Wentworth Select Board
Meeting Minutes
June 30, 2020

Those present: Arnold Scheller, Omer Ahern, Chief Trott, Chief Ames, Paul Manson, Steve Welch, Donna King, Kathy Keefe, Andrew Lasser, Beth Folsom, Francis Muzzey and Linda Franz. Jordan King in attendance via Zoom.

Called to Order: Arnold Scheller, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

Select Board signed the following documents:
Vendor and payroll checks.
Request for abatement-Richos and Olszewski.
Driveway permit-Fletcher
Intent to Cut-Fraser and Morrison.
Timber Yield Tax-Wilms.
GO FERR grant agreement.
Tax lien payment agreement.

The NH Fish & Game approved a grant of $2,700 to be used for OHRV wheeled vehicle enforcement during the period of May through September, 2020.

A.Scheller made a motion to authorize Linda Franz, on behalf of the Town, to enter into a contract agreement with the State of NH regarding the NH Fish & Game OHRV Law Enforcement Grant. Seconded by O.Ahern. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. J.King voted yes. All voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried. Linda Franz signed the NH Fish & Game grant agreement.

In regard to the GO FERR grant agreement, A.Scheller made a motion that the Town be in compliance with RSA 31:95-b concerning the acceptance and expenditure of any unanticipated revenue from the state, federal or other governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year. Seconded by O.Ahern. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. J.King voted yes. All voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

A.Scheller reported that there was a motorcycle accident and a flat tire due to the disrepair of the Ellsworth Hill Bridge. Emergency repairs were needed. The bridge was repaired with pressure treated planks as opposed to previously planned white oak. This was supposed to be temporary, but the Road Agent decided to leave it there to test its longevity.

Chief Trott provided his written report for the Police Department, and it is a part of these minutes.

Request from Rumtown Speedway, for one-at-a-time vehicle test races on Sundays from noon to 4:00pm as opposed to the previously carried motion to run on Saturdays. Select Board, Chief Trott and Chief Ames approve this change and an agreement was signed.
Chief Ames reported that the WFD responded to a camper fire in Warren, was under control when they arrived. Conducted training for pump and water shuttle. Helped racetrack by hauling 16,000 gallons of water to their property. Went well, good training experience. A.Scheller suggested helicopter training next winter. Plans will be made. Another fire near Camp Victory and Green Camp on Saunders Hill Road. Nearby residents offered the use of their personal ATV's to get to the site. This was an illegal burn and owners were cited and warning issued. Owners complied and a fire permit was issued. A report of an illegal campfire site at the Town's gravel pit. Chief Ames requests residents to report any activity there.

Road Agent, Paul Manson, provided a written report for the Highway Department, and it is a part of these minutes.

Regarding requests for gravel purchase and use of a subcontractor for Atwell Hill Road. A.Scheller made a motion to purchase gravel from Warren Sand & Gravel and to use Jared King for labor (and take chances on potential cost of hammer rental). Seconded by O.Ahern. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. J.King abstained. The motion carried with a vote of 2-0.

To reiterate Section 7A of the Select Board Meeting Procedures, A.Scheller made a motion that all written department head reports presented during a meeting shall become a part of the meeting minutes. Seconded by J.King. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. J.King voted yes. All voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

A.Scheller inquired if there is a plan to burn brush at the Transfer Station. Plan to be determined. Refrigerators need to be removed. Transfer Station manager, Randy Rugar, is handling this. He will also inquire about getting an estimate for a dumpster for metal scrap from Whitcher.

Steve Welch presented his written report for plans for the upcoming elections, and it is a part of these minutes.

Kathy Keefe spoke about Riverside Park. Concerns about an old picnic table, maintenance of tennis court, general upkeep, perhaps charge an entrance fee. A.Scheller recommended she put together a plan and present to Select Board. J.Ames suggested perhaps appointing a Parks & Rec Commissioner. O.Ahern suggested contacting the Grafton County Dept. of Corrections for any labor needed.

Donna King announced that she is heading up a farmer's market to be held on Saturdays at Hamilton Field from 10:00am to 2:00pm beginning July 11 to Aug 29, 2020. She registered with the state and is marketing through Face Book. It will be called Wentworth Farmers Market. She has 15 vendors signed up so far. It looks to be very well accepted as many local events have been canceled. Donna requests that the field be mowed perhaps on Fridays. She will also deal with garbage cans and advise if help is needed. Very well received by Select Board and residents.

Andrew Lasser spoke of the Governor's allocation of $50 million granted to NH from the federal CARES Act for emergency broadband expansion program to assist with the...
increasing demand of dependable internet for schools and residents. RFP's are due by July 2, 2020, which is probably not attainable. A.Scheller suggests he contact NH Senator Guida and Executive Councilor Cryans to push for extended deadlines. If extension is granted, they plan to set up a committee to include Andrew Lasser, Chief Trott, Beth Folsom, Internet companies, Senator Guida, Realtor, Teacher. The Select Board is in favor and supports this program.

Francis Muzzey suggested that anyone building on a Class VI road may not receive Emergency Services. Select Board acknowledged.

At 6:52 pm, A.Scheller made a motion to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. Seconded by O.Ahern. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. J.King voted yes. All voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

Reentered Public Meeting at 7:02 pm.

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

O.Ahern made a motion to hire a third person for the Transfer Station as recommended by the manager, Randy Rugar. Seconded by A.Scheller. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. J.King voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

At 7:04 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 O.Ahern. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. J.King voted yes. All voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

Reentered Public Meeting at 7:43 pm.

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

O.Ahern made a motion to delay a possible deeding and revisit the situation at next Select Board meeting in a non-public session. Seconded by A.Scheller. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. J.King voted yes. All voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

A.Scheller made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by O.Ahern. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. J.King voted yes. All voted in the affirmative, and meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm.
Respectfully submitted by: Linda Franz, Administrative Assistant

Arnold Scheller, Chair    Omer C. Ahern, Jr.    Jordan King
WPD Activity Report
Presented 06/30/2020

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 in the scheduled conference calls held during the week regarding updates concerning COVID-19. Although the number of conference calls per week have lessened, the importance of taking part in the remaining calls still remains a priority.

Having said that, as Chief of the WPD, I want to just report a little bit on the impact that COVID-19 has had on your police department over the last four (4) months. As Chief of Police I made a command decision to minimize potentially exposing my other three (3) officers to COVID-19 by not having them work during the last four (4) months. It has only been within the last couple of weeks that I have allowed another officer to cover the office. I have been the only Wentworth Officer working during this time, by choice, to help ensure the safety of my other officers by minimizing the hours they worked.

Because of this decision, it of course increased my workload. I handled all the calls for service when on duty, and because of COVID-19, my administrative duties increased on average over 10 hours per week. To put it into better perspective, during that four (4) month time frame I worked an additional 169 hours above and beyond what I would have normally worked. These hours were spent on weekly conference calls, as well as law enforcement specific conference calls with the A.G.s office, as well as listening to the Governors press conferences for daily updates, and, reading numerous e-mails on a daily basis pertaining specifically to COVID-19 and the State of New Hampshire. These hours were also spent reviewing, understanding, and conveying each of the numerous emergency orders put in place by Governor Sununu. I have also ensured building security, and personal security, as best I could at the Wentworth Town Office for the town employees and town officials while they were navigating through how to effectively serve the community and still abide by the Governors orders.
I share this information because I want the public to know that just because the Police Department has been closed “physically” to the public, the necessary services that the police department has to perform still went on, and, more work and administrative duties had to be performed. The police department obtained and distributed PPE where it was needed within the town infrastructure. We have been, and continue to be, in direct contact with local, county, state and federal partners to ensure that we are doing everything that we can to cope with COVID-19 while still performing our essential duties. We are doing this while still making sure that our priority is the safety of the Community of Wentworth. This has been, to say the least, a learning experience. I have been fortunate to have other dedicated first responders to work with while we all navigated through this unexpected crisis. The Wentworth Fire Department under the leadership of Chief Jeff Ames also has had to adapt, improvise and overcome obstacles during this COVID-19 crisis that is nothing short of commendable. Wentworth is extremely fortunate to have the first responders that we have. I want the community of Wentworth to know that we are still here and working harder than ever for them and we will continue to do so until we are back to some sense of normality.

Having put you through all of that I will now proceed with my activity report.

Chief Trott responded to a report of a juvenile in the area of Shawnees Store on a bicycle that reportedly was in possession of a loaded handgun. Chief Trott was assisted by the GCSO, Deputy Cherichetti, and the juvenile was located by Chief Trott without incident. The handgun turned out to be a soft air handgun, but, it did not have a orange tip or anything on it that would indicate that it was not a real handgun. It was a replica of an actual semi-automatic handgun and easily mistaken for a real handgun unless it was held and visually inspected. Chief Trott made contact the boys parents and the matter was resolved with some counseling regarding the matter.

Chief Trott took a report of some suspicious activity on East Side Road. The matter is currently under investigation and will be monitored.
Chief Trott took a report of a nuisance bear from a Wentworth resident on East Side Road. New Hampshire Fish & Game was notified, and the matter was referred to them for input and action.

Chief Trott answered a Right To Know Request under RSA 91-A from New Hampshire Public Radio on behalf of the town pertaining specifically to the police department itself. There were no concerning issues to report in the response and it was very generic.

As you may have heard, read, or seen we have had some complaints regarding trash being left at Riverside Park and Hamilton Field. I have been patrolling both locations while on duty and they are checked at different times during the weekend. I am hoping that between our patrols and the watchful eyes of our residents that we will stop these issues. I do want the public to know that if we do witness any violations taking place where an enforcement action can be taken it will be taken. For the most part both locations have been found to be in good condition and the trash cans are being utilized. Having said that I want to thank everyone who took part in cleaning up the area of Paiges swimming hole.

Finally I have a request from Dan Bowne requesting permission from the selectmen to allow him to run a car at a time on Sundays for test runs. This will be done between the hours of 1200 Noon and 4:00 P.M. This is what the campground would rather have him do and they are supportive of it. In order for to be able to do so, in accordance with the town ordinance, he would need permission from the selectmen which is what he is requesting. Please keep in mind it may be every Sunday, it may be every other Sunday, and it only be for an hour or a couple of hours, but if it is approved for Sundays between 12:00 Noon and 4:00 then it will alleviate the need to come to the board every other Tuesday. I have no issue with this and I have spoken with Chief Ames and as well has no issues with it. I am submitting the written request to the board for approval.
Over the last two weeks the highway department has been busy! We ditched beech hill road from the nursery to the pavement at the top of the hill just shy of a half mile of road. We also put 4” of gravel on the same portion of road, we have crowned the road properly and put lots of water on the road to help pack the gravel in. We had several complaints of dust from people who travel and live on buffalo road (Gravel section), and we have put magnesium on the road all the way to the wentworth / rumney town line. We also have put magnesium on Nichols hill road and we have graded and put magnesium down on roentown road, we have had very dry weather and the dust is a problem for residents who live on our gravel roads. We have installed check dams on the ditch lines of red oak hill road. We have cut some brush along the banking around the bridge on roentown road. We also have been busy in the shop with repairs to our backhoe and 6 wheel trucks. We have received our 6x6x16 pressure treated bridge decking from Gilford home center. There was a couple incidents with motorcycles on the ellsworth hill bridge last week, one got a flat tire and another got his front tire caught on the rotted runners. I deemed the bridge unsafe and decided we would do emergency repairs, I spent $1956.00 on pressure treated lumber and screws. We are waiting on the white oak runners from Chris Crowe to move forward with the other two bridges. We have got bids, for gravel and subcontractor rates for the widening of atwell hill road from 469 atwell hill up about 400’ and graveling atwell hill road from the pavement end to webster road (approx. 1.5 miles) and 1500 – 2000 yards of gravel. Hoping to get this project started and done sometime in August or before depending on the paving schedule and bridge work.
Steve Welch - Election plans

I can make up 5 screens out of clear roofing.

Panels are 20" x 8' and run $8/6.00 each. This covers 2 ballot clerk tables, 2 supervisors tables and 1 for town clerk/moderator. Probably another $50- or so for lumber.

We will want masks for voters and I would recommend golf pencils to be single use and either kept by voter or tossed out.

We can leave masks and hand wipes or sanitizer at door as folks come in.

Feedback from other moderators shows most are figuring 50/50 split on absentee and in person ballots. Town Clerk takes care of ordering ballots.

Will want to have extra wipes to clean as much as we can inside as well.