Wentworth Select Board
Meeting Minutes
December 29, 2020

Those present: Arnold Scheller, Omer Ahern, Jordan King (via Zoom), Chief Trott, Chief Ames, Paul Manson, Andrew Lasser and Linda Franz.

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

The Select Board approved and signed the following:
Payroll and vendor checks
Abatements for inventory form penalties
Intent to Cut-DeCotis
Land Use Change Tax-Gardner
Due date extension for Hazard Mitigation Plan, all agreed to address by January 31, 2021

O.Ahern made a motion to accept and sign the minutes for December 1, 7, 15 and 19, 2020 with one minor wording change. Seconded by J.King. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

O.Ahern made a motion to amend the Personnel Policy, Holiday section, page 13. The last sentence of paragraph two now reads, “Should the Highway Department be required to work on a holiday due to weather conditions, hourly employees will receive one and one-half times their normal rate of pay in addition to holiday pay”. Seconded by A.Scheller. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

A.Scheller reported that he has been communicating with the NH Timber Owners Association regarding a plan to improve standing timber and provide access to the public for our Town Forests, approximately 180 acres in total. J.King expressed an interest to be involved with the planning. This is fully funded by the state.

A.Scheller made a motion to move forward with town forest projects and to form a committee of residents and meet with the NH Timber Owners Association. Seconded by O.Ahern. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

Chief Ames, Chief Trott and P.Manson all provided written reports, and they are a part of these minutes.

L.Franz read a notice from the library regarding their new on-line system.

A.Lasser gave an update on the broadband proposal from Consolidated Communications. Inquiries were made for services from other companies (Spectrum, NHEC, Star Link), but Consolidated suits the Town’s needs, and the project would be completed much sooner than other options. This is a totally different service (fiber optics with dedicated bandwidth for each customer) with much higher upload and download speeds than what is currently available in this area. There is no cost to the town. A bond will fund the project and will be repaid by subscribers. Each customer pays for service and approximately $15 per month for a
bond payment. There may also be installation charges for running wires, etc. for more remote residential locations. Andrew has posted the Consolidated Communications proposal on the Wentworth Bulletin Board and Wentworth News and Views Face Book pages. You may also request a copy to be emailed to you. Please send requests to Andrew@Shiretek.com.

After reviewing the remainder of his 2020 budget, P.Manson reported that he will buy 1200 yards of gravel at $11.25 per yard for a total of $13,500.

A.Scheller made a motion to purchase 1200 yards of gravel for $13,500 to come from the remainder of the Highway Department 2020 budget. Seconded by O.Ahern, All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

P.Manson also reported that Western Star will take the International truck in trade against a new truck. The trade-in value will be for $9,000 as long as it remains in the same condition as it is at present time. The board agreed that a trade in would be better than trying to sell the International outright.

At 6:09 pm, A.Scheller made a motion to enter into a non-public session 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 granted. Seconded by J.King. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. J.King voted yes. All three voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

Re-entered public meeting at 6:20pm

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

A.Scheller made a motion for all Town equipment to be used for Town business/purposes only due to liability issues and that no equipment will be used by individuals for personal business. Seconded by O.Ahern. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

A.Scheller made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by J.King. All three voted in the affirmative, and meeting was adjourned at 6:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Linda Franz, Administrative Assistant

Arnold Scheller, Chair

Omer C. Ahern, Jr.

Jordan King
WPD Activity Report  
Presented 12/29/2020

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.

Chief Trott assisted the NH Department of Adult & Elderly Services with a request for information regarding an investigation that they were conducting involving an elderly NH resident. We assisted that agency and that matter remains under investigation.

Chief Trott took a report of credit card fraud where a nonresidents credit card was used to purchase items on-line and were attempted to be shipped to an address in Wentworth. Follow up has shown that the resident at that address has also fallen victim to an internet scam and was not involved with this one. Chief Trott was able to get the monies returned to the initial victim and the company shipping the items were also alerted to the e-mail scam.

The WPD has conducted two welfare checks on Wentworth residents over the last two weeks. Both had positive outcomes and we were able to assist one resident with getting some assistance regarding a utility issue she was having. I want to thank the people who called us regarding these two welfare checks and want to reiterate to our residents not to hesitate in calling us if they feel that someone should be checked on. As a community we need to take care of one another.

The WPD received a law enforcement letter from D.C.Y.F. regarding an intake report on a family in Wentworth that may require some services. That matter is being addressed by D.C.Y.F. and the W.P.D.
Now I would like to speak on a couple of administrative items.

During our last zoom meeting I briefed the selectmen on the WPD’s policy regarding COVID-19 which we have been discussing in detail for some time. As of today’s date, 12/29/2020, I have submitted my policy in writing as a finished product to the selectmen for the purpose of documentation. I once again want to thank the selectmen, the other members of town government, and more importantly, the public and the residents of Wentworth for their patience and understanding as we continue to navigate through this pandemic. Also during our last zoom meeting I made a recommendation to the selectmen that they accept the nomination of Wentworth resident William (Bill) Melanson as our new Animal Control Officer (ACO) and that was voted on and approved.

I have placed two orders on behalf of the ACO and the town of Wentworth for clothing and equipment needed in order for our new ACO to be able to carry out his duties starting January 1st 2021. Those two orders/invoices will come out of the ACO line item, #4414.1 which has more than enough remaining in it to cover the items ordered. ($372.21 Total for both invoices).

The board will also see an invoice regarding a repair that had to be made our cruiser. I was having some brake issues which Chief Jeff Ames brought to my attention so I had them checked and found that the front brakes were in need of being replaced. That repair cost us $229.46 but was a necessary repair and was covered in my current budget under maintenance and repairs.

I bring this up only to lay the groundwork that although I have not asked for a new cruiser for 2021, I will be looking a replacing this cruiser in 2022. This cruiser is a 2015 and will be 7 years old at that time and probably pushing close to 1000,000 miles. We will of course present that as a warrant article at that time. I am just planting the seed now.
Wentworth Police Department
COVID-19 Safety Protocol

The Following steps are being implemented by the Wentworth Police Department to help fight COVID-19. These steps are also in place to assist in protecting the health of the members of the Wentworth Police Department, other members of the town of Wentworth’s infrastructure, as well as the citizens of the town of Wentworth and the public.

Prior to reporting for duty, regardless of whether that duty is patrol work, administrative work, or a special detail, each member of the WPD will have their temperature checked to ensure that they do not have a temperature above 100 degrees F.

If someone does have a temperature above 100 degrees F then that employee will be sent home, and will be required to remain at home until the temperature subsides, usually within 24 hours. If their temperature does not subside within 24 hours, then the employee will be required to have a COVID-19 test done.

If the employee test comes back NEGATIVE, then the employee can return to work, after their temperature subsides, unless they know that they have had an exposure to someone who may have COVID-19 or has tested POSITIVE for COVID-19. In that case they will then follow the COVID-19 quarantine guidelines set forth by the state of New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services. An employee of the WPD may return to work, after the quarantine time frame has expired, the employee is not exhibiting symptoms, and, a second COVID-19 test has been taken showing a NEGATIVE test result.

If the employee test POSITIVE, then they will be required to follow the COVID-19 quarantine guidelines set forth by the state of New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services and quarantine for the mandated 10 days. They must isolate at home until symptom-based criteria are met for discontinuation of isolation: At LEAST 10 days have passed since symptoms first started, or, since the date of the positive COVID-19 test, if not experiencing symptoms, AND, at least 24 hours have passed since their last fever, (off any fever deducing medications) AND, their symptoms have improved.

If a WPD employee does test POSITIVE. That employee shall notify the Chief of Police, and or, the administrative assistant to the Wentworth board of selectmen, who will then ensure that anyone who has had unprotected exposure, or exposure, by definition, with that employee, SHALL be contacted and advised that they are required to quarantine for 10 days and then follow their COVID-19 policy guidelines.
Wentworth Police Department employees will also practice all the other safety precautions set forth by the state of New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services as well as the CDC such as the following.

- Frequently washing of hands in warm water with soap.

- Utilizing and making available hand sanitizer in the office as well as the cruiser when applicable.

- Maintaining social distancing whenever possible and when unable to do so utilizing the wearing of masks for the safety of all involved

- Ensuring that even though the Wentworth town offices may be cleaned on a weekly basis, members of the Wentworth Police Department will also clean the WPD office, with sanitizer, before being used or exposed to the public.

If numerous members of the WPD are required to quarantine, and there is not enough adequate coverage for the town of Wentworth, the Chief of Police will request that New Hampshire State Police be placed on call, and if need be, assistance may be requested through the Grafton County Sheriff’s Department. These agencies will handle calls that they deem are a priority, and other calls may be handled later by an available Wentworth officer when one is available.

Chief Wallace Trott

Date: 12/29/2020

COPY
The State of New Hampshire has adopted the following quarantine guidelines for any travel out of the New England region and for all unprotected exposure algorithms.

**Updated Quarantine Requirements-General**

If you have been identified as having an unprotected exposure to someone diagnosed with COVID-19, then you are at risk of developing COVID-19 yourself and need to follow these guidelines:

- You must stay at your home and avoid other people for 10 days after you were last exposed to a person with COVID-19. You may not go out in public places - not even to the grocery store or to run errands.
- Do not visit with other people outside of your home, and do not invite others into your house to visit. If you must have visitors, tell them that you are under quarantine.
- Keep your distance from others in your household (at least 6 feet). Wear a cloth face covering to protect those around you.
- Someone who was exposed to COVID-19 can develop illness and test positive anytime during the 10-day period.

**Updated Quarantine Requirements-Critical Infrastructure Agencies/First Responders**

Critical infrastructure agencies experiencing significant staff shortages due to employees being out on quarantine resulting in the inability to maintain operations may permit essential employees to work during their quarantine period if all of the following criteria are met:

- The employee is not exhibiting any signs or symptoms of COVID-19
- The employee is not a household contact to a confirmed case of COVID-19
- The employee is deemed essential to the functioning of the business and substantial business impact would be experienced if the employee does not work in person
- The employee cannot conduct essential functions remotely
- There is no replacement personnel for the employee
- The employee self-quarantines for all other purposes other than reporting to work
- The employee wears a mask, maintains at least 6 feet of separation from other employees and customers, and participates in daily health screening while at work as outlined in CDC guidance

**Updated Quarantine Requirements-Out of New England Region Travel**

Travelers/visitors to and residents of NH need to self-quarantine for 10 days following the last date of any high-risk travel, which includes travel internationally (including to/from Canada); on a cruise ship; or domestically outside of the New England states of Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, or Rhode Island for nonessential purposes.
People meeting the criteria for high-risk travel have the option of ending their quarantine after day 7 by getting a test on day 6-7 of their quarantine to test for active SARS-CoV-2 infection (SARS-CoV-2 is the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19); this test must be a molecular test (e.g., PCR-based test); antigen tests (rapid tests) are not accepted for this purpose.

If the test is obtained on day 6-7 of quarantine, the person is asymptomatic, and the test is negative, then the person can end their quarantine after 7 days, but they must still self-observe for symptoms of COVID-19 and strictly adhere to COVID-19 mitigation measures (social distancing, avoiding social gatherings, wearing a face mask, practicing frequent hand hygiene, etc.) for a full 14 days after their last day of travel.

Any new symptoms of COVID-19 should prompt the person to isolate and seek testing again (even if the person recently tested out of quarantine). This 7-day quarantine “test out” option ONLY applies to travel-related quarantine (not quarantine due to a high-risk close contact exposure to a person with COVID-19).


For more information on quarantine guidance scenarios please visit NH DHHS at https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/

Please feel free to contact the ESF-4 desk at (603) 223-3718 with any questions.
If you test positive for COVID-19

TAKE STEPS TO HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

STAY HOME.
Do not leave your home, except to get medical care. Do not visit public areas.

GET REST AND STAY HYDRATED.
Take over-the-counter medicines, such as acetaminophen, to help you feel better.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR DOCTOR.

SEPARATE YOURSELF FROM OTHER PEOPLE.
As much as possible, stay in a specific room and away from other people and pets in your home.

If you test negative for COVID-19

- You probably were not infected at the time your sample was collected.
- However, that does not mean you will not get sick.
- It is possible that you were very early in your infection when your sample was collected and that you could test positive later.

A negative test result does not mean you won’t get sick later.
Wentworth Fire

Calls for service

Odor in the building, detector activated Wentworth Atwell hill road, oil furnace pipe came apart at chimney cleared the building and home owner was going to have proper repairs done.

Structure fire mutual aid to Warren 2 buildings burning same lot, 15 Wentworth fire fighters and 3 pieces responded

Rekindle on structure fire mutual aid to warren.

Training

The last meeting we broke out into a couple groups one group went over the rural hitch and the appliances used for, as well as location of those appliances working off from engine 1.

The second group went over the 4.5 air packs doing the checks as required and swapping out some of the older units with the recently purchased used refurbed units.

Meetings,

The chief has had a couple of meetings/ recent discussions with officers from some of our mutual aid departments all working towards the needs of each department narrowing down each department specific needs prior to an actual call. Prior planning for specific resources

Personnel

All members of the department are working hard on training, calls, and special assignments, Due to the fact we are experiencing a influx of new members we are in discussion of adding in an extra monthly training for the probationary/new firefighters to help speed their learning process giving the new firefighters a chance to absorb the information easier
Road Agent Report  
December 29, 2020

We have been busy the last couple weeks. On December 17th, we received 13" inches of snow, that kept us busy for a couple days cleaning up and taking care of the roads. We received our waste oil furnace and we have put that all together, everything is done except we are waiting on class A chimney parts, once we get everything operational, I will call chief Ames and have him come and inspect it. All the wiring was done by gilbert Electric. We had a bit of flooding on Christmas day that I got called about. We had water across the road on upper roentown road, North Dorchester road and we had a pretty good washout on cape moonshine road. I checked the culverts and water level at cross road and frescoln road at about 3:30pm and the culverts were at about 90% - 95% capacity. The rain stopped around 6:00 and the water receded quickly. There was no significant damage anywhere. We did use 24 yards of gravel to repair cape moonshine road. It looks like we could be in for a possible ice storm on new years day and night.

Paul Manson