

**Wentworth Select Board
Working Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2019**

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

6:00 p.m. – Chairperson called meeting to order.

Administrative Matters.

- Select Board reviewed Meeting Minutes and other paperwork.
- Board Member, Francis Muzzey discussed some questions he had about checks with the Town Treasurer, Deb Vlk.

Transfer Station.

- Randy Rugar will be bringing in ideas for Transfer Station stickers next week.

Highway Department. Highway Road Agent (Paul Manson) gave brief report on status of roads.

- P. Manson said there are a lot of issues and he has received a lot of calls regarding issues, but he cannot fix everything in a year and that “every corner I turn and every door I open is like a bomb going off in my face”. He’s been putting in a lot of hours dealing with nonstop problems, but will not give up.
- F. Muzzey suggested getting a second opinion on repairing the Ford F-550. A resident asked what happened and the Chair explained that it was damaged and added that the issue with the truck would be discussed in depth later on in the meeting.
- P. Manson informed the Board that one of the main problems in town is that the gravel roads don’t have crowns on them (the side of the road is higher than the edges) and if they do, there are very few, and that this is one of the reasons we have bad mud seasons. He said that understandably some of the gravel gets pushed off in the winter but that some of the roads are concave in the middle. This issue requires the roads to be fixed the right way, which will take time. A discussion ensued about specific roads that had this problem and what the Highway Dept has done to mitigate the issue.

Conservation Committee.

- **Motion.** F. Muzzey made a motion to accept Ricky and Richard as Conservation Commission Board Members. M. Currier seconded the motion. Board Member, Omer Ahern called the question and all voted yes. **Motion carried.**
- **Motion.** M. Currier made a motion to accept Bruce Welch for the last Board Member position on the Conservation Commission. F. Muzzey seconded it and all voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Library.

- Sharon Sanborn informed the Board that when the insurance inspection comes up, to please include the library. The Chair said yes.
- Sharon then discussed with the Board the library's recommendation that Jared King fill the open position for Trustee position of the library.
- **Motion.** M. Currier made a motion to accept the recommendation of appointing Jared King as the third Trustee of the Library. O. Ahern seconded the motion and all voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Planning Board.

- M. Currier informed everyone that Palmer Koelb agreed to fill one of the Planning Board positions and thanked him. Ray Welch also agreed to fill the last Planning Board position if the Select Board agrees to accept him.
- **Motion.** F. Muzzey made a motion to accept Ray Welch as a member of the Planning Board until the next election. M. Currier seconded the motion. Omer Ahern called the question. All voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Administrative Assistant.

- Tanya Vela announced that in light of the concerns that some residents expressed during previous meetings, she and the Select Board met with Rick Evans (Dept of Revenue Administration) for about two hours on Thursday, April 11th and went over the Intent to Cut and Report of Cut forms and requirements. T. Vela informed everyone that they had barely scratched the surface but had learned a great deal and plan to have more meetings.
- T. Vela also informed the Board that she has been dealing with a lot of residual issues regarding Pine Haven Campground and some people being erroneously charged property tax, so she is still unraveling that issue and slowly fixing that issue.
- F. Muzzey addressed one of the issues regarding timber harvesting that is almost or in excess of two years old and that the Board would be setting a precedent if we were to consider so long after the 90-day period that it has been, so F. Muzzey would like to make a motion that not reconsider Josh Leiter's request on the basis of the 90-day period.
- T. Vela asked if she could make a comment and the Chair said yes. T. Vela said that the Board had made a commitment to spend some time – at least a month – to research the situation and thinks this doesn't necessarily set a precedence because the Board is not making a decision. She suggested that the issue be given due process out of fairness to that resident to ensure that he did not, in fact, as he has stated several times, come in to the Town about a month after he received the bill, which would have been within the 90 days. T. Vela feels that the issue merits some digging in to find out whether there was some record of that. M. Currier added that there had been two situations of this too.

- F. Muzzey said he spoke to Rick Evans about the 90-day period and that R. Evans said they would be setting a precedent if the Board reconsidered it because J. Leiter never followed up on the issue, nor filed for an abatement. F. Muzzey said that he agreed to look into the issue with the other resident since it was still within the 90 days.
- **Motion.** F. Muzzey motioned that the Board not reconsider his request for an abatement based on the fact that it was too far beyond the 90 days. A discussion ensued.
- M. Currier stated that she understands the precedent but would like to do some more research/investigating because things were not handled correctly in the office and that proper information was not provided. She would like a little more time to look into it before seconding the motion.
- O. Ahern said keeping in mind the comments of the Town Administrative Assistant and his understanding of the discussion that the Board had on this particular matter to get back to J. Leiter by 14 May, thinks that he would like to do a little more due diligence. M. Currier agreed and F. Muzzey said he was okay with it.
- The Board then discussed the other situation regarding Timber Tax involving Adam Patten who initially came in on March 26th and will come back in if he wants to discuss the more recent bill sent out on April 11th. M. Currier said that because there are two similar situations regarding procedures of the office and things not being done correctly, she feels that more research needs to be done.

Public Comments.

- Dan Bowne, owner of Rumtown Speedway, came in to request approval for a special event planned for June 23rd. After a brief discussion the Board said they had no issues. D. Bowne offered to type up a proposal for Pine Haven Campground (abutter) to sign off on and bring it in at the next meeting. The Board accepted his offer and thanked him.
- Corey Cormiea came in with two questions/concerns for the Select Board: one regarding the Form PA-26 “Inventory of Taxable Property” and Avitar’s assessing role and the other regarding maintenance of Vlk Mountain Road. The Board informed C. Cormiea that Avitar conducts an assessment of the Town every five years and assesses individual properties every April if a resident makes any changes or improvements. With regard to the maintenance of Vlk Mtn Rd, P. Manson said he believes the road would first need to meet State Specifications first before the Town can maintain it. Further discussion ensued about what a previous Board had informed C. Cormiea regarding the need for there to be a minimum of four houses on the road in order for the Town to maintain it and C. Cormiea said she would go back and look through the posted Minutes from that meeting at the end of 2018. The Board thanked C. Cormiea for coming in.

Old Business.

- The Board discussed some of the older/outstanding business matters, such as the internet upgrade, cyber security, visit to correctional facility, mutual agreement with the Town of Dorchester for maintenance of Fraser and Hurricane Roads and who would handle which matters.

Internet Update.

- T. Vela informed the Board that she had spent about an hour on the phone with Spectrum (formerly Time Warner and Adelphi) and said it took about 40 minutes before she was able to get access to the Town's account. In response to a question by the Library from a previous Select Board meeting about who was paying their bill, T. Vela said that the Town pays the bill for the Fire Dept, the Highway Dept and the Town and learned that the library was receiving free internet courtesy of Time Warner Cable who provides free internet to libraries.
- If the library upgrades the internet with Spectrum, the library will no longer receive free internet as Spectrum doesn't offer the same benefit. The offer is residual from when the account was first set up with Time Warner.
- T. Vela said that she made the call to Spectrum originally since the Board had voted to provide Wi-Fi at the Highway Shed for safety reasons and would like to propose that the Town upgrade their system. She explained that Spectrum informed her that the lowest bandwidth that Spectrum offers today is still three times faster than what the Town currently has because the Town opened the account so long ago. Essentially the Town would pay half of what it's currently paying to upgrade to the lowest bandwidth Spectrum offers. So, T. Vela proposes that the Town look into upgrading our entire network because everything is operating so slowly and we could be paying less to have a faster system. Additionally, the Town as a municipality would qualify for a special discount.
- T. Vela stated that in the interim and in order to resolve the Highway Shed's lack of Wi-Fi, as suggested by the Spectrum Representative, the Road Agent could purchase a special type of device at a place like Wal-Mart, which wouldn't cost much, in order to obtain Wi-Fi right away while the Town looks into upgrading its system.
- T. Vela reviewed what the Town is currently paying for: three phone lines in the Town office, the Fire Dept and the Highway Garage.
- M. Currier said she thinks it makes sense to get numbers as to how much the upgrade would actually be and thanked the Administrative Assistant. O. Ahern agreed. T. Vela asked if the Board wanted to decide on the modem/router for the Highway Dept to get so as not to leave him hanging, but P. Manson said he may have an old one that he can use.

Highway Dept (cont'd): Status of Ford F-550 Truck.

- P. Manson briefed the Board on what happened when he took the F-550 to Ford.

- Estimate to fix it is \$19,700 and to expect a bill of at least 20% higher than that because you never know what they'll find once "they get into it".
- Estimate does not include a new dump body, a new sub-frame for that truck and one should also take into consideration that the truck is only 4 years old with only 60,000 miles on it and the frame is broken in three separate spots and twisted. P. Manson said he could get the frame welded but that the integrity of the seal was rusted per the Service Technician.
- Town is looking at a cost of \$30,000+ to repair the structure.
- Resident inquired as to what happened to the vehicle and said that since there was insurance on the truck, one impact should've been covered.
- P. Manson was not the Road Agent when it happened so a discussion took place about what should've happened and the current state of affairs, as a result. There was also a discussion about what, if anything, could be salvaged from the truck, the time it would take to repair it, the need for a truck and the pros and cons of repairing it.
- Discussion ensued about leasing a truck vs buying a truck and the restrictions the Town would face if they leased a truck, namely that the Town would not be eligible for the Ford rebate if the truck is leased, which would increase the price by \$5000, plus another \$7,000 cost for the body. The Board also reviewed the Town's Purchasing Policy and whether the Highway Block Grant could be used and other options for obtaining another usable truck.

Frescoln Road Bridge and Cross Road Bridge. The Board read over the attachments sent by Chris Fournier of HEB Engineers, Inc. in his email to the Board this morning summarizing the meeting he had with the Board on August 19, 2019 and the discussion of the timeline, cost, and budget, including the Capital Reserve Expendable Fund regarding both projects – Frescoln Road Bridge and Cross Road Bridge.

- **Motion.** O. Ahern made a motion that the Board go into a nonpublic 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 the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to 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. M. Currier seconded the motion and all voted Yes. **Motion carried.**
- **The Board came out of nonpublic at 9:01 p.m.**
- **Motion.** O. Ahern made a motion that the Board honor the agreement made to the Town Administrative Assistant, that at her request, we do the buyout request of 'payment in lieu' that is presently in place for the Town of Wentworth since she does not want the Town's health and medical insurance. M. Currier seconded the motion and voted yes. O.

Ahern voted yes and F. Muzzey abstained on the preference of respect for Tanya. **Motion carried.**

- **Motion to Adjourn.** O. Ahern motioned to adjourn. M. Currier seconded the motion and all voted Yes. **Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:
Tanya Vela
Administrative Assistant to the Select Board

Chairperson, Morgan Currier

Board Member, Omer C. Ahern, Jr.

Board Member, Francis Muzzey