Wentworth Select Board
Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2020


Called to Order: Arnold Scheller, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

Select Board signed the following documents:

Vendor and payroll checks.
Eversource letter.
Forms transferring ownership for Doll House.
Abatement/refund request for Perry.
Timber Tax Warrants for Morrison and Comeau.
Land Use Change Tax for Owen and Georges.

A. Scheller announced that the NHDOT plans to resurface a portion of Route 25. The letter and map are attached and are a part of these minutes.

Discussed the Governor’s Emergency Order #25 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 which authorizes municipalities to use their abatement authority to abate interest on liens and delinquent tax bills.
A. Scheller made a motion to continue to charge interest on liens and delinquent tax bills. Seconded by J. King. By roll call vote, A. Scheller voted yes. Jordan King voted yes. O. Ahern voted yes. All voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

A. Scheller reported that a culvert on Gaves Lane collapsed, and an Emergency Order was approved for repairs. On behalf of the Town, he thanks the Highway Department with the help of equipment and labor provided by Jared King. All did an outstanding job.

O. Ahern addressed the issue of missing non-public and delinquent minutes. He sited RSA91-A:5 which indicates that any personal notes taken during a public meeting are not subject to open records law, and what the Town has is sufficient. No decision, motion or vote was made by the Select Board.

A. Scheller read the Police Report, and a copy is attached and is a part of these minutes. Chief Trott commented about Face Book postings to the Wentworth Bulletin Board page. He emphasized that posting on social media is not an acceptable way to report a crime. If anyone feels that they are a victim of a crime, they are encouraged to call the Police Department or 9-1-1.

Chief Ames presented a new Purchasing Policy for the Town. A. Scheller thanked him for his hard work and for taking the initiative and coordinating with Chief Trott to get this done. O. Ahern is of the opinion that a public hearing should be held.
A.Scheller made a motion to adopt and accept the new Purchasing Policy. Seconded by J.King. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. Jordan King voted yes. O.Ahern voted no. The motion carried with a vote of 2-1.

Chief Ames also reported that there were three call over the past week; a Warren grass fire, false alarm at King Forest and a structure fire in Benton. The department also met for hose training. He also announced that the Fire Department will hold its annual plant and bake sale on Saturday, May 23, 2020 from 9am to 1pm.

Road Agent reported that ditching on Zoe and Auguste Roads is going well, and a resident is accepting the fill. Some residents have requested the magnesium chloride application. A.Scheller made a motion to purchase one tankful of magnesium chloride at approximately $5,500. Seconded by J.King. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. Jordan King voted yes. O.Ahern voted no. The motion carried with a vote of 2-1.

Road Agent also discussed his purchase request for wood to repair bridges. A.Scheller made a motion to purchase the wood from Chris Crowe for $1,860. Seconded by J.King. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. Jordan King voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. All voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

Road Agent updated situation with the roller. It needs a hydraulic motor and is too expensive to fix. He suggested selling it for $3,000 to $5,000 and renting a roller for 1-2 months.

At 6:05 pm, A.Scheller made a motion to enter 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 J.King. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. J. King voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

Reentered Public Meeting at 6:45pm.

O.Ahern made a motion to seal the minutes of the just concluded non-public session. Seconded by J.King. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. J. King voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

A.Scheller made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by J.King. All voted yes and the meeting was adjourned at 6:47pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Linda Franz, Administrative Assistant

Arnold Scheller  
Chairperson  

Omer C. Ahern, Jr.  
Board Member  

Jordan King  
Board Member
May 4, 2020

Re: Bethlehem-Carroll, Wentworth 42780

Chairman of Selectmen

Douglas Campbell

PO Box 2
Wentworth, NH 03282

Dear Mr. Campbell:

The proposed project is a pavement preservation project and involves resurfacing 7.5 miles of roadway in Districts 1 and 2. The project is located in the Towns of Wentworth on NH 25 and Bethlehem-Carroll on US 302. The purpose of the project is to extend the life of existing pavement and prevent more expensive improvements from being needed in the immediate future. The proposed actions include full width shim overlay, full width leveling course overlay, spot inlays, shoulder leveling, pavement markings, adjusting catch basin inlets within existing pavement limits, and replacing plug joints on bridges. Drainage, guardrail, and signing will be assessed and may also be included. All proposed work is within the State right-of-way.

Engineering studies have been initiated to refine the scope and limits of work necessary for this project. The Department’s Bureau of Environment is in the process of evaluating the potential environmental impacts associated with the project. To assist in this evaluation, I am asking that you notify me of any concerns relative to the project’s potential impacts on environmental, social, economic, or cultural resources, such as wetlands, historic properties, and invasive plant species.

Some transportation projects require mitigation for possible wetland/stream impacts. The natural resources in this project area have not yet been identified and investigations are forthcoming. Preliminary engineering studies have begun and the Department will attempt to avoid, and minimize impacts through design before determining if there will be any stream or wetland impacts that may require mitigation. As a proactive measure the Department would like to request a list of the Town’s preferred/priority mitigation efforts that the Department may evaluate and consider undertaking if it is determined that the project does in fact require mitigation. Please let us know if your Town has identified such priorities. In the absence of any Town priorities to evaluate the Department will pursue permittee responsible mitigation through the Stream Passage Improvement Program (SPIP). If it’s determined that no viable options exist through the SPIP, the Department will pursue a payment into the Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund (ARM Fund), at which time those funds will become competitively available through the ARM fund grant process.
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 continues to take part in scheduled conference calls held during the week regarding updates concerning COVID-19.

The WPD handled a sex offender registration this past week. The registration was completed which is mandated by statute and the required completed paperwork was forwarded to the sex offender registry in Concord.

The WPD responded to a domestic dispute between a mother, father, and an adult son. There was also another adult female on scene at the time. The domestic was very heated at the time but Chief Trott was able to defuse the situation and the adult son and his female friend agreed to leave the property. The mother and father were satisfied with their son just leaving and no further follow up was required. There were no reported crimes during this incident.

The WPD took a theft report from a property owner on North Dorchester Road. It was reported that a $500.00 chain hoist had been stolen from the property. There was some video and photo evidence obtained at the scene and Chief Trott is currently investigating this theft.

Chief Trott responded to an open door at a property on Rowentown Road. This door has been found open in the past and was secured by Chief Trott. Please note that this reported by an observant neighbor and we thank them for notifying the police department.

The WPD assisted the Wentworth/Warren Ambulance with several calls for service within the town of Wentworth over the last couple of weeks.