

Selectboard Minutes October 9, 2023

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

Public Present: Paul Fraser, Mari Roberts (assistant clerk/treasurer), Tim Dressler

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

Derek offered recognition and respect to the indigenous people that lived on the land before we did.

1. Call for any late additions to the agenda

There were no late additions to the agenda.

2. Approve the minutes from the September 25 Regular Meeting of the Selectboard

Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 25th meeting, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

3. Introduce Meridith Roberts, our new Assistant Town Clerk and Assistant Treasurer

Introduction to Meri, the new assistant Town Clerk and Assistant Treasurer.

4. FEMA topics: (i) scoping meetings update and next steps, (ii) open proposals, (iii) site visits focused on river debris, (iv) other

The last meeting was the final meeting related to damages. They have identified some other damage recently that will need to be reported to FEMA.

There are still some projects that need to be wrapped up before winter. There are no proposals for tonight, but they are working on:

- Slide areas, there are three on Pikes Falls.
- Two Slides of Goodaleville and the bridge.

Some of the slide areas are challenging, that is why they are taking so long. Some are over 25 feet high. One is on the ledge.

- Patch paving on Pikes Falls and on South Hill. Resurfacing by the two larger culverts.

The new culvert is installed on Pikes Falls Road.

Water Street is the last project.

A homeowner from Old Route 8 joined the meeting, Mike asked what is being done with Old Route 8.

The lower half would be emergency repair, the higher part might fall under mitigation. We did put it out to bid but it was tabled. It is a priority but not a super priority because you can still access the road by both entries. They can put the lower half out to bid again.

5. Update on NRCS visits

Mike Tuller updated the letter that there are 19 properties in town that could use help. Mike will meet with the rep from NRCS tomorrow.

FEMA was concerned with the amount of material in the culvert by the fire station. Mike reached out to VTRANS to see what could be done. They are trying to develop a plan that works from the top down. The deadline is this week.

6. Town Wide Appraisal RFP

We need to start the process for town wide appraisal now. The listers have put together a Request for Proposals (RFP) that will be sent to third parties that do appraisals. It will be going out this week.

7. IT Support RFP

We need to upgrade the technology in the town office including phone systems, our server, and hosted providers. The request for Proposal has been drafted. We identified three local providers who would be interested.

8. Update on maintenance project for Transfer Station

Mike highlighted winter concerns at the transfer station that have been overlooked since the flooding in July. How much can we do ourselves?

There are many things that need to be done at the transfer station.

There needs to be ditching along the upper edge, the challenge is that it is only a foot before you hit bedrock.

They are going to try to raise the containers.

The road crew ordered large concrete blocks; they will work the next 2 days when the transfer station is closed.

They have discussed something to prevent people from backing up too close to the construction container, they have discussed a curb but are not sure that is the solution to help with people hitting the container.

Mike is working on an RFP for the wooden safety tip outs.

9. Plan for snow removal from sidewalks -- Truck plow on sidewalk causing extensive deterioration; ensure completed on Rt 30 from church to store

There are citizens that are concerned about the snow removal from the sidewalk. There are safety concerns with people walking in the road when the sidewalks are covered. When they use the plow to clean the sidewalk, it is not good for the sidewalk. Susan asked that the town provide snow removal for the library. Greg would like a small group to go offline and discuss and come back with suggestions. Greg suggested it be himself, Derek, Mike and Keith. Derek said anyone that wants to be a part of it can contact him or Greg.

10. Increase in Excessive Speeding; Lack of sheriff presence since May

We do have the speed signs at both ends of towns but there seems to be a lack of the sheriff in town. From May to July 7th, there were 58 tickets. From July 7th until now, there has been 1 ticket.

Derek asked if we could send a reminder to local contractors that there is a speed limit in town.

Jessica will email Andy about inviting the sheriff to a meeting.

11. Update on state park bridge planks being fixed and exploring more sustainable approach until the project work begins

This is something that usually gets done twice a year, to reposition the planks of the bridge.

Greg talked to Keith, they have used both lag bolts and large spikes, but he found the spikes work better. They will be doing the repairs this week; they have not had time before now.

12. Sign and Road Ordinances, correcting the record

Jessica misspoke at the last meeting.

The town worked on a new Road Ordinance, which was worked on by the Planning Commission. The sign ordinance was not done by the Planning Commission but an old member was the sign administrator until he moved.

The consensus is that the road ordinance needs to be updated for reenactment.

The sign ordinance is going to be more work. Kate is going to work on this. It may have to be a total redo.

13. 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.

14. Review and approve pay orders

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

15. Public concerns

Tim Dressler asked about the classification for Mill Brook Road. It says it is legally a class 3 road, but the town has an asterisk that says it is not up to standards.

Greg responded as road commissioner but did not have an exact answer. He will find out about it and get back to him.

Greg made a motion to adjourn at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sara Wiswall