Wentworth Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
August 25, 2020

Those present: Arnold Scheller, Omer Ahern, Jordan King, Chief Trott, Chief Ames, Paul Manson, Francis Muzzey, Kay Bailey, Andrew Lasser, and Linda Franz.

Called to Order: Arnold Scheller, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Select Board signed the following documents:
Vendor and payroll checks  
Minutes for August 11 and 18, 2020  
Septic approval-Boucher  
Request for payment from capital reserve-HEB Engineers  
Form M-1

The Personnel Policy was presented for approval. O.Ahern had one change. He would like more time to review. A.Scheller made a motion to hold off on approval of the Personnel Policy/Employee Handbook until next meeting. Seconded by J.King. All three voted in the affirmative, and motion carried.

Discussed the results of the E.Coli testing of the Baker River. Counts were a little higher this testing, but still below the accepted level. No immediate concerns. The BRWA has acquired their own testing equipment so will be able to do more testing at the same cost to the Town. J.King made a motion to double the number of E.Coli tests for the same cost as we are now being charged. Seconded by A.Scheller. J.King voted yes. A.Scheller voted yes. O.Ahern abstained. The motion carried with a quorum vote.

Discussed the New Hampshire Electric Coop notice regarding a Zoom meeting on October 20, 2020 to discuss and vote for a change in their services to include broadband expansion. Andrew Lasser will attend the Zoom meeting to gather information. He and committee are currently pursuing options with other broadband companies as described in past meetings. O.Ahern expressed concern that he does not want 5G technology for the Town. A.Lasser explained that 5G is wireless cellular service and would not bode well and be unreliable due to interference with the terrain irregularities in this area.

L.Franz will refer the North Country Council’s Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan to the Planning Board.

Per DOT notice, repaving of part of Route 25 is delayed until 2021.

Per Avitar letter, there will be no inside inspections in 2020 due to Covid-19. They will be conducted in 2021.

A.Scheller reported that cull logs were placed in Riverside Park designating the parking area, which should help to decrease the number of people in the park at the same time. The porta
A.Scheller also discussed the issue of either repairing/purchasing/leasing a backhoe. He says that everyone has been helpful and understanding. O.Ahern suggests the option to purchase used equipment that will cost less and may not require servicing at a dealership. A.Scheller is looking to get innovative ideas from residents.

Chief Trott provided a written report for the Police Department, and it is a part of these minutes. He also reported that the ATV Club is doing their own trail patrols.

A.Scheller advised that people who were attending the farmer’s market were inquiring about how they could donate towards body cams for the Police Dept. When the 501c3 is set up, he will notify on how to donate.

Chief Ames provided a written report for the Fire Department, and it is a part of these minutes.

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

In addition to his report, P.Manson addressed an Atwell Hill Road resident’s inquiry regarding water pouring on to his property. Water needs to be rerouted, and various options were discussed. Highway Dept. will dig out around culvert and put stone to slow the flow of water and see if this will ease the situation at all. If not, it will be addressed at a later date.

P.Manson reported that the backhoe is back from the dealership. It was full of sludge. It was power cleaned and is now working well so far. He is hoping it will last through the rest of the year.

P.Manson also reported that the International truck is in need of repair for an estimated cost of $6,840. O.Ahern made a motion to authorize the repair of the International truck for an approximate amount of $6,840 and that the Road Agent will take this amount from the Highway Dept. budget. Seconded by J.King. All three voted in the affirmative, and motion carried.

Francis Muzzey expressed concern about making motions involving costs that are broadcast on the internet as it may affect bids.

A.Scheller asked P.Manson to put together a preventative maintenance plan for each piece of town-owned equipment and trucks. Plan should include a breakdown of what employees, Kevin Knapp and dealership can do. He also requested a plan to decrease washouts during sudden rains, especially on critical steep roads.

P.Manson stated that he keeps detailed maintenance logs and schedules. He will put together a complete plan for maintenance and needed equipment and trucks before December’s budget meetings. Chief Ames suggested putting together a committee of residents, headed by
P. Manson, for advice on needs and plan. Possible members include John Comeau, Jared King, John King, Brian DuBois and Francis Muzzey.

A. Scheller made a motion for P. Manson to form a committee of community volunteers to support him in coming up with a plan for action items regarding trucks and equipment needs of the Town. Seconded by O. Ahern. All three voted in the affirmative, and motion carried.

J. King reported on the gravel pit. He is in the process of setting up an informational meeting with DES for week of Sept 7-14 regarding an alteration of terrain permit and other things needed. His plan is to have information for town meeting to see if residents want to proceed.

J. King also reported that the engineering study being performed by HEB Engineers for the Frescoln and Cross Road bridges is about 50% completed and is on track with their schedule.

J. King will take a look at the town-owned property that someone is looking to buy to determine a value before Select Board makes a decision to put up for sale or not.

Kay Bailey addressed a few of her concerns about Select Board meeting procedures, interaction with the public in attendance, and decision making by the Select Board.

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 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.

Reentered Public Meeting at 7:12 pm.

A. Scheller made a motion to seal the minutes of the just concluded non-public session. Seconded by J. King. All three voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

At 7:14 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. O. Ahern voted yes. J. King voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

Reentered Public Meeting at 7:40 pm.

A. Scheller made a motion to seal the minutes of the just concluded non-public session. Seconded by J. King. All three voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

O. Ahern made a motion that the Board grant deed waivers for three agreed-upon properties, map and lot numbers 2-5-4, 4-2-3, 8-7-7 and to enter into tax payment agreements. The
deeding of three other properties will be discussed at a meeting on September 1, 2020. Seconded by J.King. All three voted in the affirmative, and motion carried.

O.Ahern discussed the need for appointment of Select Board designees for elections taking place from 8am to 7pm on September 8, 2020. Each Select Board member will provide 2-3 names and preferred times of coverage.

O.Ahern made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by A.Scheller. All three voted in the affirmative, and meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Linda Franz, Administrative Assistant

Arnold Scheller, Chair  Omer C. Ahern, Jr.  Jordan King
WPD Activity Report
Presented 08/25/2020

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 the scheduled conference calls held during the week regarding updates concerning COVID-19, as well as Law Enforcement Update calls. These calls remain a priority for us.

Chief Trott has conducted several OHRV patrols over the last 2 weekends and has made numerous contacts with OHRV riders during those patrols. There were no reported issues and Chief Trott conducted several safety checks during those patrols. The Poker Run was cancelled due to the Governors new order, Order # 63, so OHRV traffic was not as high as anticipated for that weekend.

We had no reported issues at either Hamilton Field or Riverside Park the past two weekends. The cull logs that were put in place thanks to Arnie Schellar, John King and John Wayne Comeau seemed to be effective and I have had no reported complaints. The Farmers Market as well both weekends appeared to be busy and successful and no reported issues there either.

Chief Trott took care of a sex offender registration and the proper paperwork was completed and forwarded to the sex offender registry in Concord.

Chief Trott also took care of a change of information for a registered sex offender who was moving out of the town of Wentworth. The proper paperwork was completed and sent to the sex offender registry in Concord.

Chief Trott would like to extend a huge thank you to Wentworth Town Clerk Deb Ziemba. Deb came in on a Saturday when contacted by Chief Trott pertaining to a found dog with a dog license from 2011. With Deb’s help the dog was reunited with it’s owner. This could not have been accomplished without her help.
Wentworth Fire

Calls for service

Canaan forest fire mutual aid

Orford for cover truck then reassigned to Fairlee VT for water shuttle forest fire.

Piermont fire alarm activation general alarm at home on cape moonshine road, piermont could not cover this call

Warren outside fire mutual aid

Wentworth tree in road rt 25a

Wentworth Alarm activation home alarm false rt 25a

Personal

we again have an increase in our team as another new member has joined our ranks making 3 new members in the past month.

Training

Recently we broke out into two groups the probationary fire fighters in one group mixed with some experienced fire fighters, this group has been going over trucks and appliances terms and useages of appliances, the second group worked with our other set of rescue tools on engine 3 operating and test running.
over the last two weeks, we have been busy ditching buffalo road, from the intersection of turner road to east side road. Last week we started mowing the road sides and pushing back and cutting branches hanging over the roads. We will be done mowing this Friday and we can go back to ditching, starting on eastside road.

Our backhoe has been giving us problems in and out of the shop, we just got it back and will keep our fingers crossed we get thru the year. In my opinion its time for new equipment. Our international went for inspection and it needs work, liberty suggested we do not drive it, so it will be at liberty international until next week some time. The town needs to have a serious conversation about replacing our backhoe and or our international truck! The money the town is pouring into these two pieces of equipment yearly is mind boggling and its handcuffing the highway department budget.

We are coming down to crunch time, with many project still trying to complete before cold weather sets in. we will be busy the next 7 – 8 weeks trying to complete what we have set out to do for the summer and fall projects.