

**Wentworth Select Board
Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2020**

Those present: Omer C. Ahern, Jr., Palmer Koelb, Francis Muzzey, Chief Trott, Chief Ames, Paul Manson, Donna King, George Morrill, Andrew Lasser, other residents

Called to Order: Francis Muzzey, Chair Person, called the meeting to order at 5:01pm.

Selectmen signed checks and approved Select Board meeting minutes for 4/19/19, 12/17/19, 1/21/20 and 1/21/20 non-public session.

Motion to have F.Muzzey sign the Health Trust Authorized User Agreement to add Linda Franz and remove Tanya Vela from their portal as primary contact was made by O.Ahern, seconded by P.Koelb. Three voted "yes" and motion carried.

Intent to Cut submitted by Gilbert, Trustee for Baker Valley Community Land Trust was postponed until verification of authority to act on behalf of the trust. L.Franz to follow up.

Cohos Advisors letter to Grafton County regarding time line of events with a legal matter was approved with one minor change.,L.Franz will forward to Cohos for the record.

Application for Current Use submitted by Bouchers in December 2018 was not signed. L.Franz to follow up with applicant to see if the circumstances have changed or if they want us to move forward.

Avitar Mapping Services Agreement was signed by F.Muzzey.

Request for tax refund for Benson was approved and signed.

P.Manson updated Select Board about conversations and meeting with HEB Engineering representative, Chris Fournier regarding Frescoln and Cross Road Bridges. To move forward with the engineering of these projects, C.Fournier prepared three documents on the Town's behalf, a letter to NHDOT, Request for Qualifications, and an advertisement. Select Board requested that F.Muzzey sign letter and the Select Board be the main contact for communications as they are ultimately responsible. L.Franz will forward all communication to parties involved. L.Franz will make changes to documents and present for review and signature.

P.Manson informed that his previous estimate for the engineering on the two bridges would be in the vicinity of \$150,000. After contacting several engineering firms, he discovered that costs have increased dramatically. Total costs per bridge

could be in the \$700,000 to \$900,000 range. Town would have to find a way to pay as no advanced funding from FEMA and other agencies would be available until project is ready to go. All agreed to start process by sending the prepared letter to NHDOT and placing the advertisement. L.Franz to take these steps. P.Manson suggested to table further discussion on funding bridges as it will take some time to decide on an engineer.

Donna King presented a Petition for Warrant Article for video taping and Pemi-Baker TV for \$3,370. Costs were discussed, and the Select Board approved increasing amount of Petition to \$4,930 (\$90 per meeting up to 52 weeks plus \$250 for membership fee). Town will write the warrant article.

Motion to write warrant article as stated in Petition with the increase to \$4930 was made by P.Koelb, seconded by O.Ahern. O.Ahern called the question, three voted "yes" and motion carried.

Donna King presented a Petition for Warrant Article to hire a third Highway Department employee for \$40,000 salary. Warrant Article 4 will be reduced by 40,000 and a new Warrant Article for \$40,000 as stated in Petition will be created. L.Franz to provide costs for benefits for third employee and present at February 10, 2020 budget hearing.

Regarding a previous complaint from resident about cell tower construction, the Select Board advised that the Town cannot assist due to there being no zoning in the town. Resident may have to pursue a civil suit. L.Franz to reply to resident follow-up request.

A.Lasser made a public comment that he was doing some research on internet service providers regarding expanding physical internet infrastructure in town. He suggested that it may be effecting economic development in town as some potential home purchasers are discouraged by lack of dependable internet service. He is also looking into grant funding.

At 7:43pm, O.Ahern made a motion to go into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(b) *The hiring of any person as a public employee*, seconded by P.Koelb. F.Muzzy voted "yes", O.Ahern voted "yes", P.Koelb voted "yes". All three voted in the affirmative, and motion carried.

Re-entered into public meeting at 8:03 pm.

Motion was made by O.Ahern to seal the minutes of the non-public meeting above, seconded by P.Koelb. Three voted "yes", and motion carried.

Tanya Vela requested of the Select Board that her letter of resignation be made public.

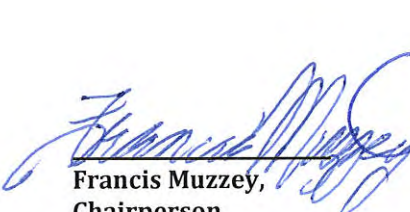
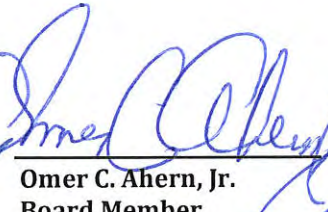
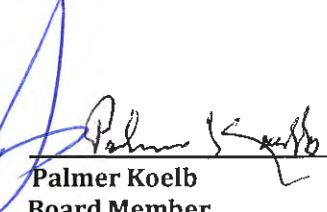
At 8:08pm, O.Ahern made a motion to go into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c) *Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant*, seconded by P.Koelb. F.Muzzy voted "yes", O.Ahern voted "yes", P.Koelb voted "yes". All three voted in the affirmative, and motion carried.

Re-entered into public meeting at 8:26pm.

Motion was made by O.Ahern to seal the minutes of the non-public meeting above, seconded by P.Koelb. Three voted "yes", and motion carried.

At 8:30pm, P.Koelb made a motion to adjourn. F.Muzzey seconded, three voted "yes". Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:
Linda Franz
Interim Administrative Assistant

		
Francis Muzzey, Chairperson	Omer C. Ahern, Jr. Board Member	Palmer Koelb Board Member