

**TOWN OF LEMPSTER  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Approved Meeting Minutes  
July 25, 2023**

**Board Present:** Traci Homol, Everett Thurber and  
Mark Lightner (appointed)

Administrative Assistant Robin Cantara

**Others Present:** David Richards, Phil Tirrell, Kevin Onnela, Jennifer Gildner-Blinn, Judy Aron, Ken Morse, Tara Morse, Alan Chandler, Scott Goodspeed, Daryl Simino and Al McNeill.

Traci called the meeting to order at 6:41 P.M.

Traci moves to enter into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (b), seconded by Everett; all in favor.

At 6:59 P.M. Traci makes a motion to end the nonpublic session and return to the public meeting, seconded by Everett; all in favor.

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

Approve/amend the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting held on July 11, 2023. Everett moves to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Traci; all in favor.

Traci announced the Board came to an agreement to appoint Mark Lightner to serve until the next Annual Town Elections. Fulfilling the vacancy left by Mary Grenier, Mark accepted the position and was sworn in by Traci. Mark introduced himself to those present.

### **Old Business**

#### **Highway Department:**

Shrenk Road Bridge – The Highway Department has the guardrails. Daryl stated they will be installed as soon as the roads are repaired from the recent storm event.

Culverts – None replaced due to the road damages.

Mountain Road Shoulders- Daryl expressed concerns with completing the shoulders due to the numerous roads needing repairs, Traci concurs that we need to get it done after all the money that was spent to pave it. Daryl requested hiring it out, the Board would like Daryl to present prices for consideration.

Beaver Issues- Traci stated that two beavers have been abated on Lovejoy Road.

### **New Business**

Mark presented his idea to establish an annual award duly named "The Mary E. Grenier Community Service Award". This would be for a volunteer/community member who has gone above and beyond to help the community; he expressed that the award will not be for Lempster employees or officials. He would like to have residents submit nomination letters and have a small committee review them. The annual award would be presented at Old Home Day or Town Meeting.

## **Department Reports**

Fire/Rescue Department – No Report

Highway Department – Homeland Security and a representative from FEMA met with Daryl, Everett and Phil to assess the storm damages from the July 10 & 11, 2023 rain event.

Much discussion ensued regarding the condition of the roads and what steps should be taken to get Governor Sununu to declare a State of Emergency. Several options were discussed for getting the roads repaired quickly, including using volunteers. Mark will research the idea of using volunteers and report his findings at the next Select Board Meeting.

Concerns were raised regarding the lack of cones and barriers near some of the damages; both Daryl and Scott explained that they place cones and barriers and people steal them or move them and travel the roads regardless of cones and barriers. Scott requested the Highway Department be allowed a few hours of overtime to get the roads open vs. spending \$10,000.00 to replace stolen cones & signs.

Representative Judy Aron presented names and phone numbers of where the Town may be able to acquire additional cones, barriers and road signs.

To date Lempster has received \$31K and some change for the July 2021 disaster; Phil stated that Project #669062 has been obligated by FEMA. Everett inquired of the amount, Phil was unsure as the amount was not listed in the obligation email.

## **Administrative and Correspondence -**

Budget Review- Traci announced the budget spent as of the end of July was 48.7%.

Division of Forests and Lands Report/Bill for an illegal burn- signed by the Board.

Mark would like to see the Town become more proactive with welcoming new residents to town. The Town does have a “Welcome to Lempster” package available.

## **Public Participation-**

Kevin Onnela inquired if the interest paid on the CIP's had been addressed, Traci will call additional Trustees of Trust Funds to try and discuss it further. (The Trustees are responsible for where the money is invested).

Jennifer Gildner-Blinn – Jennifer stated that the Conservation Commission would be sending a letter of support for the Drift Track and inquired if the Board would be doing the same; Traci explained the Board had already sent a letter of support and she had read it at a previous meeting. Phil made it clear that the CC was not taking a stance on the Drift Track until all permits are in place.

Al McNeil asked when the Post Office would be opening; still waiting on the Postal Service to complete their end.

Traci moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 PM, seconded by Mark; all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Cantara  
Administrative Assistant