Those present: Omer C. Ahern, Jr., Palmer Koelb, Francis Muzzey, Chief Trott, Chief Ames, Jordan King, other residents

Called to Order: Francis Muzzey, Chair Person, called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

Selectmen signed checks and reviewed minutes.

O. Ahern made a motion to approve with slight adjustments the Select Board Meeting Minutes 1/28/20. Seconded by P. Koelb. Three voted “yes” and motion carried.

O. Ahern made a motion to approve as presented the Non Public Session 1 Minutes of 1/28/20. Seconded by P. Koelb. Three voted “yes” and motion carried.

O. Ahern made a motion to approve as presented the Non Public Session 2 Minutes of 1/28/20. Seconded by P. Koelb. Three voted “yes” and motion carried.

O. Ahern made a motion to accept the Intent to Cut for Louria/Bhavnani. Seconded by P. Koelb. Three voted “yes”, motion carried.

P. Koelb made a motion to accept the Intent to Cut for Thomson. Seconded by F. Muzzey. P. Koelb and F. Muzzey voted “yes”, O. Ahern abstained. Motion carried with a vote 2-0.

Select Board unanimously agreed not to sign Intent to Cut for M. Gilbert until she obtains acceptable Trustee certification. L. Franz to follow up.

Select Board did not sign Annual Facilities Report. Requested that Randy Rugar review and approve. L. Franz to follow up.

Letter of resignation from Tanya Vela was read by O. Ahern, and she requested that the letter be recorded verbatim in the meeting minutes.

January 16, 2020

Town of Wentworth
Select Board
P.O. Box 2
7 Atwell Hill Road

Wentworth, NH 03282

Dear Francis Muzzey, Omer C. Ahern, Jr. and Palmer Koelb:

I respectfully submit my resignation from the position of Administrative Assistant for the Select Board of the Town of Wentworth, effective immediately. I am no longer available to
perform the duties of this position due to the increasingly hostile work environment created by my coworker.

On 15 January 2020, I was verbally accosted by my coworker, accusing me of not performing duties of which I had no prior knowledge from the Select Board. She berated me in front of a Select Board member who did not defend me. From the beginning of my tenure, I felt unsupported and was not trained, nor provided with a description of my duties and have been subjected to public allegations for poor performance, due to misinformation.

Additionally, it has come to my attention that despite the lack of training or mentoring from the Select Board, when I failed to meet unspoken expectations, I learned that a Select Board member was actively recruiting others to take my place.

The extreme lack of professionalism and cumulative effect of these actions on my quality of life prompted me to submit this letter. My only regret is being unable to continue to work with the Town Officials whom I have come to respect and enjoy working with on a daily basis.

Sincerely Yours,
Tanya Housenecht Vela

Report from Randy Rugar from F.Muzzey. R.Rugar to dispose of cans as too many to keep under cover as required. Expressed need to have attendant attend a training class. L.Franz to look for available classes and follow up.

General discussion regarding roles of Town Administrator verses Administrative Assistant and training in such positions that may be available through the State of NH. No determinations/decisions made.

Chief Trott reported that the report to the Grafton County Attorney’s office pertaining to a pending criminal case has been completed. A plea and sentencing date will soon be set, hopefully before Town Meeting. Public requests a formal statement of criminal situation at Town Meeting, presentation to be determined. Chief also suggested that an annual audit be performed for the Trust Funds as well as general funds and budget. L.Franz to call Cohos Advisors to determine future services. May also inquire of other firms. Chief also reported that there have been some burglaries in Wentworth and surrounding communities. Investigations pending. Chief Trott also reported repairs were needed to his cruiser and adjusted his budget by $500 to cover the cost of these repairs.

Jeff Ames announced that FEMA grants for Frescoln and Cross Road Bridges are good through 1/2/21 so no urgent need to address. Cross Road Bridge to be addressed for possible state funding in fall 2020.

Jordan King presented a Petition for Warrant Article to increase Select Board pay. Total proposed annual is $12,500. There were discussions of opinions in favor and opposed. Petition has required number of signatures, so Warrant Article will be written.
F. Muzzey made suggested changes to proposed 2020 Warrant Articles.

Article 15-Library. Library Trustees need to review verify amount to come from unassigned fund balance. The balance at end of 2019 is $3282.
Article 17-Elderly Exemption. Base on the 40% increase on specific income/asset limits per a chart created by F. Muzzey.
Article 21-EFT Emergency Lanes. Public agreed to reduce funding from $10,000 to $5,000 as recommended by F. Muzzey.
Article 23-Recovery of Landfill CR of $84,394.65 to be kept at exact amount for auditing purposes. Public agreed.
Article 24-Highway Equip. Hydraulic Broom and York Rake may not be a good choice of equipment as ditching would be needed. Suggested we hold off until next year and maybe purchase more efficient equipment. Public suggested to discuss with Road Agent at budget hearing on Feb. 10, 2020.

At 6:52pm, P. Koelb made a motion to adjourn. O. Ahern 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