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 accept 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. O.Ahern 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. Quorum voted yes and the meeting was adjourned at 6:22pm

Respectfully submitted by:
Linda Franz, Administrative Assistant

Arnold Scheller  Omer C. Ahern, Jr.  Jordan King
Chairperson  Board Member  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 cannot not be doing business outside of meetings.
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.