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.
Call to Order:
Chairperson Morgan Currier called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.
Pledge of allegiance was made to the American flag.

Select Board Present: Morgan Currier, Francis Muzzey, Omer C. Ahern, Jr.
Staff/Officials/Others Present: Administrative Assistant – Tanya Vela; Chief of Police – Wallace Trott; Road Agent – Paul Manson; Transfer Station Attendant - Randy Rugar; Bookkeeper and Trustee of Trust Funds - Linda Franz, Donna King

Public Present:

Public Comments.

- The Board opened the meeting to public comments; there were none at this time.

Administrative Matters.

- The Board reviewed correspondence and will be posting the flyer received for the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program
- F. Muzzey asked the Administrative Assistant to ask the Assessor (Mark Stetson from Avitar Associates) if there is an alternative to sending out the Form PA-26, Inventory of Taxable Property.
- The Board discussed meeting with Engineer, Chris Fournier on August 19th at 2:30 p.m.

Town Officials’ Report.

Police Department: Chief Trott gave a report of significant activities from the past week, including the discovery of a fully loaded 45 Caliber handgun on East Side Road.

Transfer Station: Randy Ruger gave a report of significant activities from the past week. O. Ahern suggested that the Town explore options for recycling plastics in Wentworth in order to reduce costs.

Trustees of the Trust Fund: L. Franz spoke about their last meeting and discussion about the Town Forest and the disposition of funds and the Plummer Fund. The Board discussed the check for the Forester and who pays the Forester’s fees.
- **MOTION.** M. Currier made a motion that when the Forester cuts for the Plummer Forest the forester’s fee comes out of timber cuts and then the rest goes to the Trustees of the Trust Fund each time the check comes in. O. Ahern seconded the
motion for discussion. Following a brief discussion, O. Ahern called the question. All Board members voted yes. Motion passed unanimously.

- Check for Town Attorney: Currier emailed Sean Tanguay back and hasn’t heard back. Wants to know, what is our grand total?

Transfer Station – Tim is getting done and going to UPS.
Currier: Did they come for the metal?
Randy Rugar: Yes.
Randy Rugar: Question about the metal. I’m thinking we could re-write the notice and say that if someone wants to pay for a piece of the metal, we could, but it’s a liability for someone to just take something from the pile.

Muzzey: I’m okay with selling trash, but I don’t know what the repercussions will be.

Randy Rugar: There’s a deal with one guy who just takes what he wants.

Currier: Figure out how we would charge or how we would weigh.

Currier: MOTION: To institute a policy that allows the Transfer Station Attendee to charge for and retrieve the metal that a customer wants to purchase.
Omer: Second.
Currier: Vote yes, FM yes, OA yes. Motion carried.

Highway Dept

1. Dick and Jane Eldridge – Town put runoff on property about 7+ years ago. Backyard flooded and lost/uprooted several trees and have asked the Town to move runoff downhill. It’s possible.

Road Agent: Looked at it and thinks the 4 of us Select Board + Road Agent should go look at it and see what can be done.

Muzzey: Would it still be on his property?

Road Agent: Yes. 287 Atwell Hill Rd.

Omer Ahern Jr.: One of the issues I see w/ something like this is the DES. The definition of wetlands has expanded over the years and if there’s even one wetland plant… I just don’t want to run afoul of the folks at DES.

Currier: Just wondering why the Town has a runoff on someone’s property.

Omer Ahern Jr: Is there an agreement? Road Agent: Just a word of mouth agreement.

Muzzey: Let’s see what we can do.
Omer Ahern Jr: Let's look at it. ** Road Agent wants to look at it with SB.

Currier: Afternoons work well for me.

Muzzey: Will have to determine my availability.

2. Not an emergency. We talked about paving Red Oak Hill, getting estimates. There are only 2 people who have responded to me. These projects are bound together. If they are separated, there will be a price increase by about 20%. For both projects, we’re looking at $120-135K. Red Oak Hill – we have to do some digging and patching before winter comes – he and JC went up and had a look at it. So, the difference with grinding the road and paving it, or overlay – difference $20K – has copies.

Omer Ahern Jr: A: Is this GMI Asphalt?

Road Agent Two – Red Oak Hill & East Side Rd. You all have hard copies – put them in your boxes last week.

Muzzey: Next year?

Mrs. Thompson said there is some money in the Capital Reserve, I believe.

Road Agent: If we put in 50K plus Highway Block Grant, there’s about 100K. Up for discussion for a Warrant Article.

3. Road Agent: Time is of the essence. Road Agent: Proposal to hire 3rd person. We need to make a decision. We’ve been talking about it for about 3 months and it is very important for us to go through the 3 proposals right now, whether it’s a sub-contractor, seasonal, part-time… It’s time to make a decision.

Currier: What would be your guess for the least expensive?

Muzzey: If you plow a road at 15 mi/hr, you can do all the roads in 6 hrs. Connors can be done later; 4 hours to do all.

Road Agent: with 2 guys, lucky to plow Town in 7 hrs. Some cars – 4 mi/hr. School to take care of, Town Common, Ellsworth, Beach Hill will suffer. My opinion and for you to tell me that 2 people plow 56 mi is absurd. I’ve called Campton, Bridgewater and …

Road Agent: I spoke w/ Butch Anders who worked for Mr. King – had 2-3 subcontractors.

Donna King: It’s true. No one has ever done it alone. Many times my husband (Larry) has done it on his own and it’s ludicrous to think that only 2 people can do this. If you live on 25 you don’t see it.
Mrs. Thompson: They didn’t used to do the school.

Currier: It’s been brought up that the Town never used to do the school.

Chief Trott: So, as you know, I plowed last year with the Town and with 2 of those big storms, we started at 3am and were NOT finished by 9am – with 3 trucks going and doing what needed to be done – we still did not get it done in 6 hours and then we’re not taking into consideration one truck going down. I’ve seen what it looks like in the winter and it’s not my department but I’ve seen what they do and they’re going long and hard – 12 hrs.

Road Agent: I spoke to two people. One said no less than $70/hour and A Patten $80 I checked with other towns one, $85 – only for hours worked. If we have a subcontractor and a truck breaks down – add up.

Omer Ahern Jr: My opinion put out a request for proposal and should say that the Town reserves right to … Let’s talk to someone.

Road Agent: Are you against a part time year-round employee for 32K.

Muzzey: Yes, unequivocally.

Omer Ahern Jr: That’s why I want to see a request for proposal. The problem is we don’t have the money in this year’s budget, Paul. We can’t spend what we don’t have.

Road Agent: I have someone in mind to start Oct 15 by end of Dec and pay $7,925 and I can find the money. I doubt overtime. I do have it in budget.

Currier: My only thought is that I’ve brought up that with OSHA regulations, we should have…but if something happens and we only have one person on site and we could’ve prevented it… Highway Dept Mtg – KG, AA, SB.

Kaye Bailey: You took 70K from budget that wasn’t put back in. You approved without … brought up to have special meeting bc I knew we’d need it.

Currier: My point is that they were public meetings and then it was approved at the Town Meeting. None of us are financial, budget, experts. Anyone who wants to run for office.

Road Agent: I still have 32K in my road material budget. I went all summer w/o spending it because I knew it was coming.

Omer Ahern Jr: What about your need for Diesel/Gasoline?
Road Agent: it’s half – I’ve changed oil in trucks – it’s almost $1k to do it. I think the Hwy Road Agent Budget is going to be blown away - $47K… Will that have to come out of the other line items?

Currier: Yes. So, you’re guaranteeing that you’ll spent no more than $7500 on this extra person?

Road Agent: I’m saying Proposal 1. This will correspond with the next issue

MC/OA: We want to see a bid proposal.

Road Agent: That’s why I sent the email May 23rd addressing it. You want them hired by Oct 15th to learn the roads, ditches, etc.

Road Agent: We can put in an offer for both… full time seasonal employee, 30 hrs or less and we could have snow in 10 weeks.

Currier: I don’t have a problem as long as

Omer Ahern Jr: we don’t have to hire...

Muzzey: $9,270 would come out of road materials.

Currier: I think we need to do a bid for proposal and advertise for the position.

Omer Ahern Jr: But the ad for the position would be to start Oct 15. So, let’s be finer with our pencil – date -wise. 30 hours or less unless snow.

Thompson: Would it cover overtime for plowing?

Road Agent: I put it all in. I believe after next summer, JC is leaving. JC is an asset to the town b/c he can run a grader. Some towns pay $26K just to have roads graded b/c they don’t have anyone who knows how to do it.

Currier: So, let’s finish. Can we say approximate 15 OCT

The Road Agent will write up a proposal to bid and an Employment ad for PT yearly. (FT Seasonal would be $7,920 and $9,270, w/OT).

D. King: Mowing was discussed to have Red Oak Hill Rd, East Side Rd and Libby as well, get overgrown. I get the feeling that Road Agent wasn’t going to mow at all this year.

Road Agent: I never took into consideration that the roads haven’t been mowed in 3 or 4 years. I looked into it and I found an Invoice in 2015… at least. The PO# has that they used the tractor 232 hrs to do mowing. It’ll probably be 300 hours of mowing for both of us about a month’s worth – never budgeted.
Currier: I know you’re concern is a safety concern.

Donna King: I’ve been weed whacking around Libby Rd myself. East Side Rd – if a pedestrian is walking and twice, if you’re not driving in the center, you could clip someone.

Muzzey: It is our responsibility to pass that on to the State (Town Common)** - we have two others we can address.

Currier: So what are our options knowing what we have in the budget and knowing it’s been overgrown for 4 years. The Tree Removal line 4312.07B is where we would take the money from.

Muzzey: Look at where it’s bad and cut there.

Road Agent: Honestly, they are all bad. It hasn’t been done for 4 years. If it’s been maintained, you could get away with $5-6,000/ year.

Donna King: What I’d like to know is how it happened and why isn’t it put in the budget. It should be put in the budget every year. I would like to see it mowed. It’s so ridiculous now. You drive around other towns and it’s not this bad. Rent $50/hour and $55/hour to rent mowers. So $110/hour for 80 hours at a minimum for 2 weeks. Owens Leasing only charges for hours used.

Omer Ahern asked what’s the bottom line? We have an obligation to keep the Town safe and I’m about to call for a Special Town Meeting, but I need to know how much money you need because we can only have a special town meeting and it’ll take 9K.

Omer Ahern: So how do we take care of Mrs. King’s situation?

Road Agent: I need $9,500 to mow the sides of the roads correctly, but there aren’t any mowers available until the 2nd week of September.

Road Agent: Donna I agree with you. There is so much work has to be done.

Donna King: Is there sub-contracting available? Somebody to mow?

Road Agent: I think I can come up with $10K.

Donna King: Where did it get cut?

Currier: At the budget meeting – just us and the previous Road Agent and based on what we saw from the past few years. We asked and were told it wasn’t an issue and don’t know why – ultimately, we tried to do the best for the Town and we didn’t know we’d have to buy a $70k truck

Mrs. Thompson: Also the previous Road Agent overspent his budget by $50K.
Muzzey: let’s do what Omer suggested, we’ll have to cripple along for the rest of the year.

Currier: So, does anybody else has mowers? MB Tractors who charge by the week. $5200/week

Omer: Does Black Mount offer…?

Road Agent: No.

Currier: I don’t like waiting the 3 weeks to do it.

Road Agent: I’ll call Owen in the morning.

Omer: Does anyone in town have the equipment/ (Boom mowers)?

Road Agent: The state, DOT.

Currier: What is your recommendation?

Road Agent: Sep 1st but kids going through school.

Currier: MB? PM: You’re going to spend another $3K.

Muzzey: Mowing is more imp than a 3rd person

Donna King: Very important that this doesn’t happen again and that it’s put in the budget… not just aesthetically but safety – kids on bicycles, pedestrians…

Currier: Important to put it in a warrant article.

Road Agent: I’d like to think that we could do it with 8K a year if we maintain.

Omer: Do other towns have mowing equipment?

Road Agent: Almost all towns rent from Owens Leasing

Currier: Which is why they don’t have any right now.

Omer: Large-scale Christmas tree farmers have mowers

Road Agent: Side mowers?

Currier: So I would like to make a motion that the Road Agent reach out to MB tractor and Owen to see what’s available and how fast and quote for cost, but we’re looking at $9k? Given that we have saplings growing in the ditch, that’s tree removal, so that budget? OA second MC yes FM yes OA yes. Motion carried.
Muzzey: Motion made that Chief Trott be allowed to contact DOT on behalf of Board to report visibility issue with one of our state roads, OA second MC yes, FM yes OA yes. Motion carried.

Administrative Assistant will send appeal to Rick Evans for opinion and ask person for receipts and invoices

Currier: Proposed working on meeting on Policy Handbook and Proposal & Hooper Hill Emergency Lane.

5pm - High Visibility Shirts. 5-7pm. **PUBLISH**

Any business brought to the Administrative Assistant by Thursday 3pm for agenda to go to Omer by 10 A.M Monday

19:16 – Mrs. Thompson asked about River report for August.

Administrative Assistant: Not received.
Omer spoke w/ Dr. Lisa Doner, Environmental person at PSU on Board of Baker River Watershed Council saying “If there’s a significant issue, they would send an alarm, but will try to do it in a timely manner”.

Mrs. Thompson asked that Administrative Assistant email her when she receives it.

Road Agent reported that “As Dept Heads, we are responsible for our bottom line budget line, as long as it’s not specific to a Warrant Article, I have taken money out of office supplies to fix a $750 unexpected brake job.”

19:43 FM motion to adjourn OA yes, MC yes. Motion carried.

Minutes compiled by Tanya Vela, edited by Selectmen

Approved by Selectmen on ..................................

Francis Muzzey. Omer C. Ahern Jr. Morgan Currier