SELECT BOARD MEETING – 07.16.19
July 16, 2019

Attendees: Morgan Currier, Francis Muzzey, Omer Ahern Jr., Paul Manson, Tanya Vela, Steve Welch, Chief Trot, George Morrill

Opening of Meeting (5:02 P.M.): Select Board Chairperson, Morgan Currier opened meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Morgan Currier began by explaining to the public that the Select Board is presently reviewing meeting minutes from their public meeting last week (07.10.16) to discuss Highway Dept. quotes and adds that they won’t get approved tonight because they will be making changes to it.

Chair looked over Agenda and suggested that Agenda be switched around to hear the Reports from Town Officials first. All agreed.

Police Department (5:05 P.M.) Police Chief, Wallace Trott gave a brief summary of the highlights from the previous two weeks and provided a written copy to the Administrative Assistant to the Select Board. Chief Trott emphasized some administrative details that the Police Dept does behind the scenes that were worth mentioning, stating the following example:

The Wentworth Police Dept takes part in an Assessment Program, which is a data collection done by the NH Attorney General’s Office. The program is referred to as ass...assessment and is a program adopted by the NH Attorney General’s Office and is currently considered the best program in documenting Domestic Violence cases. As a result of this select program, the Police Dept is able to give or direct people towards service that they may not be aware is available to them. The program requires specific and individualized training and Wentworth is fortunate in the sense that all the members of the Wentworth Police Dept are trained in this select program. Chief felt is was worth mentioning because he updates the program quarterly and the information is sent to the Grafton County Attorney, as well as the AG’s Office.

Stone Sculpture/Structure Outside of Town Office. Chief Trott also brought up the topic of the stone sculpture/structure outside the Town Office and said that he was approached by an individual interested in removing the sculpture but is not sure what the status is for its removal. Morgan Currier asked Chief to elaborate.

Chief stated that an individual who has a tree service and a crane, apparently made an agreement with the previous Road Agent (Kevin Gilbert), prior to his leaving, to trade a piece of equipment for the sculpture. Chief added that he didn’t think the Select Board was aware of the agreement nor did he (Chief Trott) know what the agreement consisted of, but explained to the individual that if he was interested in the rock sculpture, Chief would bring it up to the Select Board.

Chief was told that there was someone else interested in it (later identified as Nate Myles), so he attempted to contact that person three times. He left a message on Myles’ cell phone, another message with his wife and a message with one of Myles’ co-workers but has not received a response in 13 days.
Morgan Currier said she remembers that Ray Youngs contacted Myles in early Spring and that Myles said he was interested and would come remove it as soon as mud season was over.

The Administrative Assistant added that last week, right before the meeting, she spoke to Youngs about the removal of the sculpture and he immediately called Myles and told him it needed to be removed as soon as possible. The Administrative Assistant said she is not sure what transpired between her phone call with Youngs and Chief’s phone calls with Myles.

The Select Board discussed the history of the sculpture and about the Town’s vote during the last Town Meeting to have it removed, but at no expense to the Town.

Omer C. Ahern, Jr. asked whether any of the agreements discussed were in writing and MC explained that the topic was discussed numerous times during public meetings, of which there are published minutes. Omer expressed concern about not knowing whether there was a prior written agreement about the removal of the sculpture or not.

Steve Welch suggested that the Select Board call Kevin Gilbert, leave a message and then call Nate Myles one more time, leave a message and then wait a week showing that the Select Board made one final attempt to give them the opportunity to come remove the sculpture.

Morgan Currier says she has no problem with contacting those two individuals and giving them a date for them to respond and if neither respond, we can contact the individual interested and let him come and take the sculpture.

Chief Trott offered, with the Select Board’s permission to help out the Administrative Assistant and said he was willing to contact both individuals since he has the contact information for them.

Highway Department (5:15 P.M.)

International Truck: Road Agent, Paul Manson, informed the Select Board that he has an update on the International truck that broke down last week. The problem was identified as an EGR valve pipe and a sensor. Road Agent ordered parts and the truck should be back up and running by the end of the week. The cost was around $800. Morgan Currier commented that the cost was a lot less than the Select Board expected. Road Agent agreed and said that was a good thing.

Backhoe. Road Agent informed the Select Board that they had an issue with the backhoe yesterday. He said it is okay and running again, but it is “getting tired”, has “8500 hours on it and it’s almost 10 years old”. Road Agent explained that it had a little fire in it and said it appears that the battery shorted out from dirt in the battery box. Road Agent said he cleaned it all off, put a new battery cable on it and it ran fine today with no issues.
Warranty for New Fisher Plow. In response to the Select Board’s question about the warranty on a new Fisher plow, Road Agent said he had the warranty information and gave the Select Board a copy.

Search for Used Plow. Road Agent informed the Select Board that he’s exhausted all my options for a used plow and wasn’t able to find a 10’ used plow, only a 9’ plow. Road Agent contacted Tenco to go with a hydraulic plow instead of an electrical hydraulic for the truck, but it’s out of the question because it’s between $7,000 and $9,000 for one. Road Agent emphasized that he’s really exhausted all means possible. He’s searched on Craig’s List, Rock and Dirt, marketplaces and all kinds of websites across the country looking and has not found one 10-foot HC, Minute Mount plow. He informed the Select Board that he called xx to find out what their schedule is and was told that right now the wait time is 5-6 weeks, so the earliest we can expect a plow is September. So, Road Agent asked the Select Board to review the quote he gave them last week for the new plow. Francis Muzzey asked if Road Agent had checked with Concord and Road Agent said that Concord only has auctions in the middle of May and the middle of October adding that by the middle October would be “way too late”. I’ve exhausted my options. If you have any ideas - .

Morgan Currier asked attendees at meeting. Welch says if you’re looking to buy a used plow, you’re buying someone’s headaches. But if you start looking at used equipment, you have to compensate Paul if he goes to an auction for his time – his on town business. I honestly feel

Road Agent: I’ve only found 2500-3500 HD, not HC... at least another 1500+ to add to

Muzzey: What’s the cheapest price?

Road Agent: HPF. I asked the Board last Wednesday $178 most expensive – in Canaan, just up the road 20 min.

Select Board reviews prices. Lynex is so close that if anything happens, it’s best. You could spend $1800 fast just traveling.

Welch: A trip to Bow is is a couple of hours.

Road Agent: you’re looking at 4 hours.

Welch: Minimum

Road Agent: if we order it – we will get it at this price and pay him only when complete.

Muzzey: what is your knowledge of Linex

Road Agent: I’ve only used River Edge Marina
Welch if I may, on a different note, my son has a Linex liner and had a problem and they handled it.

Morgan Currier: Good to note

Welch: I haven’t heard anything bad about them and I would take that as a good note.

Omer: I apolosgix for showing ignorance. I haven’t heard this size plow mentioned until the other day. You mentioned a 9’ plow and 10’ plow.

Morgan Currier clarifies it was the only plow he found

Muzzey: Why extra foot.

Road Agent: makes a huge difference plowing the school, town common, beech hill, smaller roads.
Difference between 9’ and 10’? Road Agent: About $1000

Road Agent: Both need the same hook-ups.

Omer: In terms of efficiency, the 10’ plow is in the better interest of the Town.

Muzzey: I’m okay with Linex

Omer: Madame Chair ready for a motion

Kay: Cost of everything?

Road Agent: Hydraulics $7,283.00 Plow: $6,800 and I believe in April I told you this was coming.

Chief Ames: Did we get money for the other truck? 17k

Chief Ames: It’s an off-setting figure

Morgan Currier: Any further discussion from the floor –

Chief: Total price – truck sander ... Under 70K

Road Agent: A lot of extras on the previous

17:31: Road Agent reported that we’re in the middle of July and I know it’s winter and we need to put a 3rd person for the winter but there are going to be some upset people in town – 2 of us trying to get bus routes open school routes... 52 miles of route could take 4 hrs to plow and sand – one time. We really, really need to think about a 3rd guy in the winter. I’m putting in front of all

Chief Ames: Shed info your way – Paul Smith who worked for the Town had some interest in part time and well-versed in plowing.

Steve Welch: From as far back as I can remember – ’84 – always 2 trucks ...asking 2 people to do that job – they’re not going to be able to get done and whatever you think you’re going to save, you’re going to pay in overtime. I live 3 miles off and pay taxes and expect my roads to be plowed in a timely fashion.

Muzzey: Noel got it done.

When Bobby ran – before Noel 2 trucks

Chief: appreciate them weighing in. Last year I was the 3rd guy. When we had one truck down. We made it a priority and started at 330-4am to get routes safe for school. I think taking one person and one truck out we’re setting him out for failure.

Muzzey: We don’t have the right to spend.

Kay: Special town meeting

CHIEF I think we’re still going to have a problem.

Road Agent: Ellsworth Hill roads that will suffer people will be upset

Omer: So we had 4 working.

Steve Welch: private contractors – town owned one truck road agent supplied second dump truck.

Scheller: Road agent has gotten in trouble... We werent’ charging – just doing a favor.

Morgan Currier: How many times?

Scheller – what I’m saying is that people are volunteering – not looking for pat on the back. This is critical for safety and 911 – we have schools.

Kay: for the money, have you checked and discussed this issue with the DRA and what we can do?
Morgan Currier: NO, but that’s a good option.

Chief Ames: do you know how many hours we’ll need?

Road Agent: Typically just plowing time in Campton is 30-40 hours in winter

Chief Ames: where is money in budget?

Road Agent: Trying to salvage money now.

Muzzey: Where are you anticipating that the money will come from?

Road Agent: Road materials budget. Hoping to have excess to 15-17k

Morgan Currier: So on the discussion, what is the opinion on having a 3rd person –

Muzzey: I’m on the opinion that 2 road crew is adequate

Scheller: it depends on the storms.

Chief Ames: yes, agree. It’s based on per storm, but they had people lined up. If you look at that, there are people

Road Agent: Can I weigh in really quick.

Muzzey: Just want to know what we’re looking at.

Scheller: Town has frowned upon volunteers

Morgan Currier: Insurance

Steve Welch: You’ve got 3 town trucks and if you’re looking to hire someone with a CDL.

Muzzey: What Mr Scheller’s done in the past is down hill.

Road Agent: If you want to get a sub-contractor instead of hiring. Mechanically -wise / Advantage to having 3 guys

Morgan Currier: So part-time seasonal is what you’re looking at

Omer: There’s too much speculation. I make a motion that the Road Agent make a proposal (A, B, C) whether effective Nov 1, Dec 1st for how he wants to deal with this issues – put together 3 written proposals to the Select Board or 2 on how to handle snowplowing
situation, where money comes from, you put together plan of action and submit to Select Board.

Muzzey: One thing to consider ...

Chief Trott: I’m sure the weigh in. You might have one lane and you have a vehicle coming down and you’ve created a single lane road.

Morgan Currier: Let’s move past speculation on how to plow roads and go back to motion OA made.

Road Agent: How do we determine on paper how much we pay per hour.

Omer: My intent is for you to name what you need to do the job for the safety of this community. Proposal must be in writing so that we can make a knowledgeable decision that it’s in the best interest for the people of the Town of Wentworth. Ultimately you dictate.

Steve Welch: I don’t think Paul can come up with a figure – Christmas day 60 day or a cost per hour.

Morgan Currier: That’s all we’re looking for. So we’re just looking at what path to go

Road Agent: I want to be fair too. With a subcontractor, they have to have a special insurance- $3200

Chief Ames: They will know what they need for profit/margin

Omer: ELABORATES

Morgan Currier: either chief – can you think of

Road Agent: I sent in a proposal two months ago – some changes were going to be made – never got back

Steve Welch: We may have to have a special Town meeting.

George: “Governing Body..

Morgan Currier: Going back to motion proposed by Omer.

Road Agent: I will try to by next week

Morgan Currier: Second motion at 18:02.
Morgan Currier: Vote yes, OA yes, FM: abstain
Question from Kay’s mom about chemical

Road Agent: Said I would use the 8000 gal leftover cape moonshine –
-not on pond brook rd.
It’s costing money putting down.

Road Agent: What to do with magnesium?

Morgan Currier: Noted that you weren’t

Steve Welch: Road agent posting on FB never before – where he’s going to be – we’re going to deal with it one way or another – I’m pleased with the highway department.

Omer to follow up on Mr. Welch’s comments. Our town is doing a great job. On NH Public Radio – every town mentioned except WW on road problems. SO, I’m not complaining, just asking the tough questions. So, thank you, Paul. I just want to say that in public.

Steve Welch: May have to have a special town meeting.

Morgan Currier: So we’ll look into the process of holding a special town meeting 18:09:
Budget meetings are public meetings and lesson from this is that when we post –

Muzzey: Your opinion is valued and even if not followed.

Scheller: One more thing on roads. Nickels rd used to connect with Ellsworth Hill Road and it’s probably still on Google Earth and they get stuck – it’s a safety issue and we can put sign – “No Outlet” or “Dead-End Road”.

JKing: I’m going to be addressing issue.

Chief Trott: Correct me if I’m wrong, but it’s actually posted that it’s a Class VI Road.

Road Agent: I don’t know what we can post. On Class VI roads – Nickels Rd is a Class V road
Whatever you want.

Scheller: ”the bottom of the road is the problem

Muzzey: 11 Mar 1924 in absence to gates and bars

JKing: This Spring I’m going to get a Warrant article together to get roads discontinued.

Morgan Currier: I think that sounds fantastic.
Morgan Currier: Paul will look into sign for Schellers.

Trustees: Got our largest account in our control.

Muzzey: Planning Board book is most current.

Administrative Assistant – issue with Town Page and Webmail

Omer: Moves to take the advice of the Cyber experts. — I so move

Morgan Currier: Any concerns from floor?

JKing: I’m concern

Muzzey: second

Morgan Currier: Yes

Briefing

Omer: Town has a lien for property for $750 and paperwork may 2nd lien was a corrected

Omer: we need a vote from the Select Board to sign another lien discharge and record.

Muzzey: I move that we sign such lien MC second. MC yes OA yes FM yes. Motion carried.

Omer: Need to apply for extension from DES for Annual Facility Report –

Morgan Currier: How do we file request for extension

Omer: The town is now under administrative orders from DES. — Basically new administration — something to say.

18:44 Morgan Currier Move on to public comments – Jordan

JKing: passed out documents. So, I came to the wrong meeting to discuss putting work into a road. As discussed earlier, discontinue roads that have no town benefit. Hooper Hill Rd is a Class VI and has had a Town benefit when bridge replaced. Massive amounts of public use. Given to Selectmen is the Emergency Lane statute and how to vote on it — public hearing — and direct Road Agent — doesn’t change classification. If not, I’ll include this in list to have it discontinued. It has Town benefit — no crown in road and it would be gone, I’ve gone and put
v-bar. One culvert that the beavers plug up – the only way it’s passable is b/c Bill Melanson maintains one side and I, the other. It gets a ton of use.

**Muzzey:** what would you prefer to see?

**JKing:** It’s unsustainable. I don’t care either way. Class VI is subject to gates and bars – Select Board can control access. I can put a gate, but no lock to Mica mine road.

**Omer:** Who owns either side.

Answer: Downing, Bill Melanson, JK, State (DES) – small section, and guy with camper. I’m speaking for the group w/o them being there. I bring this up because this has been used for Emergency.

**James:** If the Bridge goes out

**Muzzey:** I retract statement about discontinuing but give us a solution

**Chief Trott:** There is a lot of activity.

**Muzzey:** Open to suggestions – protect residents in that area, provide town with emergency access.

**Road Agent:** So, JK called me last week and advised me of what he was going to talk about. – It needs some work, it’s not awful, I came up with an idea, if the residents buy the culverts and we put them in or the residents match it – in 3 years, you’d have a passable road. As far as a crown no JK: You’d have a hard time collecting money from abutters but maybe a little here and there

**Road Agent:** My opinion is it benefits Town.

**Muzzey:** What would declaring it an Emergency lane do?

**JK:** it stays class VI and you declare it to the town and put money but decide how much.

**Omer:** There are 7 other RSAs mentioned and DOT map – My question is how many families /land owners affected?

**JKing:** Emergencies if bridge goes out? 3 houses beyond

**19:08 Morgan Currier:** At this point, we’d like to take some time and do research, talk to Orford.

**JKing:** I’ll drive you out if anyone wants to come out.
Omer: From my point of me, there’s a common law and then the other 7 statutes.

JKing: In long-term interests, it makes sense to keep up

Chief Ames: It’s imp for us to turn it into an emergency lane – if we have to get people out

JKing:: or if there’s a fire.

Morgan Currier: Chief Trott any thoughts

Chief Trott: I agree with Chief A it would be in the best interest of the town

Morgan Currier: 19:14 – So the Board would like more time to research, but if you JK can give us a list of all the abutters, t

Muzzey: We ought to be able to make a decision within a month

Morgan Currier: We’re looking at later August.

19:15
Mrs. Thompson: Still looking for water reports on River Baker River Watershed.

19:23: Mr. McIver Septic
Muzzey: Mr. McIver.

Road Agent: 27st – Start vacation. Best way to reach me is email – no cell service. John will be around. He’ll be hauling winter sand. /

Morgan Currier: There was discussion on vacation – I spoke to Primex – to see what we can allow you to do. Primex doesn’t give any advice on fringe benefits and recommended look into NH laws and as far as I can tell NH has no labor laws. So, it’s our decision and there is nothing that says they cannot make up in a pay period.

Morgan Currier Right now the personnel policy handbook which is grossly outdated and says must be working 6 months is ridiculous – the military says healthy happy employees – esp in a high demanding profession – says must be employed for 6 months –

Road Agent: So since 3 people - I specifically asked if I would get 2 weeks of vacation and Steve Davis said yes you’ll get all benefits.

Muzzey: I’m not as opposed to vacation now as I am to opposing handbook.

Morgan Currier: Deb Vlk says there’s a way to track as we have in the past Paid.
Administrative Assistant: Honor what was said.

Morgan Currier: So, regardless the policy needs to be looked out – and not allowing him a week, would be an incredibly negative thing to do and to ask an employee to work your butt off and not let him.

Morgan Currier – I have it in my notes.

Morgan Currier: What about comp time? All comp time used by end of the year – Cap is 40 hours

Muzzey: Not sure how to do comp time with salaried.

Omer: My concern is – I am perfectly honest with you – I am shocked with the lack of paperwork in this Town – to ask a Selectman to do legal work. If the prior Board made a representation to you, I feel that we are bound to that. But is that a vote of the Board or something by one. Memories are fallible. I’d like to see the contract again. It’s not good business sense. Vacation time matters to people.

Chief Trott: I’m going to weigh in b/c ...

Omer: I’m not opposed to you taking a vacation in 2 weeks
Muzzey: Made the motion that Paul have one week’s vacation on July 29th – August 2nd. Omer: Second motion. Morgan Currier: Abstain, replying “I wholeheartedly disagree”. Muzzey: voted “yes”, Omer voted: “yes”. Morgan Currier abstained. Motion carried.

Muzzey: 2nd part is that he not get a 2nd week.

Omer: I don’t want to take part in that. I want to look at what the previous Select Board said.

Chief Ames: Just food for thought. Between now and December do you plan on addressing – to possibly change.

Muzzey: Until these rules are changed.

Chief: Is he entitled to another week of vacation after April 1st?

Morgan Currier – PP 15, 16 and first paragraph of page 17 - have suggested by 30 July, 2019.

Road Agent: How many employees do you have full time as employees of Wentworth? John, Paul, Tanya, Debbie Z
Deb: “We’ll go to church together. What do you say, Francis?” “I’ll pray for anything now.”

20:27
Omer: Madam Chair, this has got to change. I have a full-time law practice.

20:36
Omer motion to Morgan Currier 2nd motion Call to question OA yes MC yes. Motion carried.
20:43: FM made motion to authorize Chair to sign – OA seconds sign agreement with Primex not to exceed 3 years. Motion carried.

Morgan Currier: Motion to adjourn meeting FM Second OA yes MC yes FM yes

Minutes compiled by Martha Trott, edited by Selectmen

Approved by Selectmen on ------------------------

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Francis Muzzey. Omer C. Ahern Jr. Morgan Currier