

**TOWN OF LEMPSTER
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Approved Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2022**

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

Others Present: David Richards, Barbara Richards, Alvin McNeill, Rachel Tirrell, Phil Tirrell, Lynda Perry, Scott Goodspeed, Kevin Onnela, John Nowak, Mindy Chadwick, Mark Pitkin, Joe Moulton, Linda Callahan, Jeremy Turner, Laura French and Daryl Simino.

Mary called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

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

Approve/Amend Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting held on March 22, 2022
Traci moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Everett; all in favor.

Loan Documents:

Mary introduced Mark Pitkin, President of Sugar River Bank. Mark presented paperwork for a Tax Anticipation Note; Mary explained the Town had voted at Town Meeting 1994 to authorize the Selectmen to obtain TAN's as needed until rescinded.

Traci moves to approve the signing of the note, seconded by Everett; all in favor. The Board signed the TAN paperwork and received the loan funds.

Carbon Credits:

Mary invited Jeremy Turner, Forester to the Selectmen's meeting to answer questions and speak on the Carbon Credits program. Jeremy explained that the program works for some property owners and not for others; he feels that sustainability through forest management to produce renewable products works for the New England area; citing loggers, homeowners, local saw mills and foresters alike. With the carbon credits program timber harvesting is very minimal or ceases.

Daryl inquired if companies that purchase the carbon credits are still producing the same amount of carbon; Laura French, Forester responded that is not necessarily true- California carbon credit purchasers must reduce their carbon footprint to purchase the credits, but California's program is a 100 year contract.

Jeremy explained that Disney is a supporter of the program, but he feels it is just a great promotional opportunity for them supporting the going green movement. Other wealthy industries, such as oil industries, are buying into the carbon credits as well.

Phil Tirrell of the Conservation Commission explained the CC has identified 1,487 acres of Town owned properties they would like to submit for review to their chosen offset broker; Natural Capital Exchange. He feels \$5,000.00 - \$6,000.00 annually could be earned by the Town while reducing carbon in the atmosphere. John Nowak stated it is only a one year contract. Phil stated the Town could pull out at any time and the timber harvest deferral credits would be prorated.

Traci is concerned that carbon credit program will hurt small companies that rely on forest products.

Mary feels the Town benefits more financially through managed cuts as over \$20,000.00 was paid to the Town on the Lawrence Johnson Estate cut of 400 acres. Everett stated that cut was a selective cut only.

Kevin Onnela was concerned that very large trees produce carbon; Jeremy stated he had not heard that they produce carbon just that they stop being beneficial in removing and storing carbon, they basically flat line, younger trees absorb the most carbon.

Everett would like to defer any decisions, gather more information and present it the Legislative Body at next year's Town Meeting; Mary and Traci agree. Mary reminded those in attendance that they represent 1,300 residents and would like their input on the subject.

Scott Goodspeed would like to know what the value of the timber on Mill Road is versus what the Carbon Credit dollars would be. He would like to know what the cost is to evaluate the lot.

In closing, Forester Laura French recommends that the Town put a plan together to evaluate the property's value as far as timber harvesting, recreational use, habitat for wildlife and carbon credits. It makes more sense to know what you have in value prior to enrolling it all in a fairly new program. She feels managing a forest properly is a win/win for the forest and the Town.

Department Reports-

Highway Department:

Daryl reported the highway department crew has been installing signs, picking up trash and raking the roads.

He is waiting for a quote on guardrails for the Mill Road Bridge.

Overlay paving quote for Mountain Road - Route 10 to the Washington town line, received from Pike Industries for \$200,000.00. Mary feels there is no sense in crack sealing until the patch paving from the July 2021 storm damages are completed.

Grandview needs shimming and Allen Road needs pavement work from 2nd NH Turnpike to the top of the hill.

He reminded everyone that the Transfer Station is closed on Sunday for Easter.

Kevin Onnela inquired if Daryl has ever chip sealed; he has not.

The window on the backhoe was destroyed by a boomerang tree on Pitkin Road, Mary inquired if insurance would cover the cost; Robin will check.

Fire Department:

Joe Moulton requesting approval to purchase two scene tripod lights with replacement batteries and chargers for \$750.00 from Amazon.

Everett moves to approve up to \$750.00 for the purchase of the lights, seconded by Mary; all in favor.

Administrative and Correspondence-

The following documents were signed by the Board:

Oath of Office; Mindy-Jo Chadwick CC

Highway Dept. Equipment CIP 026– withdrawal request \$4,900.00 York Rake,
Everett makes a motion to withdraw, seconded by Mary; all in favor.

Timber Interest Abatement - Map/Lot 221-023

Sheriff Department Contract 2022

Intent to Excavate – Map/Lot 232-025001

Public Participation-

David Richards asked about a no parking in driveway sign, Everett suggested David contact State Highway District 4 as 2nd NH Turnpike is a State road and the Town cannot place signs on a State road.

Traci made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 PM; seconded by Everett, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Cantara
Administrative Assistant