

**MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Friday, December 01, 2023**

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Janet Wall (JW), Mark Avery (MA), Tim Burt (TB)
OTHERS: Eric Fiegenbaum (EF), Deb Ahlstrom (DA), and Jay Moriarty

CORRESPONDANCE

- none

MINUTES: the approval of minutes from 11/6, 11/10, and 11/17 was deferred until Monday night

SIGN: accounts payable, town hall use by Freedom Point and MIUCC

GUEST: Jay Moriarty, as Road Agent gave an update and discussed the road budget. He reported that the road side mowing was near completion and coming in under his goal of \$12,000. He has been pleased with the performance of both workers and equipment. Freshet and Pudding Hill are still scheduled for mowing.

Speaking to the budget and 2024 he indicated the two priority roads in 2024 will be Champernowne, with either Madbury Woods and/or Jenkins as the second. He has just completed a road review. His list for the next five years includes Evans Rd (three spots), Fern Way, Mill Hill Rd, Old Stage Rd, and Fitch Rd. He is estimating \$75/foot for grinding and paving for 2024. As to Hayes road, a wear coat needs a flat surface and needs to be done soon after grinding and paving or shimming is required. He is not seeing a lot of culvert work ahead. Evans and Perkins may require some cutout work or short stretches of paving.

There are areas in town that need high limb trimming.

There has been no progress on the intersection at Cherry Lane and Town Hall Road. Placement of a support utility pole should be considered as part of phase two. Moving the pole across the street will be expensive. Plans should be considered next year. The landowner across the street seems agreeable to working with the town.

Moriarty indicated that he thought there might be a need to modify the snow removal contract over the next four years. He thought the town should move toward a facility at least the size of Hartford's current shop. ~~A location at the transfer station should~~ *If the transfer station were to be chosen, and then some engineering should be done for drainage, perhaps draining water toward the existing Eversource power lines. The town's bridge contractor might be a good consultant.*

The budget needs some increase for brush cutting/mowing for increasing costs. He believes road maintenance costs will be about the same. He intends to stay around for the two major paving projects, but plans to retire in April of 2024. There was a review of the budget line by line.

He estimated he puts in about 15 hours per week. The new snow contract would add about \$25,000 to the snow removal line. There was a suggestion that a capital reserve might be used to cover "major" roads.

Finding a replacement Road Agent was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

- TB moved and MA seconded a motion to submit the "pink sheet" sending the preliminary sales ratio study (65.4%) prepared by Avitar to DRA. Motion passed.
- TB moved and MA seconded a motion to accept the Insurcomm quote to repair the damage to town hall caused by an automobile accident. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- The State has granted the request for the special election for the vacant State Representative Strafford District 11 seat. EF will post information on the election/s.
- Monette at 50 Huckins Rd, where there is a wetlands fill violation, is in contact with NH DES which is requiring a restoration plan. A contractor and wetland scientist are being engaged.
- There was a request from Chief McGann to purchase 10 radios for approximately \$31,000 to be funded by his budget. ~~including from unspent personnel wage funds~~. TB moved and MA seconded a motion to approve the purchase of the 10 radios. Motion passed.
- There was a short discussion on the Police Department's desire purchase a plow for the Mule and the general use of unspent personnel wage funds being used for equipment.
- There was a discussion on how plowing town parking lots and sidewalks at town buildings is working and could be improved. It was suggested that Jim Davis should be invited in to discuss the issue, perhaps at the same time as ORYA.
- A possible line of discussion to address public works was reviewed including the potential finances, full or part time employees, budgeting, tasks and models, and road agent duties. A implementation committee was briefly discussed.

BOARD UPDATES

- None

OTHER:

- Possible wage rates for custodial help was reviewed and deferred to a larger town wide wage rate discussion.
- On a town hall use where the heat was not working (burner motor issue), the Selectmen were in consensus not to charge for the event. There was a suggestion to have EF approve future town hall use requests, but it was thought that the Selectmen should still be involved.
- EF will send a letter to Bob Sherwood Landscaping to see if he has any interest in the town snow plowing contract.
- *Activity has been noticed at a gravel pit on Old Stage Road.*

Meeting ended at 11:30am.

Submitted by: *Eric Feigenbaum*

Approved: *3-15-2024*

On approved minutes, proof changes are noted through italics for additions and strikethroughs for deletions.