Wentworth Select Board
Meeting Minutes (2)
March 17, 2020

Those present: Arnold Scheller, Omer Ahern, Jordan King, Wallace Trott, Jeff Ames, Paul Manson, Linda Franz and other residents

Called to Order: Arnold Scheller, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

At 5:06 pm, A.Scheller made a motion to enter into a non-public session (1) pursuant to RSA91-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 J.King. A.Scheller voted yes, O.Ahern voted yes, J.King voted yes. All three voted in the affirmative and motion carried.

Reentered Public Meeting at 5:10pm.

O.Ahern made a motion to seal the minutes of the March 17, 2020 non-public session (1). Seconded by J.King. All voted yes and motion carried.

At 5:12 pm, O.Ahern made a motion to enter into a non-public session (2) pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be. Seconded by J.King. A.Scheller voted yes, O.Ahern voted yes, J.King voted yes. All three voted in the affirmative and motion carried.

Reentered Public Meeting at 5:21pm

O.Ahern made a motion to seal the minutes of the March 17, 2020 non-public session (2). Seconded by J.King. All voted yes and motion carried.

At 5:24 pm, A.Scheller made a motion to enter into a non-public session (3) pursuant to RSA 91-A:5. Seconded by J.King. A.Scheller voted yes, O.Ahern voted yes, J.King voted yes. All three voted in the affirmative and motion carried.

Reentered Public Meeting at 5:33pm

A.Scheller made a motion to seal the minutes of the March 17, 2020 non-public Session (3). Seconded by J.King. All voted yes and motion carried.

At 5:35 pm, O.Ahern made a motion to enter into a non-public session (4) pursuant to RSA91-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
Seconded by J.King. A.Scheller voted yes, O.Ahern voted yes, J.King voted yes. All three voted in the affirmative and motion carried.

Reentered Public Meeting at 5:45pm

O.Ahern made a motion to seal the minutes of the March 17, 2020 non-public Session (4). Seconded by J.King. All voted yes and motion carried.

O.Ahern made a motion to deny the LUCT abatement application regarding property location 5-7-6, Jared King. Seconded by A.Scheller. O.Ahern voted yes, A.Scheller voted yes, J.King abstained. Motion carried with a vote of 2-1


Note that future Intents to Cut for the Baker Valley Community Land Trust provide a Certificate of Trustee document.

O.Ahern made a motion to accept and sign the driveway permit for Adam Patten. Seconded by J.King. Three voted yes, and motion carried.

Jeff Ames reported that all going well. Dealing with Covid-19 precautions. Weather conditions have been fairly dry, will closely monitor for future fire hazards. Due to Covid-19, may decide not to issue burn permits in person. He will keep Select Board informed. Jeff also reported that he requested emergency supplies for the Fire Department has requested supplies from State government agencies.

Select Board would like Jeff Ames to attend a FEMA meeting scheduled for April 1, 2020. A.Scheller asked J.Ames for a list of grants for which the Town may be eligible. J.Ames to report back to Select Board.

A.Scheller reported for the Transfer Station. Randy Rugar and Jim Folsom were asked to look into recycling grants. They will consult with Glen Campbell.

Chief Trott presented a report that is attached. In summary, pistol permits issued, welfare checks done, suspicious vehicle call with successful outcome, Covid-19 update.

P.Manson, Road Agent requested approval for order of broom/York rake as approved in Town Meeting Warrant Article.

A.Scheller made a motion to approve the order of a broom with York rake as accepted in 2020 warrant article. Seconded by J.King. A.Scheller voted yes. J.King voted yes. O.Ahern voted no as it violates Town's Purchasing Policy. Motion carried with a vote of 2-1.

Note: A.Scheller voted yes because Warrant Article passed at Town Meeting, and he was under the impression that Road Agent had previously received three (3) bids.
Paul Manson, Road Agent, will write an advertisement to hire a third highway department employee. Will work with Linda Franz, Administrative Assistant to place advertisement.

Paul Manson, Road Agent, recommended an increase in purchase limit per policy, without prior approval from Select Board, from $1000 to $2000 to accommodate for more recent costs of goods and services. Select Board to advise upon written recommendation from Road Agent.

A. Scheller recommended that a committee be established to save and restore Riverside Park. Will ask Palmer Koelb for advice and recommendations on how to proceed and possibly head up committee. L. Franz will contact and advise.

Gravel pit was addressed. Road Agent contacted DES. He was advised that requirements include land survey and hiring of hydraulic engineer to do river re-routing analysis. Results would not be guaranteed to get necessary permitting. At this point, does not seem feasible. This may be an issue to bring up at next Town Meeting in March 2021.

Select Board introduced new Select Board Meeting Procedures along with forms for meeting agenda requests and non-public session requests.

O. Ahern made a motion to adopt the Select Board Meeting Procedures with two attachments (Agenda Item Request and Non-Public Meeting Request). Seconded by J. King. All voted yes, and motion carried.


A. Scheller has tasked Paul Manson and Jeff Ames to look into remote access for Hazard Mitigation meetings.

A. Scheller reported on interviews conducted with bridge engineering firms and choice to negotiate with HEB Engineers.

O. Ahern discussed April 7, 2020 Selectmen’s training at the NH Municipal Assoc. location in Concord, NH. If canceled, L. Franz to notify Select Board.

A. Scheller made a motion for L. Franz and A. Lasser to meet to discuss Town’s need for website administration, email addresses, etc. Seconded by J. King. All voted yes, and motion carried.

O. Ahern made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by J. King. All voted yes and meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Linda Franz, Interim Administrative Assistant
Please note that the following is a summary of notable activity conducted by the Wentworth Police Department, (WPD), but, does not reflect all of WPD’s activity during this time frame.

The WPD has processed two pistol permit applications within the last two weeks for Wentworth residents.

WPD has also conducted two welfare checks on Wentworth residents both of which turned out to be uneventful.

The WPD assisted the Piermont Police Department with a suspicious vehicle call for service. This call was initially generated by a Wentworth resident who saw something suspicious on Cape Moonshine Road and made Chief Trott aware of it. In following up with the call it turned out that it was a past-tense burglary and the residence was on Cape Moonshine Road but in Piermont. This is a perfect example of our “If you see something say something” campaign. Thank you to the Wentworth resident who took the time to make the call. The matter is currently being investigated by the Piermont Police Department.

The WPD has been taking part in the weekly and at times daily conference calls, as well as the daily updates, between Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the CDC, NH Health and Human Services and the office of the Governor. We would respectfully ask that the residents of Wentworth stay calm and take the recommended precautionary measures outlined by the above agencies and if they have any questions to please call the Coronavirus Hotline which has been set up by the above agencies at 211.

Please know that the Federal Government, as well as our State, County and Local government, are working hand in hand with multiple agencies, to include your own local first responders, to do what they can to eradicate this virus.
On Tuesday, March 17, 2020, DHHS announced nine new positive test results for COVID-19. The new cases are all in adults, including five males and four females. Persons are from the counties of Rockingham (4), Hillsborough (3), and Grafton (2). Several individuals from Rockingham and Grafton counties have no identified risk factors, indicating that New Hampshire is experiencing community-based transmission of COVID-19. In total, 26 cases of COVID-19 have now been identified. All patients are isolating at home and have not required hospitalization.

Note of training: Chief Trott and the police departments administrative assistant Martha Trott recently completed the CBR AED First Aid training consisting of both on-line trainings as well as a practical hands on training that took place at the -