

**TOWN OF NEW HAMPTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OFFICE, NEW HAMPTON, NH 03256**

Thursday, February 8, 2024

MEMBERS

Present were Mr. Drake, Mr. Harvey, & Mr. Shaw

PRESENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Town Administrator Corey Davenport & Public Works Director Mr. Boucher (6:01 pm)

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Drake called the meeting of the Board to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

Mr. Drake made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harvey to approve the minutes of 2/1/24 as corrected. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Drake made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shaw to approve the Non-Public minutes of 2/1/24 as written. Vote was unanimous.

APPOINTMENTS:

*Public Works Director
Jim Boucher*

Mr. Davenport advised that Mr. Boucher was called in to discuss how winter road maintenance is done, recognizing the fact that the Town is down 2 subcontractors used in past years, and the effect on plow/sand routes.

Mr. Davenport said he received an email from a resident who has an ongoing logging operation and a logging truck slid off Blake Hill Road. Mr. Boucher said those were bad conditions that day and the department responded with sand.

There was discussion on whether to post the roads with the upcoming warm weather but after discussion it was the consensus of the Board not to post them at this time.

Mr. Harvey asked why, during a recent weekday storm, did Church Lane get plowed prior to Gordon Hill Road, which is a bus route even though there was a delayed school start time. Mr. Boucher expressed his frustration when Mr. Harvey called him early one evening recently, asking him to respond to icy roads. Mr. Boucher said Plymouth, Hebron, Bridgewater & Bristol were not out and when he arrived, he found no issues on the roadways. Mr. Boucher and Mr. Harvey disagreed with the tone of the phone call made that morning. Mr. Boucher pointed that the road complaint forms filled out when a road concern is reported, have been almost non-existent in recent years and that his department has been receiving compliments on how well the roads have been maintained. Mr. Boucher expressed frustration with being asked by Mr. Harvey to sand Burleigh Mountain Road and a driveway off of it, because an oil delivery was needed at a residence and the usual sanding contractor was unable to sand it due to their barn having burned down that morning. Mr. Boucher said it has never been the responsibility of the Town to sand/plow a private road or driveway and questioned whether one Selectman alone should be directing him in these ways. Mr. Drake asked Mr. Harvey if he told Mr. Boucher to sand Burleigh Mountain Road. Mr. Harvey said he called Mr. Davenport to explain the situation with the resident needing an oil delivery

and as the contractor was unable to sand the road, could the Town's highway department do it. Mr. Davenport said he spoke with Mr. Boucher and the discussion centered around that not being something the Town typically handled and Mr. Harvey said in this case he felt it was appropriate. By chance a medical call came in for that same property and the ambulance responded with a Town sand truck on standby, with the ambulance being able to get in and out with any sand necessary.

The question on why Church Lane was plowed prior to Gordon Hill Road was brought up again. Mr. Drake said it would be reasonable if on your way to Gordon Hill Road you are driving by Church Lane, also on your right, and you would plow that first, followed by Wolfe Den on your right, then Gordon Hill on your right, then reversing directions.

Mr. Boucher provide the Board with information on how old the Highway Dept building used oil furnace was and the 1st time a part was ordered for it, being 1996. There are 20,000 hours on the furnace and it's \$12,000 to replace it with another used oil furnace. Mr. Boucher said the conventional furnace is getting repaired often, and is also old and inefficient. He's having a difficult time getting anyone to quote repairs or replacement.

Mr. Boucher asked why their department is having to complete daily log books and Mr. Drake said it is to track what roads were being worked on and is more like a project list.

Relative to having the highway dept. remove the trees around the Blake Brook bridge and removing the bridge itself, Mr. Drake said he wants an accurate timeframe for the work as they do not want this work to interfere with other departmental work.

Mr. Drake expressed concern with barriers placed at the outlet to Pemi Lake where the dry hydrant was installed off Route 104. He asked Mr. Harvey if it was the intention to have a snowmobile trail bridge installed in that location and Mr. Harvey advised it wouldn't be happening in the near future so Mr. Boucher was asked to ensure the barriers block anyone from going over the edge. Mr. Boucher left the meeting at 6:38 pm.

WORK SESSION:

Manifests, bills, requisitions, purchase orders and leave request forms:

The Board agreed the lighting installation on the Town Office should be paid under Building Maintenance in the operating budget.

Board signed a purchase requisition for Hwy Dept (ledge pack). Relative to a previous question about the amount of stone left at the highway dept., Mr. Davenport advised it was gone.

Board signed the Federal Drug Forfeiture Equitable Sharing Agreement to receive a portion of monies collected at \$3,349.50.

Board reviewed the following Building Permit application:

1. Goodwin 1991 Trust; Map U12, Lot 8; there was discussion on the number of bedrooms (2 shown on the plans), rooms with closets not

labeled as bedrooms (2) and 3 small bunkrooms showing beds w/no closets. There were concerns by the Land Use Admin and Planning Assistant relative to intended uses of the rooms and whether this is planned for short-term rentals. The Board agreed more information is needed.

OPEN ITEMS:

- Brook Road bridge – no update
- Tax Deeded Land – no update
- Town Roads – Board agreed this could be lower on the list as a priority.
- Fees – no update
- Driveway Permit revision – no update
- 911#s – no update
- Grants – no update
- Carter Mountain Road unregistered vehicles – Letter to be drafted from the Board asking the owner and renter to meet with them about the number of vehicles/boats/campers on the property.
- Town House – no update
- Drake Road – There was discussion on this property and whether this property could be taken for taxes, but there was concern on conditions of the property that the Town would not want responsibility for - if it's cleaned up. Mr. Harvey said there was a vehicle that appears to be within the town's right-of-way. The Board agreed a letter needs to be sent asking for the vehicle to be moved.
- BOS Guidelines – The Board agreed as they did not know why this was on the list, that it could be removed.
- Breezeline franchise agreement – The Board advised that they thought this issue was already taken care of and that it could be removed from the open items list.
- Dr. Childs Rd; discontinuance – no update
- Timber Harvest – Board agreed this should be moved higher as a priority. Mr. Drake advised the lot off Chase Road could be logged during the summer.

Mr. Shaw advised he would like to see NHS Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) added back to the open item list focusing on number of children of faculty and the cost to the Town's taxpayers, checking both the numbers attending NASD and the resident high schoolers attending NHS. Mr. Shaw said he met with NHS Head of School Mr. Williams, who was agreeable to discussing a possible PILOT.

Police Chief Tyrrell arrived at 7:19 pm.

DISCUSSION:

- FYI - FEMA Meeting Notice; Mr. Davenport to attend via Zoom.
- FYI – Village Precinct Water Test Notice.
- Town Committee and Board openings; Mr. Davenport suggested the practice to send out notices advising of upcoming positions that are becoming available, though some Board/Commission members may wish to re-apply. The Board agreed to handling it this way.

New Business after Agenda was Posted

- Emery 2008 Rev Trust; Map R20, Lot 48; the replacement septic system does not meet the 20' setback to the property line (front) as it will be

18.6'. It was noted the new system would be installed in the same location as the existing system. There was no septic design on file to refer to. After discussion it was the consensus of the Board that this new system is larger, including the fact there was a previous cesspool in a different location, that a Variance would be required. There was some discussion on amending the town's 20' setback in the Zoning Ordinance to matching the NHDES requirement of 10 feet.

- Copy of letter from ZBA to Christina Smith; 11 Pemi Point; re: variance for carport. This letter advised the Board that depending on the outcome of the variance request with the ZBA, it may be possible that enforcement would be needed by the Selectmen.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Mr. Davenport confirmed that the Board received the explanation on the various properties noted on the FEMA flood map update.
- Mr. Davenport advised he had the list of NHS properties which had partial or full exempt amounts and that any assessing firm the Town uses will monitor that status on a year-to-year basis.
- Mr. Saler will attend the next BOS meeting on 2/15/24.
- Mr. Harvey asked Mr. Davenport to confirm with Fire Chief Cathy that the figures provided recently for transport mileage costs were correct.
- Mr. Harvey asked Mr. Shaw to clarify and confirm what portion of NHS buildings could be exempt.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was none.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

At 7:49 pm, Mr. Drake made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shaw to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(a) – Reputation and RSA 91-A:3 II(c) - Personnel. A roll call vote was held. Mr. Drake – Y, Mr. Shaw – Y, Harvey – Y.

PRESENT:

Mr. Drake, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Davenport, and Police Chief Tyrrell.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION:

At 8:28 pm, Mr. Drake made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harvey to come out of non-public session and unseal the minutes of 2/4/16, 2/26/15, 2/13/14, 2/17/14, 2/27/14, 2/5/04 & 2/12/04. Vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:29 pm, Mr. Drake made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shaw to adjourn. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Vose