

**Selectmen's Meeting**  
**Monday, April 24, 2023**

Chairman Les Babb called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Selectmen Les Babb, Ernie Day and Melissa Florio, and Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator, who recorded these minutes. This meeting was held at the Town Office.

Also in attendance were Rich Laferriere, Rob Cunio, Charlene McCurtain

Public: Bill Elliott, Susan Douglass, Robert Marx, Dan Evarts (Association President), Mary Giglio, Robert Chaplin, Brandy Buttrick

**Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes:**

The accounts payable, payroll manifests, and red folder, including correspondence, were reviewed.

*Ernie made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2023, Selectmen's Meetings and Non-Public Session. With the following correction: Change Clean Waters to Clean Harbors. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.*

**Department Head Updates:**

**Police Department** – Rich reported it's slow nothing really to report.

**Transfer Station** – Charlene updated the board that the burn went well, and the C & D has been emptied.

**Highway Department** – Scott is out.

**Appointment- Square Brook Association**

Robert Marx, Susan Douglass, Association President Dan Evarts, and Robert Chaplin came before the board at the request of the Board of Selectmen to discuss the challenges of plowing Square Brook the past winter.

Les opened the discussion up with explaining that the Highway Department has had challenges plowing the association this past winter with people plowing across the road, cars parked on the side of the road and snowmobiles snowmobiling up and down the road before they plow compacting the snow down making it harder to plow and there have been incidents where people have also cleaned their cars off in the road after it has been plowed. All of this has added to time and expense in keeping the Association plowed. Les said when this happened with Mountain View, they decided to contract with someone else to plow their Association. Melissa added that the BOS had had multiple conversations with the Road Agent, who could not be present tonight about the numerous incidents and challenges described above. She went on to explain the Selectmen thought it would be best to have the Square Brook Board come in and discuss the situation and come up with an action plan that everyone can agree on. Ernie added it's about public safety. Cars cannot be parked in the road when the drivers are trying to plow there is also concern about emergency vehicles being able to get through.

Robert Marx questions whether this is a problem throughout Square Brook or is it focused on one area or road. Les responded it's multiple roads with multiple incidents, and the snowmobiles are

throughout the association. Mr. Marx said he wishes the Road Agent had reached out or communicated to him sooner about the problem. Les responded that is why the BOS had you come to see if you want to address this. Mr. Marx said they would like to find a way to get this corrected. The Association has a Facebook page to communicate to owners about any concerns or rules that need to be adhered to. He mentioned the parking ban as an example. Mary Giglio commented she is one of the people that park on the side of the road while her driveway is being plowed but she sits in her car and has never seen the plow truck come through and as far as coming back for the clean-up, Square Brook has a lot of branches hang over the road that collect snow that fall off into the road she also stated that this is a problem all over town with people having to park on the side of the road while their driveway is being plowed. Les responded they don't park their car, and when asked to move it say "no" because they're waiting for their driveway to be cleared. Mary responded that one person couldn't affect 110. Melissa stated that there has been more than one issue and the Road Agent has brought this to the attention of the BOS more than once throughout the winter. Discussion ensued around the snowmobile laws. Rich explained you couldn't drive a snowmobile down the road like a car; you're supposed to take the trails to get to Ossipee Lake Rd.

Mr. Marx said the Board had limited authority when it comes to enforcement but can communicate what the rules are. If there is someone creating a problem, then the Road Agent or the plow driver can call the police to report it. Les said it is like plowing cement after the snowmobiles go up and down the road and it takes at least two hours to do the loop with plowing, sanding, and salting. Les suggested that their action plan could address the following:

- They know snowmobiles are a problem and have addressed it at their annual meeting and submit a copy of the letter that went out to address the issue.
- If they want the Town to notify them if the Highway Department has an issue in the future.

The Bos will send a copy of the bullet points that need to be addressed. Mr. Marx said they will address the final plan of action at the annual meeting in July. Mr. Marx said if at annual meeting the association decides to have someone else plow the roads, does that mean they can drive their snowmobiles up and down the road. The answer was yes, because it is now a private rd.

Robert Marx, Susan Douglass, Dan Everts, Mary Giglio and Robert Chaplin left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

### **Department Head Update:**

**Fire-Rescue Department** – The Gary has the Tahoe, the boat is out of storage. Chief will be doing a map and compass course at the end of May beginning of June. He went to the FAC/FCC meeting to get permission to do the course in the Town Forrest. Eversource training was on Saturday and a small fire broke out in the light above the bays.

### **Appointment: Roller Shed**

Brandy Buttrick Vice President of the Heritage Commission and Co-President of the Historical Society is before the board to gain town support to clean out the roller shed. He gave the history on the roller shed and obtaining a snow roller. Scott Cunningham was also present for the discussion. In 2012 the Historical Society established the roller shed as a State Historic site; in 2016 the Heritage Commission worked on a Moose plate grant for \$10,000 to renovate the shed. The renovation of the shed was completed in 2018 and won a New Hampshire Preservation Alliance Award. Peg Scully and others located a snow roller at Smiling Hill Farm in Westbrook Me and as a nonprofit the farm was

able to donate the snow roller to the town. It now sits next to the roller shed. In 2021 slats were cut and are curing at Scotts property and the wood is available for the frame. Because they are close to restoring the snow roller, the Historical Society and the Heritage Commission think the best place for the restoration to take place is in the roller shed. \$3,500 in donations have been collected for the restoration of the roller shed. People that have donated started calling about the status of the restoration of the snow roller. Brandy is here tonight to get the town's permission to clean out the roller shed in preparation of putting the snow roller in the shed to be restored. He said there is salt and rot iron from Swett's Hill Cemetery amongst other items that need to be cleaned out.

Ernie said he can reach out to Scott to work with him on getting inventory of what is in there. Brandy said once this project is completed Freedom will be the only Town in the State with a snow roller in the snow roller shed. It was agreed that Ernie would work with Scott to see what is in the shed to be cleaned out.

### **Appointment David Cribbie on behalf of GW Brooks**

David came before the Board to discuss the invitation to bid for the dry hydrant/fire pond dredging on Watson Hill. He is concerned about how it is presented. He explained typically this sort of project is based on time and material vs. a lump sum because there are variables that cannot be measured such as how much you are going to be taking out of the pond or how deep it is. When it is bid on a lump sum, typically the contractor will bid high to cover any unknowns. The number in the warrant article may not cover the cost of the project. The biggest cost with this project vs. Swett Hill fire pond is trucking. With Swett Hill, they had a short haul to dump at a staging location and they only used two trucks. This project will require four-five trucks to haul to an unknown location.

It was discussed waiting to see what comes in for bids and go from there. They may have to reject all bids and start over. Bids are due Monday May 1<sup>st</sup>.

David Cribbie left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

### **Public Comment:**

Janet Johnson came before the board to update them that Yvonne Hoyt has been voted in by the FCC/ FAC as a member of the FAC and would like the Selectmen to appoint her.

There will be a forest walk on Saturday in the Town Forest and she needs the Pequawket gate opened by 9:00 a.m.

Janet also reported that there is a beaver problem at the beaver pond, and it will soon be over the road. If that happens it will change Saturdays walk. She is asking if the Town can help with cleaning them out to allow the water to go down.

There is also a problem with the keys not working at the Town Forest gates. Melissa has a master key that works at gate 3. Barry Keith's key does not work at any of the gates. Chief Cunio will check to see if his key works at the gate. Highway will get in touch with Barry Keith to access the beaver problem.

**Les made a motion to appoint Yvonne Hoyt to the FAC for a three-year term, Motion seconded by Ernie; Motion passed 3-0-0.**

**Old / New Business / Discussion:**

Clean Harbors contract:

**Les made a motion to authorize Melissa and Stacy to execute the Clean Harbors Contract in the amount of \$ 13,764.05. Motion seconded by Melissa; Motion passed 3-0-0.**

Keys (BB1) were handed out to Chief Cunio and Rich Laferriere. Stacy will order 4 more BB1 keys.

**Non-Public Session(s):**

*Les made a motion enter into a non-public session at 7:30 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c), personnel. Ernie seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Ernie-yes, Melissa-yes, Les-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Les made a motion to resume public session at 7:55 PM. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.*

*Les made a motion enter into a non-public session at 8:05 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (L), personnel. Ernie seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Ernie-yes, Melissa-yes, Les-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Les made a motion to resume public session at 8:15 PM. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.*

Les asked Stacy to talk to Rod Wood the Town Assessor about Statistical Revaluation.

**Adjournment:**

Being no further input, Les made a motion to adjourn. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

**Consent Agenda:**

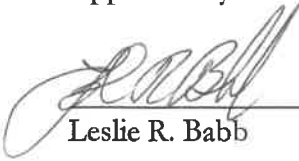
Accounts Payable – Week ending 4/21/2023	Approved
Payroll Manifest – Week ending 4/19/2023	Approved
Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting & Non-Public Sessions– 4/17/2023	Approved
Request for Abatement – N/A	
Supplemental Property Tax Warrant-N/A	

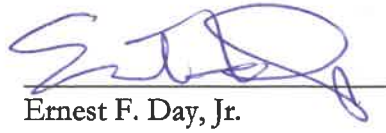
**Correspondence:**

Newsletter – NHMA Legislative Bulletin No. 17	Reviewed
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Respectfully submitted,  
Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on 5/1/23:

  
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Leslie R. Babb

  
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Ernest F. Day, Jr.

  
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Melissa M. Florio

