

**Wentworth Select Board
Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2020**

Those present: Omer Ahern, Palmer Koelb, Francis Muzzey, Chief Trott, Kay Baily, Donna King, Linda Franz, Sharon Sanborn, Janice Thompson and other residents.

Called to Order: Francis Muzzey, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Selectmen signed checks and reviewed minutes.

Steve Welch, Town Moderator, discussed with Select Board about who would speak about warrant articles at the Town Meeting. Determinations agreed upon.

Chief Trott to follow up with email from future resident regarding parking freight truck on side of Route 25 while loading woodworking business products.

Road Agent, who was not present at the meeting, will be asked to respond to an email from resident regarding Ellsworth Hill Bridge to remove guardrails for transport of (possible purchase) a modular home.

O. Ahern made a motion to approve and sign the three Yield Tax Levy warrants for Melanson, Louria and Borger. Seconded by P. Koelb. Three voted "yes" and motion carried.

O. Ahern made a motion to approve and sign the Land Use Change Tax warrant for King. Seconded by P. Koelb. Three voted "yes" and motion carried.

O. Ahern made a motion to approve and sign the Tax Abatement for Taylor. Seconded by P. Koelb. Three voted "yes" and motion carried.

O. Ahern made a motion to approve and sign the Veteran's Tax Credit Application for property located on 1121 Mount Moosilauke Hwy. Seconded by P. Koelb. Three voted "yes" and motion carried.

O. Ahern made a motion to approve and sign the Veteran's Tax Credit Application for property located on 69 Zoe Road. Seconded by P. Koelb. Three voted "yes" and motion carried.

O. Ahern made a motion to approve and sign the Veteran's Tax Credit Application and Abatement Request for property located on 62 East Side Road. Seconded by P. Koelb. Three voted "yes" and motion carried.

Current Use Application for Davis was not signed. L. Franz to check with Avitar regarding accuracy of information on application.

C.M. Whitcher contract was put on hold. L. Franz to do some cost comparisons with other local waste management companies.

OCAJ
PWK

S. Sanborn inquired if there was interest in attending a “meet and greet” at the library for candidates in the upcoming elections. A good show of interest was expressed. Expected date is Sunday, March 8th from 1pm to 3pm. Library Trustees to follow up.

Chief Trott reported his understanding of Town records being audited as opposed to compiled by former accounting firm. The Police Department completed required sex offender registrations, processed several pistol permits, conducted welfare checks and conducted several proactive patrols on weekends and evenings to increase visibility of police presence (for no particular concern).

L.Franz reported that she is looking into setting up interviews with the Select Board with a few accounting firms. She explained the difference between a compilation and an audit noting a huge difference in cost and extensive preparation involved for an audit.

J. Thompson inquired about the receipt of the approx. \$84K insurance claim for theft of Capital Reserve Funds. Chief Trott believes the Town should be receiving the funds before Town Meeting. Discussed deferred sentence, restitution and further legal/court actions regarding the defendant. Chief Trott agreed to speak about this at Town Meeting.

D.King inquired about the process for getting older meeting minutes finalized and posted. Select Board is editing former Administrative Assistant’s draft minutes to make clear names that were abbreviated, formal motions made, and comparing uncompleted accounts of discussions against other notes taken. This is necessary to preserve integrity of minutes that are required to be retained permanently.

Discussed Town gravel pit. P. Manson was previously asked to provide his opinion on access, possible gravel yield, etc. J. Thompson suggested that the Town verify that it is a legal gravel pit. P. Koelb believes that it was previously licensed/approved. Will address as progression is made.

O. Ahern spoke about non-public sessions. Explained the protocols, processes, purposes and potential penalties of and in NH RSA 91-A:3.

K. Baily expressed her upset towards a Town employee. Concerns included transparency between Select Board and employee and also transparency to public. She was also upset by self-referred title vs. true title of employment. Also suggested that personal comments and opinions be refrained from posting on social media.

F. Muzzey made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by O.Ahern. All voted yes and meeting was adjourned at 7:19pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Linda Franz

Interim Administrative Assistant



Francis Muzzey,
Chairperson

Omer C. Ahern, Jr.
Board Member

Palmer Koelb
Board Member