June 8, 2020

STATEMENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH NH RSA 91-A:3

The Select Board Meeting Minutes posted herein are the original notes and drafts as prepared by the Administrative Assistant or other administrative personnel employed at the time. Some of these notes and drafts have been reviewed by Select Board members in attendance at the meetings. These Select Board members made their own notes and suggestions primarily pertaining to technical and formatting issues which are now part of these minutes. The current and previous Select Boards take no accountability for any inaccuracies, omissions, formats or completeness of these minutes.
Minutes of Wentworth Select board Meeting  
(Minutes Taken By Martha Trott)  
May 21, 2019

In Attendance: Omer Ahern, Jr.  
Francis Muzzey  
Chief Wallace Trott  
Road Agent-Paul Manson (R/A)  
Kay Bailey and her mother  
Palmer Koelb  
Amy Collette

Called to Order: 6:15 P.M.
1. Pledge of Allegiance  
2. Minutes of previous minutes approved

Reports of Town Officials:  
a) Police Department: Chief Trott reported that rumors were not true that there was a murder/suicide in Wentworth. However, tragically there was a suicide. Due to a computer issue he was unable to share any further police activity, but, stated that he would at the next meeting.

New Business:  
Omer read a notice of intent to cut – stated that it needs to be signed at next meeting since dates don’t match, further review needs to done.

Road Agent – No real bad news – He stated that unfortunately he did “not” pass his driving test today stating that he failed, but, stated that he would retaking it again within the next two weeks.

Road Agent addressed email sent out by Omer regarding not replacing any ones mailboxes – Agent said it is to late some are already done - 6 more or so in town still need to be replaced - Road Agent stated that he feels it is the town’s responsibility if they were taken out by winter plow truck.

Omer stated that his e-mail was not preventing that from being done; he was trying to make sure that what was being replaced was our fault. Road Agent stated that was not what his e-mail said and he would be happy to show it to him. Omer stated that he would like to see it later. Road Agent stated that he should have mailboxes and posts on hand for matters such as this.

Road Agent stated that resident Mr. Snell wants an 8’, 4x4 post from the town and he will then do the rest. Does any one have a problem with him buying posts from Tractor Supply?
Motion made to replace mail boxes by Omer – 2nd by Muzzey. Motion Carried.

Road Agent stated that there was a sink hole near a culvert and that there were 6 culverts in need of replacement. Road Agent asked for permission to purchase 6 culverts some 30 feet long and asked if he could do so out of his material line item because he does not have a line item for culverts.

Road Agent has 3 estimates for several culverts 18” in diameter at approximately $11.00 a foot.

Omer – If a department head wants an expenditure, then it must be submitted in writing for review, not just sprung on them in a meeting.

Road Agent stated that approximately 6 culverts needed replacing on Turner Road, Atwell Hill Road, Rowen Town Rd, and some others,

Chief Trott asked if that was a line item and it was determined that it was not.

Road Agent stated that was why he was asking for the monies out of the materials line item, because he did not know where to take it from.

Omer: Do you want/need this?

Muzzey – Can we make this a line item for next year?

Palmer – Town requested that any expenditures over $500 be put up for approval by Select Board.

Muzzey – Are these delivered prices?

Road Agent – Yes, and, I would like to do business with Core&Main, I have done business with them before and they produce good products.

Muzzey – Warrant article are authority to spend and tell where money is coming from but does not require to be spent in intended line item if there is good reason to do different.

Omer – Again I think it is not very fair to ask us for permission to spend money if we do not have advance notice. We need to have it in writing for review.

Road Agent – If you want this to be in advance it is not possible. I am doing more than I should be as it is, I don’t know what you expect of me. I can hand in my resignation right now if you want, it doesn’t matter to me, there are 1500 other jobs out there right now that I can pick from.
Road Agent - I don't know how you expect me to make chicken soup out of chicken (expletive).

Omer - I object to your language in this venue and I think you owe these fine people in attendance an apology, and, I feel that some of this conversation should be done in private session.

Kay - Thank you, I am not comfortable with this language and I am not comfortable with the conversation; it is an employee matter and should be in non-public.

Road Agent - I do not mind talking about this here in front of everyone.

Omer and Muzzey- Chief Trotttttttt?

Chief - The Road Agent opened this up in a public meeting, he’s the employee. So it’s up to the board.

Road Agent - I have an obligation to the town I realize that. I apologize to people present for my language and for getting hot. I could spend $5000.00 on culverts. It’s hard to help if I keep getting backlash.

Muzzey - Bring in estimates next week. What you need, how many culverts you need, length, and price per foot.

Omer - If you have it in your budget then order it. If it’s over your budget, we need to approve.

Road Agent - I do not have a line item for this. This is why I am asking. Where is money for the culverts coming from? What line item does it come out of?

Muzzey - It is not a line item in this year’s budget. Plan to put a line item in next year for this. We can not exceed your budget. You can move around items to match your need.

Chief Trotttt - Clarified what was being asked by the Road Agent and stated that this is getting a little heated and off track.

Kay - $500.00 spending cap 2016, 2017, 2018. In 2017 equipment was ordered and was canceled due to being over the 500.00 dollar mark.

Road Agent- Ok, I have no problem with this. Let me buy $5000 worth of culverts, mix of footage. We will save a lot. Might be 6 dollars a foot.

Muzzey - Stick with 6 culverts. Work on more next year.
Kay- We have a purchase policy that needs to be followed by both of these guys (Referring to Chief Trott and Road Agent stating that they are not residents).

Road Agent: Won’t use same vendor on all the culverts. Only one vendor will sell 30 footers. Have to go with 28 footers to ‘bell’ together. I will not be here next week – daughter has sports award at 5:30 – will be here during the day only.

Muzzey – Forward us a memo – 6 culverts, how much and from whom.

Omer- You need to present this in writing to us per the purchase policy.

Road Agent - Subject change. Road Agent stated that he still needs wi-fi so he could scan and send to you. Will be time and cost effective.

Omer – Town of Wentworth Purchase Policy - Purchase not in approved annual budget, must be presented in writing and approved. If it is in your budget and under a certain amount you can go ahead and order it.

Chief-Yes, that is the policy, up to a certain amount.

Omer – Read from the written purchase policy – “for purchases over $1001.00 must have bids and written request.”

Asked for 3 copies of the policy be made and to be given to all select board, Chief Trott copied and gave to board members.

Muzzey – Offered to help Road Agent with writing down bids and other items and doing the math.

Road Agent - Will have everything by next week.

Omer: A person in Town asked if and when the highway department is working on Town roads that they put up signs warning people of the work they are doing.

Road Agent – Again stated that the Wi-fi needs to be changed – He stated that it was asked for 6 or 7 weeks ago now. He stated that he doesn’t think that Tanya has done anything towards getting this done.

Omer- The new administrative assistant is doing her best and is trying to get to these matters as best she can but she has a full plate.

Road Agent - Well I find that hard to believe, it’s been 6 or 7 weeks, I mean how much of a job is this really, a phone call?

Road Agent – And then there’s the town policy for health insurance. – 60 days from hire, I was told I will have it June 1st. I was told that there would be no
‘waiting’, I was promised vacation time, and other things at my interview. Now, I am waiting. Chief was there. I don’t want to put him on the spot, but Morgan was there as well. She should know, but who knows what she will say now. The bottom line is I am not getting things that I was promised.

**Omer**- That was not this board. I can’t comment on those matters.

**Road Agent** - Well since you brought it up, I have discussed my two raises with this board, how long ago now? And I still have not heard anything about that either.

**Kay** – Stated that the employee policy should have been reviewed. She stated that he should not be getting these things if there is a policy. Also stated once again that this should probably be discussed in a non-public and that this should not be in a public meeting again stating that she was not comfortable with this.

**Omer moves to go to last item on agenda**

**Amy Colette** – Has been in town for about 2 months. No blood root plants in park, she would like to take blood root from own garden to put in Riverside Park and see if it will grow. Wants to transplant daffodils and Trout lilies to Riverside Park. Wants to donate them. Wants to also put some in and around the Cemetery.

**Muzzey** – Wants clarification as to where Colette’s house is and what cemetery she is talking about. Does not want to step on cemetery commission toes.

**Omer** – Is worried about invasive species - we need to make sure what is being planted on town property.

**Colette** – Will plant only native species.

**Omer** – Check with owners of cemetery.

**Muzzey** – We own Riverside & Hamilton Park.

**Kay** – At least she was nice enough to ask.

**Collette** – I will email Department of Ag. For permission

**Palmer:** Riverside park – Referred to a flood a few years ago Town had access to $80,000 for fixing park after flood and the Town did not use it. We are now losing the park. We are going to lose park completely if nothing is done. We have had incompetent select board members for years now and have paid a price for it.

**Road Agent** – Speaking of the town, what about the town gravel pit – we can apply for a permit to get gravel from the river, there’s lots of gravel there for free.
Palmer: That was another screw up by an incompetent select board. We have Steve Davis to thank for that on top of the money we did not get for the park. *There was much debate over the gravel that the owner has but can’t get to.*

**Omer** – Member of Baker River association – We still have to go to DES – Chairman works in Warren.

**Chief talking for Randy Ruger** – On another note/subject the transfer station had a very busy weekend and needs an electronics pickup.

**Muzzey** – The electronics are just costing us money.

**Muzzey** – Notice of request to cut – Check not signed for Richard and Nancy Borger will follow up later.

**Road Agent** – Just remembered that he needed to talk about speed limit on Rte#25 because of complaint by a Wentworth resident who was going to be here.

**Chief** – That was Randy Comstellar and his request was withdrawn for tonight at least, and that is why he is not here.

**Muzzey** – Brought up new tax that was levied

Notice of abatement: Mark Shellbeck – Tim Alawood – Error brought to Tanya’s attention. Law has been changed that tax bill goes to owners of camper trailer not to owner of land. Trailer has to be registered by owner. This pertains to campgrounds and may need some more clarification.

**Muzzey** – Read grant for $4,000 to town for look into preservation of old town office.

**Muzzey** - Made motion to vote on it next week. 2nd by Omer.

**Kay** – There is no committee for this. Select board needs to vote on it. Jen Mede was handling this

**Omer** – Stated that this needs to wait for Morgan

**Omer** - Primex wants to place a cap on workers comp.

**Muzzey** – Brought up Solid Waste membership. Decided to hold till next week.

**Muzzey** - Environment of solid waste management permit was due March 31, 2019 Allowance for solid waste management to exist. Was for 2018. Is a
delinquent request. Not sure what this is for and asked if Randy Ruger should be completing this.

Chief – I am pretty sure that Glen Campbell used to fill this out and send it to them. Randy Ruger probably doesn’t know anything about this.

Muzzey have Tanya call NHDES to let them know that we are working on it. Need to fax it 603–271-2925

Kay and Mother – Does town have a letter requesting money for non-profits? If so, the town voted not to send any monies to these people. The board agreed.

Road Agent - Federal off road diesel fuel excise tax? Need a $600 dollar gage to measure for the tax break. No way of tracking how much fuel goes into each vehicle. Saves 30 cents a gallon if we track.

Muzzey – Look into the cost of a gauge. Do we have a way of tracking it now? Can we do it this year?

Road Agent – Why was the highway department budget cut so much this year?

Kay and Mom – We were at every meeting. The people did not care. They were just looking at the bottom line.

Road Agent – We need a 3rd guy plowing. The town will not be happy come winter.

Kay – Need to have special town meeting for approval of extra cost. You will get Complaints. John and I can only do so much. What about a special town meeting?

Muzzey: You have to go to Superior Court. – Cost around $2,000 or so.

Road Agent – We may not have enough drainage material, just saying, I can only do so much.

Muzzey - We do have road block grant we can look at that.

Road Agent – We sold a truck for $17,000. Why can’t we say that the highway department gave this money to the town, so give it back to the highway department to use as they need.

Muzzey – Explained why we could not do that.

Road Agent – Said to try for a special meeting in July. They need to do something; they need to figure out how to get a 3rd guy.
Omer & Muzzey- You need to put this in writing and outline what you need and the reason why, and then present it to us.

Road Agent- Here you are one again asking me to do more than I should be doing in order for me to do my job. I should be able to just take care of these matters.

Omer and Muzzey – Explained the process and why the R/A needs to do what they are asking of him.

Omer- I understand that you are use to working in the private sector and you could and would just go and purchase something without having to worry about it, but, that is not the case now.

Omer- We are accountable to the people, and we have to do our due diligence when it comes to spending monies, and right now, we are talking about spending monies that we don’t have. We have to justify all expenditures and we will.

Muzzey – Explained in past years they had a block grant and that selectmen agreed to raise certain amount of money to match grant money. Not sure what happened with all that.

Chief – Explained that the town made mistake regarding the block grant and took a big hit as a result of that. Chief stated that Ray Youngs would be the person to speak with regarding details.
All – Talked about the reasons why the highway department was cut.

Adjourned to non-public – Muzzey made the motion – Omer 2nd. Motion carried.

Let the meeting notes show that no decision was made at this time on a matter discussed in a previous non-public April 30th, 2019 at 5:18 P.M.

8:30 Motion made to come out of non-public.

8:34 P.M. Motion to adjourn the select board meeting by, Omer 2nd by Muzzey. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes compiled by Martha Trott, edited by Selectmen
Approved by Selectmen on ____________________

Francis Muzzey     Omer C. Ahern Jr.     Morgan Currier
Rev. of May 21, 2019 BOSMT Minutes by OCA

Pg. 2/1 on P. 6 of 8

motion by F.M. 2nd

overburden

motion of decision/vote

This item be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

Respectfully,

[Signature]