

**TOWN OF LEMPSTER
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Approved Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2024**

Board Present: Traci Homol, Everett Thurber and Mark Lightner

Administrative Assistant Robin Cantara

The Board met at 6:30 PM for a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II(c)

Traci called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM and immediately moved to enter into non-public session, seconded by Everett; all in favor.

At 6:59PM Traci moves, seconded by Everett to end the non-public session. Traci moves to seal the minutes of the non-public session, seconded by Mark; all in favor.

Traci called to reopen the regular meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Others Present: David Richards, Phil Tirrell, Read Gildner-Blinn, Jennifer Gildner-Blinn, Ted Kraus, Alvin McNeill, Daryl Simino, Kevin Onnela, Gretchen Barden and Mats Barden.

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

Approve/amend the minutes of the December 6, 2023 Budget Work Session and the Selectmen's Meeting held on December 12, 2023. Traci moves to accept both as printed, seconded by Everett all in favor.

Old Business

Highway Department:

Culverts – Spring 2024

Mountain Road – Line markings are on hold until the spring of 2024.

Long Pond Lot Map/Lot 241-20 –

Mark updated that the property listing has gone live; we received one offer which was not accepted and expects to receive two offers in the near future.

Intersection of Mountain Road/Second NH Turnpike and Route 10-

Traci read an email received from Commissioner Cass from the NH DOT. Commissioner Cass is looking for feedback from the Selectmen and the Town regarding making the intersection a four way stop. Traci does not want a four way stop. No decision made.

New Business –

Mats & Gretchen Barden inquiring about the process to receive permits for access and building on Bugbee Drive, a Class VI road. Everett explained that the road needs to be brought up to Class V standards. Everett suggested they speak with the Building Inspector, Bob Porter. In the spring the Barden's will meet with the Selectmen and the Highway Supervisor to discuss the requirements, they will meet at the Barden's property.

Department Reports –

Highway Department:

Daryl reported that the Transfer Station Compactor is hooked up but the controller is not working properly.

The highway department has been dealing with mud and ruts on the roads due to the heavy rains.

Daryl spoke on the contract received from Meridian Land Services for improper work done by the Conservation Commission and an error on the disturbance area on the permit for the Wharf.

The contract covers the following services:

“Per onsite meeting, Meridian will prepare a restoration plan for the fill placed adjacent to the lakefront at the Town beach. The restoration plan will include specifics for excavation of the filled materials installed on the beach without a permit. An after-the-fact wetlands permit application will also be prepared for replacement/installation of the wharf along the waterfront. It is recognized that the areas identified in the Letter of Deficiency (LRM 23-036) do not align with areas of disturbance as specified in the approved PBN (2020-01627).

The area, as described and walked at the on-site meeting, will be topographically surveyed and the impact areas will be observed. The survey will include location of existing improvements including areas of fill and wetland disturbance. The restoration plan will be prepared and issued to the Town of Lempster for review and comment. Upon receipt of comments, the restoration plan will be issued to the Department's compliance bureau for approval. Concurrent with the restoration plan approval, an after-the-fact wetland permit will be sought to append the disturbance areas previously approved by the DES.

Fieldwork will need to be completed during a non-snow cover time of year. Upon authorization to proceed, Meridian will coordinate with the DES's compliance bureau to establish reasonable timelines.”

The contract was approved by the Board and signed by Everett. Total cost for the restoration Plan & Permitting is \$3,585.00.

Fire Department: No report.

Rescue Department: No report.

Administrative and Correspondence –

Pistol Permits (2) - Signed.

Veteran Exemption Application-Signed by the Board.

Timber Warrant-Signed by the Board.

Road Safety Audit Application – Traci will touch base with Meghan at UVLSRPC to see where we stand.

Public Budget Hearing - The budget will be reviewed on January 30, 2024 at 5:00 PM.

Next BOS Meeting will be held at 4:00 PM, January 23, 2024 at the Meeting House (Election Day) for the signing of the manifest.

Public Participation-

David Richards inquired if anything has been done regarding additional posting areas for Town Notices; no further discussions have taken place. David asked about the Post Office and the Meeting House for bulletin Boards.

Ted Kraus stated that due to the dire conditions of the roads if we could apply for any federal grant money to help.

Kevin Onnela asked if anything had been done with the money in the CIP's. Traci explained that the Trustees of the Trust Funds are fully responsible as to where the money is invested, there is nothing the Board can do.

Nonpublic RSA 91-A:3, II (a)

At 7:35 PM Traci moves to enter non-public session, seconded by Everett; all in favor.

At 8:00 PM Traci moves, seconded by Mark to end the non-public session and return to the public meeting; all in favor.

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

The Board discussed meeting times for the Fire Department, Highway Department and the Town Clerk/Tax Collector to meet with the Board during the public budget hearing as the Board recommended changes to their submitted budgets. Highway will be heard at 5:00 PM, Town Clerk/Tax Collector at 5:30 PM and the Fire Department at 6:00 PM.

Mark inquired about the possibility of the Cormier's renting the Meeting House on a regular basis for Sunday morning church services. Everett recommends that it be a short term rental due to mixing church and State. They will be responsible for cleaning after services and supplying insurance coverage; Robin will check on the price per hour. Mark will verify that insurance coverage is through the Newport Baptist Church.

There being no further business, Traci moved to adjourn the public meeting at 8:28 PM, seconded by Everett; all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Cantara
Administrative Assistant