

Selectboard Minutes September 11, 2023

Selectboard Present: Jessica Pollack (chair), Greg Meulemans, Kate Ullman and Derek Ahl

Public Present: Mike Tuller (Town Administrator), Paul Fraser, Susan Ahl, Amos Newton, Ilana Newton, Wesley Ameden and Chris Mays

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

A moment of silence in remembrance of those at ground zero on 911.

1. Call for any late additions to the agenda

No late additions

2. Approve the minutes from the August 28 Regular Meeting of the Selectboard

Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes from August 28th Selectboard meeting, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

3. FEMA topics: (i) scoping meeting results, (ii) update on road RFPs and summary of all outstanding and 'to be' scoped projects, (iii) potential funding for upgraded infrastructure, (iv) other

They have had their second meeting with the FEMA representative, Mike Barrington. They have been generating data in an excel file. The scoping process has begun. Each item of each project will be reviewed. There will be a site visit to all the projects and some of them have been done. There is funding for getting things back to how they were before the flood. The quicker we get them submitted, the quicker the approval will happen.

There are at least 30 projects throughout the town., three of the more significant projects were put out to bid. Today was the deadline for bids.

The three projects:

Old Route 8

Smith Road

West Windham Road

There were three different people that put bids in.

Smith Road- repair the road back to normal state which is about 8-10 above where it is now. A culvert needs to be replaced and lining the riverbed.

Fitzpatrick Excavating \$214,500

Hunter Excavating \$245,683

Ameden Construction \$210,000

Greg proposed that we accept the bid from Ameden Construction for \$210,000, seconded by

Jessica. Discussion on going with another bid. Keith said any of the contractors are capable. The board looked over the bids. 3 in favor, 1 abstained. Ameden Construction was awarded the project.

Old Route 8- It includes upper and lower work, rip rap, vegetation seeding, to stabilize the wall.

Ameden Construction \$250,000

Hunter Excavating \$296,240

Jessica would like to look into separating the upper and lower portions.

Jessica made a motion to table the Old Route 8 RFP and possibly put it out again as two sections and speak with FEMA to see if there is potential to get reimbursement for the upper slope repair. Seconded by Kate, All in favor.

West Windham Road- The work includes lowering the grade of the bridge to help with storm water. The road will be enhanced and strengthened. This would help maintain the road and take some stress off the bridge.

Ameden Construction \$75,000

Hunter Excavating \$62,100

Greg made a motion to accept the lowest bid from Hunter Excavating for \$62,100, seconded by Jessica. All in favor.

4. Update on NRCS applications (if any), scheduling of next visit by the Regional Flood Plain Manager

The flood plain manager for the region will be looking at properties this week. He will be on West Jamaica Road and Depot Street.

NRCS and USDA are going to look at Meadows Road and the Stone Boat Farm. West Jamaica Road, Dalewood Road and Melis Road will also be looked at.

5. Decision on purchase of new truck and select bid

The trucks are replaced every 10 years, the new truck would be for next fall. There are 2 vendors that meet the standards.

Allegiance Trucks: \$128,420- \$18,000 trade in

Western Star: \$130,030 Total-\$22,000 trade in

Greg made a motion to proceed with Western Start to provide our next town vehicle, seconded by Jessica. All in favor.

5. Review and approve maintenance projects for Transfer Station

Discussion on what will be scoped together. The work might not be done until next spring, but some of the work can be done by the highway crew. The problems were made worse by the rainstorm in July. Kate would like to get the RFP out now.

Jessica made a motion to put an RFP out for the work that cannot be done by the highway crew, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

6.Update on applications for Assistant Town Clerk and Assistant Treasurer position

We have quite a few qualified applicants. Hopefully Jessica and Sara will be able to have a quick prescreening on Friday with potential applicants.

7.Discussion of Poet Laureate

We have a poet laureate, and she will be reading a poem on Old Home Day. The poet laureate is Erica Bowman. It is a four-year term. Michael Connor, Becky Antel and Keighan Eaker were on the committee for the poet Laureate.

8.Notice of upcoming tax abatement hearing

There is a request for tax abatement, it will be held two weeks from today at 6:00 p.m.

9.Flag update

The old flags were taken down. They got 6 new flags that will all be put up in a row and the older ones will be taken down.

10.Review and approve time sheets for town office, listers, highway and transfer station

Jessica made a motion to approve the time sheets for the town office, listers, highway and transfer station, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

11.Review and approve pay orders

Jessica made a motion to approve the pay orders once reviewed, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

12.Public concerns

The library is not accepting donations currently. Thank you for your interest, they cannot handle it right now. She could use volunteer help. There are a lot of books to process. They also need help packing up boxes and getting them out of the library. Please reach out to Susan.

The library is having activities on Old Home Day. They will have story time, a raffle, a book giveaway, baked goods, and birch art canoe building.

Jessica made a motion to adjourn at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Wiswall