

**Wentworth Select Board
Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2019**

In Attendance:

Francis Muzzey (Chairperson)
Omer C. Ahern, Jr. (Select Board Member) via conference call
Palmer Koelb (Select Board Member)
Wallace Trott (Police Chief)
Paul Manson (Highway Road Agent)
Randy Ruger (Transfer Station Attendant)
Tanya Vela (Administrative Assistant) – present until 6:30 p.m.
Linda Franz (Bookkeeper)
Kay Bailey

5:04 pm: P. Koelb made a motion to belatedly call the meeting to order. F. Muzzey seconds the motion. Meeting opened to review administrative matters.

Administration.

- F. Muzzey read Carol Young's email to Town with her concerns about the broken bench in the Town Common being a hazard and recommendation to remove it. Motion will be made during public input session after 6 p.m.
- F. Muzzey read an email from North America Procurement Council.
- The Board signed checks for NHPS (background check for new employees).
- The Board and the Highway Road Agent (P. Manson) discussed the future purchase of a fuel meter to measure the amount of fuel used and the need for all purchases to be made before by December 31st.
- P. Manson informed the Board that he would be taking a Road Scholar class in January – part online and part at UNH (Thurs and Sat mornings) that has to do with maintaining roads and he has read a lot of literature on it. He said he thinks it's in town's best interest to use Magnesium Chloride, which has saved towns 50-80% in the form of dust and will probably save the Town a lot of aggravation if we get heavy rains on roadways. The class is \$600 class, which he is paying out of pocket.
- There was further discussion about Magnesium Chloride vs Calcium Chloride and F. Muzzey said some might now want it on road, but suggested the Town respecting the wishes of those who don't want it on their road.
 - P. Manson said he called Allstate Chemicals and asked for the contract two or three times.

- There was discussion about the checks for the library employees. The Trustees of the library had not signed an okay to pay and the Town is not in control of the pay.
- O. Ahern suggested sending a letter to the Library to inform the Trustees that the employees will not be paid unless properly authorized by Board.

6:00pm: F. Muzzey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- The Bookkeeper (L. Franz) asked why J. Newton's check did not get signed and there was a discussion of the 3rd Highway employee hours. The Administrative Assistant (T. Vela) pulled up the minutes from the October 15th Select Board meeting and read the Board's motion out loud with regard to the new employee's hours as stated in his contract.
- T. Vela brought up C. Young's email about the broken bench in the Town Common that is falling apart and has nails protruding from it and her request that it be removed.
 - **Motion. O. Ahern motioned to remove the bench. FM seconded the motion. All voted yet. Motion carried. Highway Dept will remove the bench.**

Police Department. Chief Trott was asked by O. Ahern to comment on the recent suicide in Wentworth. Chief stated that the deceased left behind a wife and 5 children ranging in age from 9 months to age 13.

Transfer Station. F. Muzzey said that a person saw a vehicle with a Maine license plate and spoke to a Transfer Station attendant. R. Ruger said he will investigate the matter.

Highway Department.

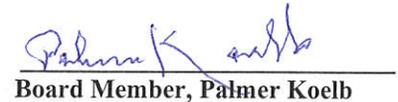
- The Board and Road Agent discussed the template for the bid Request for Qualifications.
- F. Muzzey is going to talk to Jeff Ames again about the bid.
- Compensation "Comp" hours was discussed for any salaried employees. F. Muzzey said he is not in favor of going against what the handbook says.
- P. Manson informed the Board that another problem is that any sick time on has as of Dec 31st is worth time and a half. P. Manson suggested making a change to the policy handbook. Where are we going to come up with the money?
- Money is gone in Road Agent's salary. P. Koelb said we inherited a contract negotiated by a previous Select Board.
- F. Muzzey asked Administrative Assistant to put the issue of comp time on the agenda for next week's meeting.

- Chief Trott informed the Board that any changes would have to be for new employees unless a new contractual agreement is signed for the current employees, who would be “Grandfathered” in. A new contract cannot be made retroactive.
- P. Manson brought up a request for a purchase exceeding \$500. F. Muzzey said to show him in the budget where the money’s coming from and he won’t stand in the way. F. Muzzey added that he was in favor of it, but won’t make a decision until Omer Ahern returns. P. Mason made a correction – the item cost \$498.
- **Motion. O Ahern made a motion to adjourn. F. Muzzey seconded the motion and all voted yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7pm.**

Respectfully submitted by:
Tanya Vela


Chairperson, Francis Muzzey

Board Member, Omer C. Ahern, Jr.


Board Member, Palmer Koelb