

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, November 6, 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 Hall

Also in attendance were Rob Cunio, Scott Brooks

Public: Susan Douglas and Denise Finn

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 October 30, 2023, Selectmen's Meetings and Non-Public Session. As written. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Melissa made a motion to release a progress payment to Jay Hounsell in the amount of \$5,000 for the fire escape, motion seconded by Ernie; Motion passed unanimously.

Department Head Updates:

Fire Department- Rob reported seven medical aids, one motor vehicle accident, one fire alarm. He is on vacation for ten days starting tomorrow. Charlie Hatfield will be covering six of the ten days. Rich passed the EMT course.

Rob also reported the boat went to Clayton Cyr's family's marina to be looked over. Clayton's father found a couple of things that should have been picked up at the previous places it was taken for service. He made some adjustments and serviced and winterized it. He also figured out why the boat was having a hard time running is because the front half of the boat was full of water. The other two places never discovered that there are two hauls. The boat will be stored at the Village Fire Station for the winter.

Melissa would like a thank you sent to Clayton's dad.

Highway Department – Scott reported the highway crew has been fixing shoulders on the Lake Rd, Bennett, Huckins Rd and Pequawket trail. They also have been blowing out the ditches in the hills to prevent problems in the spring. Ernie asked about the logs on Rice Hill. Scott said he will reach out to Mike Eldridge. They will be gone before winter.

Katie Watts' request to have her road plowed by the town was discussed. Scott's opinion is it is an extension of the road, and it needs to be laid out and it has to go through the same process that the rest of the road went through for a winter lay out. The process includes holding public hearings and it must be a benefit to the town. There is an RSA that outlines the process. Stacy will have to find the RSA in the Hard Road to Travel.

Ernie reviewed a letter regarding a heap of trash bags piled up at the end of a driveway on Abenaki Dr. A letter has been received in the office expressing concern if the bags are broken open by the plows during the winter plowing season what impact it may have on Danforth Bay. It is believed that the bags are filled with roofing removed from a neighborhood home. Stacy will send a letter to the address on file to request that the debris be cleaned up as soon as possible. Though this is a civil issue the town does not want the bags broken open by the plows and debris scattered everywhere.

Town Office- Stacy got a quote on health insurance that was significantly less than the current plan, but it did not include dental insurance. The current plan includes dental insurance. At the Health Trust Meeting the employees

expressed interest in looking at dental plans with more coverage. It was decided to stay with Health Trust and start the process earlier next year, pricing out plans so employees can be brought along. In past years Health Trust has always refunded the town the amount of overpayment at the end of the year. It was decided to add the FSA and early retirement plans for next year. These plans do not cost the town any money. It was also agreed to stay with the current dental plan.

Melissa made a motion to notify Health Trust to add the two additional FSA and early retirement accounts to the plan, motion seconded by Ernie; Motion passed unanimously.

Mission Square will be available by phone conference at 11:00 am at the town office to discuss retirement plans.

Melissa made a motion to accept the quote from AAA Fences for \$13,828.00 money to come from the warrant article 20 in the amount of \$80,000 for transfer station, motion seconded by Ernie; Motion passed unanimously.

Police Department –

Transfer Station – Les mentioned using his debit card at the transfer station. He wants the town to absorb the fee. Stacy will have to look into how the fee is absorbed. Having to put the card in twice confuses people. The first time the card is run it's for the fee, and the second time is for the service.

Appointment-

Public Comment

Susan Douglas and Denise Finn came before the board to inquire if there has been any inquiries or pushback regarding the associations plan to abide by the ordinances for snow plowing in Squarebrook. Stacy said she has only heard from two people who were upset about not using the road to get to snowmobile trails. It was also questioned if the town is double dipping by charging a fee to plow the road. Les responded that it's required by law to charge the fee because it is a private road that the town of Freedom has not accepted. Les reiterated using town funds to maintain a private road is illegal. The winter ordinance has always been in place. Nothing has changed except it is being enforced due to the challenges with plowing that came up last year with snowmobiles and people cleaning off their cars in the road and plowing snow across the road. Scott said people don't know that the road was laid out as a winter road, so from November 15, all Squarebrook roads become public roads and are the towns responsibility and liability and are subject to all public highway rules and regulations until April 1st.

Non-Public Session(s):

Les made a motion enter into a non-public session at 7:20 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (e), legal. 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 7:25 PM. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Ernie made a motion to seal the minutes due to pending litigation, Melissa seconded the motion; Motion passed 3-0-0.

Les made a motion enter into a non-public session at 7:25 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c), reputation. 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 7:35 PM. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Ernie made a motion to seal the minutes due to pending Reputation, Melissa seconded the motion; Motion

passed 3-0-0.

Les made a motion enter into a non-public session at 7:35 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c), reputation. 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 7:40 PM. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Adjournment:

Being no further input, Les made a motion to adjourn. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Consent Agenda:

Accounts Payable – Week ending 11/03/2023	Approved
Payroll Manifest – Week ending 11/1/2023	Approved
Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting & Non-Public Sessions– 10/30/23	Approved
Request for Abatement – N/A	
Supplemental Property Tax Warrant-N/A	

Correspondence:

Kathryn Blinn re Abenaki Dr	Reviewed
NH 911 Cares	Reviewed
2015 New Hampshire Revised Statutes Chapter 215-C Section 215-C:8	
Operation of Snowmobiles	Reviewed
Lakes Region Planning Commission Household Hazardous Waste	
Collection appropriations	Reviewed
Jay Hounsell Request for \$5,000	Approved
FEMA check for \$40,611.48	Reviewed
Katherine Watts letter dated 9/21/23	Reviewed
Public Notice to accept FEMA Fund	Reviewed
Mission Square Retirement Plans	Reviewed

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Melissa M. Florio