

**TOWN OF LEMPSTER
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Approved Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2021**

Board Present: Mary Grenier, Everett Thurber and Traci Homol
Administrative Assistant Robin Cantara

Others Present: Phil Tirrell, Barb Richards, Scott Goodspeed, David Richards, Daryl Simino, Charlie Olsen, McKenzie French, Alvin McNeill, Beth Clark-Moulton, Joe Moulton, Mike Homol, Linda Callahan and Kevin Onnela.

Mary called the meeting to order at 7:02PM.

The Board reviewed and approved the payroll and accounts payable manifest.

August 24, 2021 Minutes reviewed; Mary made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Traci; all in favor, motion passed.

Old Business-

Highway Repair or Replace the Dodge:

Traci feels the Town should repair the Dodge; Daryl listed the multiple problems – ball joints, brakes, muffler, doors are rusted out and the body needs work.

The question was raised as to the appropriation of purchasing a Ford at Town Meeting, Everett explained that the money was appropriated to replace a ¾ ton pickup with a larger one with a plow. Traci questioned why a small plow truck was needed, Daryl explained it is used to plow small areas including the Town Office parking lot.

Traci moves to get estimates for repairs from other garages – Mary stated the Dodge will not pass inspection (due by the end of September), seconded by Everett; all in favor.

Meeting House Painting of the South side – Bids:

One bid was received from Rhino Builders, \$3,700.00; alternate bid of \$4,600.00 to include painting of the tower to height of 12'. Mary moves to accept the alternate bid, seconded by Traci; all in favor.

New Business-

Olds Road Bridge Closed:

Daryl has not heard back from Stevens on when the engineer can meet with the Board, Stevens and Daryl. Stevens recommends 3X5 footings with a deck over the existing beams, place a pan and cement it reinforced with rebar; the bridge would still be rated as an E2 bridge. None of the repairs would be in the water therefore no wetlands permitting is required.

Keith Fulton has graciously open his gravel pit to the public for passage while the bridge is closed.

Department Reports-

Fire/Rescue Department:

Beth Clark-Moulton presented the department reports.

Fire and Rescue had a combined training on Wilderness Tech Rescue and Forestry had training on the High Pressure Forestry Pump with instructor Tom Foote.

Everett inquired as to the completion of the Fire Departments Inventory, Beth stated it was near completion.

Traci asked why the ladder truck was not present at the Pine Tree Lumber fire, Beth cited there wasn't any staff available to operate it as they are a volunteer department.

Emergency Management:

Phil met with Highway Supervisor Daryl Simino, Julia Chase from NH Homeland Security/Emergency Management and four representatives from FEMA on August 31st. Documentation for damaged roads, culverts and bridges were presented.

The group viewed the Hurd Road dam breach. The FEMA estimator walked the entire length of Mill Road meeting up with the group at Route 10 in order to assess the damages caused by the dam breach.

The group traveled to Dodge Hollow to view the damages in the area; they did not feel it was necessary to view all damaged areas that were documented.

Between damages caused in Lempster, Acworth and Langdon; the consensus was the threshold for FEMA aid had been met.

Phil also met with the State of NH Dam Bureau representative Jonathan Findon-Henry and Daryl to assess the Long Pond dam. The dam is in good shape with the exception of brush on the dam which requires cutting. Beavers are also active in Long Pond with a fair amount of debris present between the boards.

Jonathan agreed to view the breached dam on Hurd Road, he measured the height of that the dam had been built to at approximately 7' (1/2 of which was added by the beavers). The State Dam Bureau is responsible for dams that exceed 6 feet in height, Jonathan felt the dam might be of some interest to the State. He noted human intervention was at play in the rebuilding of the dam by someone placing stones there along with new beaver activity. He advised us he would look into the State's standing with the dam.

September 1st, Jonathan got back in touch with the following information-

The dam is obsolete with no records at the State level.

Any rebuilding of the dam would require permitting through the Department of Environmental Services.

The Town has the legal authority to remove any beavers that could create any damages to Town roads.

Property owners' permission is not needed to abate the beavers in this circumstance.

Highway Department:

Bridge Updates:

Wheeler Lane wooden structure is gone, the bridge serves two houses and is frequently used by loggers and trucks. Daryl recommends additional beams, pan it and cement it. Mary inquired as to the Class of the road; it is believed to be both a Class VI and V. Daryl will have Steven look at it. Everett explained that the highway crew is too busy at this time due to repairs caused from the July storm event.

Crescent Bridge needs decking; Daryl would also like to pan and pour this one. It is cost effective and has a longer life span than decking. He is waiting on pan prices.

Mill road Bridge casting should be completed by mid-October; Mary stated we have the funding to start.

Miscellaneous:

Winter sand will be purchased from the Fulton Pit; this is the third and final year of the contract.

Administrative and Correspondence-

DES violation update; permit received; Dave Richards would like copies of the letters for the Planning Board's files.

Budgets- Robin will be sending 2022 budget requests to the Department heads tomorrow; submission date is prior to the October 12th Selectmen's Meeting.

The Planning Board and Select Board will be meeting on November 1st to discuss the CIP accounts and Warrant Articles.

Information regarding Green Burials and the deed to the Johnson Estate were reviewed; the Cemetery Trustees would like to meet with the Board to discuss the possibilities of offering Green Burials in Lempster.

Public Participation-

Phil Tirrell:

Due to the uptick in Covid cases in order to protect the people in the Town Office Phil feels mask wearing needs to be addressed. Mary stated she had discussed the idea with the girls in the office that morning and all agreed that people wear a mask before entering or wait until the office is empty of other residents. Mask mandate to take affect October 1st.

Charlie Olsen:

He and his wife are now permanent Long Pond residents and is requesting the Town plow past his house, he is the last house on Long Pond Road (#339). There is not a turnaround for the highway department and no area to place the snow as it dead ends at the Lempster/Washington town line.

A neighbor is willing to allow at the Town's expense the cutting of a few trees to make the road wider. Scott Goodspeed states the problem is there is nowhere to put the snow or to turnaround. Fire and Rescue also cannot gain access to the residence. The Highway Department will look into it.

Linda Callahan:

Linda presented copies of Lempster's historic Land Grant Documents she had preserved utilizing funds from the Town Records Preservation CIP 013. The project was started by the Select Board and Town Clerk in 2020. The original documents are kept at the Town Office Town Clerk's Record Room. The documents are dated October 1, 1761 and are set one of three; set two and three have yet to be located.

Kevin Onnela:

Voiced concerns surrounding the Boards choice of contractor to install the Mill Road Bridge. The Board awarded the bid to Daniels Construction at a higher rate than the bid received from K.A. Stevens. Mary explained timing was key as Daniels was available to install it this fall. Daryl explained Steven bid did not include them supplying the pipes; that cost to be borne by the Town; at an estimated cost of \$12,000.00 (the difference between the bids).

Non-Public RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Personnel:

At 8:30 PM Mary motions to enter non-public session, seconded by Tracy; all in favor.

At 8:39 PM Mary moves, seconded by Traci to return to the public meeting; all in favor.

Mary moves to seal the minutes of the non-public session, seconded by Traci; all in favor.

Mary made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:45 PM; seconded by Everett, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Cantara
Administrative Assistant