Minutes of Wentworth Select Board Meeting  
(Minutes Taken by Martha Trott)

Morgan Currier  
Omer Ahern  
Francis Muzzey  
Chief Wallace Trott  
Road Agent-Paul Manson  
Kay Bailey  
Janice Thompson  
Arnold Scheller  

Quentin Mack  
Lee Lichal  
George Morrill  
Tracy Currier  
Amy Collette  
Palmer Koelb  
Randy Ruger  
Leon Pierhal

June 4, 2019

Called to Order: 6:00 p.m.
1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Put off until next week approval of minutes of previous week

Morgan – Explained that the order of the Agenda had been changed.

Mack – Septic system design was submitted to the Board for approval.

Muzzey made the motion for the Town to accept the septic system design and Omer 2nd it. Motion carried.

Currier stamped the plans, signed her name and dated it.
Omer signed and dated the plans as well.

Mack thanked the Board for their approval and for being early on the Agenda.

Muzzey – We need a copy of the design.
Mack – I will get a color copy to you.

Mr. Pierhall – I have an issue/concern. Did the Town approve the letter sent out by Avitar?

Omer – We received and reviewed the letter.

Mr. P – Who selects the homes to be assessed?

MC – Avitar does.
Mr. P – Does the Town review the assessment and make sure that it is correct?

Mr. P - How can the Town be sure that the assessment is done correctly? Is Avitar compensated by a percentage of the amount assessed?

MC – Read from the contract between the Town and Avitar.

Mr. P - I looked online for the document that Morgan read from and could not find it. I would like a copy of the contract that Morgan read from.

Morgan read that there is no percentage given as a stipend.

Omer, Muzzey and Mr. P want copies of the document.

Muzzey – We got a list of people not pleased with the assessment and we sent it to Avitar.

Mr. P – That is a different matter. When I first moved here and was assessed, I met with an Avitar agent and a Town Selectmen. They had a ‘view tax’ and it is subjective.

There was short discussion regarding the view tax.

MC – Tanya sent out a letter stating informing residents about the tax assessment that was going to happen. In January, the Town received the first email about it from Avitar. Avitar sent out a letter saying that they would not assess a property unless they had sent out a letter in advance. She read from the letter.

Mr. P – The letter does not give enough time/warning (15 days) for the owner to respond regarding the reassessment. What if it is not at a convenient time for the home owner?

Morgan – Unfortunately, it gets costly to the Town because we would have to send out registered letters and to be frank, we have gotten a lot of complaints from the Town. Maybe we need to reevaluate who or what company does the assessments.

Kay - Was there a letter sent out to all the residents of Wentworth?

MC – No, only to the ones being assessed.

Muzzey – In my opinion, a person should not be reassessed more than once in a 4-year period.

Omer – I appreciate you coming in. Could we have a copy of your questions you have? Maybe we could get a better response about your concerns. We could use them and talk with Avitar.
MC – Is there any new business from the public that we need to address?

None.

Randy Ruger – I need an electronics pickup.

MC – We need this in writing so we can see about arranging it.

Randy- We had a busy weekend. Could I call someone in for a couple of hours to help?

Muzzey – Do you have any applicants?

R – I have an idea.

Omer – Is it in your budget?

Morgan – I do not have a problem with this.

Omer – Do they need a certification?

MC- How old do they need to be?

Randy -18 Yrs.

Muzzey – If you get too busy, just give me a call and I will come down and help.

Randy – I will post what people can bring in. I have concerns about people picking up things and selling them.

Morgan – Do you have proof that people are selling the items?

Randy – Yes. I will not give names, but it needs to be stopped. I will put a notice up that people can take what they need only for themselves.

Randy (referring to Muzzey) – I will talk with you later.

Chief – I would like to give a report only every other week if that is acceptable. If I need to report on something in between the two weeks I will do so.

Muzzey - Made a motion that someone sign the federal excise tax stating that all the Town is only using the diesel for Town purposes.

Omer – I second the motion. Motion carried.

Chief – Are we moving along with the Agenda?
Morgan – Because the meetings are going so long, we are trying to get all the public things first, out of respect to those who come, so they can hear and get everything done that is possible in their presence.

Road Agent (R/A) – I was not here last week. I will not be here next week as my daughter has an academic thing. In Town, we had some issues last week. Two culverts need/have to be replaced. I got a new estimate that is less.

MC – There is a mention for emergency.

R/A – If I do not order all the culverts at once we do not get a deal on the delivery.

MC – I understand that, but there is a difference between a necessity and the almost 3000 dollar amount that you ordered.

MC - You gave us a list of 6 projects.

R/A – I'm really only getting 20-footers.

Muzzey – I have two issues with this. There is the handbook and getting Board approval is a must.

R/A – I was hoping to get your approval last week and I still do not have it.

Muzzey – It takes time.

R/A- I will say this so that you understand. I have used $100 worth of stone and will have to get more until we have the culvert. I know that I should have asked but I have already saved the Town money.

Muzzey – I still do not know why you did not get Board approval.

MC – It is just that I am worried about next time. If you think we have taken too much time, then you will just go ahead and order without Board approval.

RA – Most of the Town culverts need to be replaced. In the construction world we needed this, so I took care of it.

MC – But this is not the construction world. This is a small town where money has already been spent on a truck and the money is so tight that anything over $1000 needs to be Board approved. I do understand that saving $150.00 would have covered some expense but you ordered this yesterday. Couldn’t it have waited 24 hours until today?

RA – Waiting for this will cost more on drains. What if there was a rainstorm? It would all wash out and we could save money if we order this way.
MC – Even so, we are a small town.

RA – I didn’t think that $3000 was a bad deal.

Muzzey - How many feet of culvert would you have to buy to get free delivery?

R/A – It is not just that. It is that we need this, and many are rusted. I apologize for ordering them, but I can say that they are not going to be sitting in the work shed. I will gladly pay the 10 dollars to make up the difference if that is what you want.

R/A – Regarding my license, I didn’t pass the pre-trip. The seat belt was not tight so I will have to go back. It was almost two hours for the pre-trip. I am scheduled for the drive part in two weeks.

R/A – I have had several complaints from Town people. The complaint is why haven’t we been digging deeper when grading?

R/A – Donna King and her husband are upset about East Side Rd by King Lumber. We already filled in potholes three times with cold patch and it is not working. Donna King is willing to come in and talk with you.

R/A - Am I understanding that the state used to plow to the bottom of the hill? Does the town not own the road by King lumber? There is a section that has not been paved.

Muzzey – I do not know for sure, but it is my understanding that we are responsible for all of that. Can someone correct me?

Chief – The Town took that over. It is the towns responsibility.

R/A – There is a 397-foot section that is not paved, and no one knows why the State and Town stopped at either end.

Donna King has been very nice on the phone and I have met with her. It should be dug up instead of putting hot patch on.

MC – Do we want to invite Donna King to a meeting and talk?

Muzzey – What is your recommendation?

R/A – We need to cut out sections of the road. The real solution would be to pave it, but I do not have money in my budget. It would take a lot of money to cut out sections and fix it correctly.

Muzzey – I do not understand why the State is not doing this.

RA – It has not been paved or taken care of for many years.
Muzzey – How much impact from the King Industry trucks has caused this damage?

Janice Thompson – What he means is that the trucks going back and forth all day long causes lots of damage.

Muzzey – How much does it cost to patch it?

MC – I recommend inviting Donna and her husband to a meeting.

Omer – We need to have more information about the Memorandum of Agreement.

Muzzey – It has been plowed and maintained for years and years.

MC – We will invite them to a meeting to talk about this.

R/A – I think we still might be able to use some money from the State grant that might be enough to fix it.

MC – That money was used to purchase the truck, so there is none left.

R/A - Could you please look at the proposal for bids?

Omer – He does not have it with him.

Dr. Scheller spoke about a fund raiser on the bridge to assist with the Veterans Memorial project. He stated that it would be during Home Day and would like permission to do it.

Muzzey made a motion for the Chief to know and be in attendance on 3rd of August dinner on the bridge event.

Omer – 2nd motion. Motion carried.

MC - Veterans are there for the Memorial Fund Raiser.

Omer – Dr. Scheller said it is a Fund Raiser.

Muzzey – Requested the key box be taken out. Motion made to table until next year.

Omer – 2nd motion. Motion carried.

MC - Key box tabled until next year.

Janice Thompson – Does the Town have money for Frescoln and Cross Rds project?
MC – There is money for Frescoln and Cross Rds.

George – My plan is to look at the wording for expenditures.

Muzzey – I heard your questions, but I do not understand what you are saying.

George – Are you talking about emergency spending for any department?

MC read from the handbook.

R/A – Does this say anything about bulk purchases?

Muzzey – We have a guest and I would like to make a motion that we allow our guest to speak.

MC – I do not think that we need to make a motion to allow our guest to speak.

Senator Bob Guida (State Senator for District 2) gave a briefing on activity in State Government. Topics included: a veto from the Governor, 90 million-dollar difference; Education is going to get help - back to original amounts to fund Towns; Fully-funded kindergarten.

DHHS – Mental Health and opioids will get funding.

Senator Guida – I voted against recreational use of marijuana in NH. What is in Denver, we do not want here!!

There was a brief discussion regarding his briefing.

Palmer – I was at the Planning Board last night and there are three different agencies doing studies on culverts in our Town and we are paying for it.

Morgan – I have the information from the meeting.

Muzzey – I want to do something about Primex.

Morgan – This is an increase that is due by June 14th.

Muzzey – This is an increase of 30% in 3 years.

Omer – I know that the County is given breaks.

Chief – I looked into Primex initially to see what they would save the Town and the savings was a significant savings.

MC – I don’t know if this increase is more than 10%.
Chief – It would be good to look into the increase since Primex took over.

Muzzey – It would be good to look into how much we have had to get Workman’s Comp since we took on Primex.

Chief – Is our contract up for renewal?

Omer – I have read contracts for years and it is amazing how much wiggle room is put in contracts. I would like time to read this.

MC – I do not have issues with that.

Muzzey brought up Transfer Station monitoring.

Muzzey – It has been passing the Good Housekeeping seal of improvement year after year.

There was a short discussion regarding the Transfer Station.

All sign Payroll.

Omer – I make a motion that we go into non-public per RSA 91-A:3 11 (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.

8:15 pm

There was a discussion regarding properties in arrears for taxes after 3 years.

There was a discussion with the Property Owner, the Selectmen, and the Town Clerk about payment arrangements.

Omer – Made a motion to go out of non-public and moved to seal the minutes from the just completed non-public session because they could affect the reputation of someone other than those of the Board of Selectmen. MC 2nd motion. Motion carried.

2nd non-public

8:34 pm

Omer – I make a motion to go into a 2nd non-public per RSA 91-A:3 11 (a) - The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted.
MC – 2nd Motion carried.

Chief Trott was asked to stay as an important source of information.

9:17 p.m. – Omer moved to go out of non-public and to seal the minutes from the just completed non-public session because they could affect the reputation of someone other than those of the Board of Selectmen.

2nd by MC. Motion carried.

Omer made a motion to go into Non-public per RSA 91-A:3 11 (e) - Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Any application filed for tax abatement, pursuant to law, with any body or board shall not constitute a threatened or filed litigation against any public body for the purposes of this subparagraph.

9:18 p.m.

2nd by MC. Motion carried.

There was a brief discussion regarding the progress of a previous non-public matter.

9:44 p.m.

MC – I move to go out of non-public meeting.

Omer 2nd motion. Motion carried.

MC - I move to seal the minutes from the just completed non-public session because they could affect the reputation of someone other than those of the Board of Selectmen.

Omer - 2nd motion. Motion carried.

Public – Discussion regarding a person to take Deb Vlk’s place when she is not here.

Deb Ziemba also expressed interest.

Chief Trott suggested speaking with Linda Franz.

Muzzey – Does Tanya have a contract? Why doesn’t the Administrative Assistant do the Payroll?
MC – Her hours are only 32 hours. She would have to work another 8 – 10 hours.

Muzzey – When I did Payroll, it only took me two hours. Tell where the money is coming from.

MC – We do not know. But it has to come from somewhere.

9:55 p.m.

Omer Moved to close the meeting.

MC and Muzzey – 2nd. Motion carried.

Meeting closed.