

Selectboard Minutes  
August 24, 2020

Meeting to be held virtually through a video conference \*

Selectboard Present: Andy Coyne (vice-chair), Tom Tolbert, Paul Fraser and Jessica Pollack

Public Present: Sheriff Mark Anderson, Rich Melanson (bctv), Bob Stomski, Terri Garland, Sarah Peck, John Beagan, Ilana Newton, Ron Kelley, Catherine Kelley, Meg Gonzalez and Hazel Denton

Andy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. *Call for any late additions to the agenda*

- Latest on sign ordinance
- Bob Stomski asked to have fire alarm ordinance put on agenda, will wait for Greg to come back so they have a chance to view the documents.
- Municipal Tax Rate

2. *Approve the minutes from the August 10, Selectboard meeting*

Tom made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 10th meeting, seconded by Jessica. On the first page, is the internet access for the speed signs a one-time fee or yearly? Terri believes it is a one-time charge but will check with them. All in favor, passed.

3. *Conversation and Questions with Sheriff Anderson, Windham County Sheriff's Department*

Mark Anderson, Sherriff for Windham County

A speed cart deployed to Pikes Falls Road, to see if there is a speeding problem on the road.

They are waiting to collect the data from that and will be able to report to the board what times are problems, etc. They have also sent deputies to patrol on Pikes Falls and Depot Street. There have been concerns about Route 100 and Route 30 in the village as well.

They have been responded to graffiti in the village.

On the issues at Hamilton Falls, the state has been contracted to patrol on the weekend.

They missed out on 2020 equipment funding, issues with applying for the grant. Will get double what they would have starting in October. They are looking into purchasing pole mounted speed signs that can be removed in the winter. Jamaica will be able to take advantage at no cost.

What is the sheriff's departments reaction to graffiti? There are 2 crimes they are looking at when dealing with graffiti. One is unlawful mischief and the other is damage. Graffiti itself is not a crime.

Asking what is being done about Hamilton Falls? Cannot answer.

The office received no complaints from residents, did not know there was a problem until read something from parks and recs.

The trash is a consistent problem in all the swimming holes in Windham County.

According to a letter from a resident Paul received today, the parking has been pushed down to about five parking spaces. It has been suggested people travel to Pikes Falls but the same issues are happening there as well.

He asked if the town has a parking ordinance.

*Does our current contract make it difficult to help with problems we are having and still patrol?*

Swimming holes are a short-term issue but also seasonal. A discussion about what the town needs would help to figure out if more services are needed.

Windham Regional is doing a speed survey in a couple weeks, but they planned to do it in the place the speed cart was just placed. There is a delay for the sign board to get the data, but it does get the true speed recorded.

Jamaica has a lot of days that are calm, they cannot be here all the time.

At one point they reduced hours in the summer and added more in the winter, but it wasn't consistent. Since covid, they have had less traffic stops because a lot of things were extended because of everything being closed.

Hamilton Falls: Parking issues, they should use the state park.

*4. Review time sheets for town office, listers, highway and transfer station*

No comments.

*5. Review pay orders*

No comments.

*6. Updates and discussion regarding town operations*

No updates.

*7. Discuss plan to address speeding and safety issues in town including:*

*a. Windham Regional Commission speed study*

It should be in Jamaica the first or second week of September. It might fall into the same time that they are repaving Pikes Falls Road. If it is the same week, the speed study would have to be rescheduled. Terri thinks the paving has been put off until mid-September.

*b. Crosswalks being repainted on town roads*

The last time they were painted it faded quickly but we only received two bids. It cost \$475 for all the crosswalks. The other bid was \$2200. It could be done right after the paving is done. Paul would like to add the striping to the contract.

Tom made a motion to have the crosswalks repainted and stripes painted on the road for less than \$1,000. The striped lines would be three horizontal lines and they would be on Pikes Falls, South Hill and two sets on Depot Street. The crosswalks would be on Depot Street and Pikes Falls. Seconded by Jessica. Terri will find out specifics of what we can and cannot do. All in favor.

*c. Review quotes to purchase and install electronic speeding signs*

Tom got a third quote for around \$27,000. The one Terri found was around \$23,000 and the other sign was less money but did not collect any data.

Paul suggested waiting until after the speed survey is done but Jessica would like to see the board move on this ongoing issue. They would like to get four for now and find out if they can be put on Route 30.

Tom made a motion that we purchase four signs from Marlin Controls so they can be placed where the board decides for \$15,800. Seconded by Jessica. We can put them in the right of way the same as street signs. 3-1 passes.

*d. Discuss extensions to the current Sherriff's contract*

We will have more sheriff's presence around the park until October. Action was taken today with the signs and lines. This might be a topic for town meeting.

*8. Hamilton Falls update*

*9. Other public concerns*

Will the home-made speed limit signs be replaced with real signs? Yes, the radar signs will have speed limit signs with them. There are signs already but may need to be placed at different locations.

John Beagan is asking the Selectboard to write a letter to Ethan Phelps with the concerns about parking and other issues at Hamilton Falls. A letter was received from Ethan Phelps that addresses a lot of the issues and Andy will forward it to him.

The issue with parking at swimming holes, they would like the sheriff to let people know they cannot park anywhere off the road.

Ethan Phelps is trying to organize a meeting and asking that the Selectboard could appoint one or more members to come to the meeting. Andy would be willing to go to the meeting.

Bob would like the fire department to be included on the meeting.

Old Home Days- Ann had an idea of having live music bands and shutting down Water Street to have local bands play for the Old Home Days Celebration. People could spread out and have a little concert. The board would like someone from the committee to come before the board.

There are some concerns about covid procedures.

Meg Gonzalez is new to West River Valley Thrives. There is an office in Leland & Gray. She just wanted to let everyone know they are here to support the communities.

Terri needs the board to approve the municipal tax rate. The municipal rate went down a half a cent. Tom made a motion to accept the municipal tax rate of .4240. Seconded by Jessica. All in favor.

Tom made a motion to adjourn at 8:26

Submitted by Sara Wiswall