of DRA), because we’re not knowledgeable enough on the process, so we need to educate ourselves and then we can revisit some of these that have been done - to look at - if they need to be redone.”

AA: “I reached out to him today and we’re either going to set it up for the end of this week or the beginning of next week.”

M. Currier: “So, our thought is that we would give ourselves time to research, meet with Rick and then go from there, but at this point, we don’t have a good enough answer just because we don’t know enough about the process. Does that make sense?”

A. Patten: “And I talked to J. King, the Town Forester, and he said he gave me the link in an email to the tax abatement form for Timber Tax, so he said that’s one step, but he said just to be nice, go talk to the Selectmen and see what they want to do. The only thing I was trying to figure out is Don Lindsor, the Forester - the Logger that I hired - he filled out “average” and the form says right on the bottom, it can be landowner or forester that fills this out and primarily they use the forester because he knows what to fill out, but I turned in a form that I believe fits it and there’s Don’s as the Forester. So, I have all sheets when we meet with Rick if he wants to take a look at it.”

M. Currier: “Anything you can give us documentation-wise would be helpful.”

AA: “Is there any time-sensitive thing where you have to pay a tax?”

A. Patten: “No, I turned in my Report of Cut by the 31st, which is mandatory, so you guys have that. So, I’m released of my obligation – temporarily. The other thing is on that Report of Cut, there are exemptions on what you have to pay taxes on. The logger never took it into consideration that I’m putting in 20 acres of farm fields for the cows and I am putting a barn up eventually, but I’ve already started work on the farm fields.”

M. Currier: “So, for your situation, because you have that, you may end up having to do an abatement application on that b/c it’s not just the Town’s portion in the grading, it’s those exemptions that weren’t included. I don’t know 100%. We’d have to look into that but you may have to do an abatement on that.”

D. Vlk: “Is your land in Current Use?”
• A. Patten: “Yes.”

• D. Vlk: “Okay, you’re going to have to reclassify those portions and that will also change your taxes on that too.”

• M. Currier: “And that will come through us and then we’ll send it to Avitar as well.”

• F. Muzzey: “You said you’ve done your application for a harvest. You’ve completed the harvest and gave the yield. Have you gotten a bill on that yield?”

• A. Patten: “Yes, I have.”

• F. Muzzey: “And I’m saying to you that if it’s a lot more than 10%, then you have reason to question further.”

• M. Currier: “We’ll continue to look into it.”

• O. Ahern asked A. Patten if he had been in touch with the County Forester in N. Haverhill and A. Patten said he had not. O. Ahern clarified with A. Patten that John Windsor (Forester) had helped him with this matter and A. Patten said yes. O. Ahern said he would take a look at the timber cut paperwork in the Select Board office and asked A. Patten if he was a member of the NH Timberland Association and A. Patten said yes. O. Ahern asked A. Patten if he had talked to a “Jason down there?” and A. Patten said he had not and confirmed that he was a logger.

• O. Ahern asked, “When did you get the bill?”

• D Vlk: “It’s for 2017.”

• F. Muzzey: “It’s a 2-year old bill?”

• A. Patten: “Well, it was turned in 2018.”

• F. Muzzey: “When is the payment due?”

• D. Vlk: “He already paid it. It’s the first one.”

• F. Muzzey: “You already paid it. So, you’re contesting the amount that you should have paid. You’d like a rebate on.”

• A. Patten: “No. I’m not even worried about that, but I want to have that bill reflected on – I just don’t want to pay the high tax rate.”

• M. Currier: “You want to make sure that it’s being done correctly for his next cut.”
• D. Vlk: “Yes. He’s talked about two cuts.”

• F. Muzzey: “The reason I ask is because if you don’t make the bill on time, it puts us in a hard bill.”

• M. Currier: “Not the case. So, let us have our meeting with Rick and then if you give your contact information to Tanya then we will definitely be in contact with you. Fair enough?”

• O. Ahern: “I wish we had a better answer for you at this point in time.”

• A. Patten: “It’s okay.”

• M. Currier: “But we will work on it.

• The Chair asked if there were any other issues from the floor before the Board went into a non-public setting and informed everyone that there wouldn’t be any public issue following the non-public meetings. No one had any further issues.

• Motion. M. Currier made a motion to go into a non-public meeting per 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 the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. F. Muzzey seconded the motion. All voted yes. Motion carried.

• Public session reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

• Motion made by M. Currier to seal minutes of nonpublic session #1 because it is determined that divulgence of this information would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this Board, seconded by O. Ahern. All vote yes. Motion passed.

• Motion. M. Currier made a motion to go into a non-public meeting per 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 the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. O. Ahern seconded the motion. All voted yes. Motion carried.

• Public session reconvened at 8:19 p.m.

• Motion to Adjourn. O. Ahern motioned to adjourn. M. Currier seconded the motion. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by:
Tanya Vela
Administrative Assistant to the Select Board

Chairperson, Morgan Currier  Board Member, Francis Muzzey  Board Member, Omer C. Ahern, Jr.