

TOWN OF LEMPSTER
BOARD OF Selectman
Approved **Meeting Minutes**
April 23, 2024

Board Present: Mark Lightner, Everett Thurber and Phil Tirrell

Administrative Assistant Robin Cantara

Others Present: Kevin Onnela, Mindy Chadwick, Lynda Perry, Katy Haas, Daryl Simino, Jim Cheever, Jennifer Gildner-Blinn, Cassie Greene, Tim Greene, Ed Smith, Sue Lichty, Richard Fairweather, David Richards, Melanie Kraus, Ted Kraus, Carol Andrews, Scott Goodspeed and Rich Claytor.

Mark called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

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

Approve/Amend Minutes of the April 8, 2024 Selectmen's Meeting.

Lynda Perry requested the following amendments:

Everett wants to be certain that the abutters are notified. ~~and have given their approval~~, Mark states that they are not to widen the road any more than it is. Lynda asked for permission to post a sign at the trailhead ~~(it will be on her property)~~. Phil moves to accept the minutes as corrected, seconded by Mark; all in favor.

Old Business

Highway Department:

Culverts – FEMA deadline to install the remaining culverts from the 2021 storm is June 30, 2024. Everett asked how many culverts are involved in the FEMA project; Daryl stated there are 11 remaining.

Paving Quotes – Bid decision (Grandview Road)

There are 2 culverts at the top of Grandview that need to be upsized prior to paving; he would like to schedule the paving for the end of June. Daryl would like to check with some contractors for quotes on installing the Grandview culverts, approved by the Board.

The following quotes were received:

1. Pike Industries - \$226,185.00
2. All States Construction - \$260,100.00
3. Wolcott Construction - \$267,750.00

Everett moves to accept Pike Industries bid, seconded by Phil; all in favor.

Mountain Road Lane Marking Lines – Daryl has made some calls for pricing. He would like to know how many lines the Board would like. The Board feels one center line will be sufficient.

Lovejoy Rd. Culverts – Daryl has not heard anymore from FEMA on mitigation measures, for now they will need to reset the existing blocks on one culvert and replace two additional culverts.

Mountain Road Bridge – The bridge has been ordered through Michie, Daryl is hoping to install it this summer.

Highway Department Continued:

Long Pond Beach – The Restoration Map has been submitted by Meridian to DES for approval, waiting on a response from DES.

Landfill Maintenance – The brush has been mulched off the old landfill, a few trees remain which will need to be removed. Daryl will touch base with Aries Engineering prior to commencing.

Brown Road- A request for extended maintenance on the Class VI portion was received by the Board.

Everett explained that the road would need to be upgraded to Class V standards, the Board agrees not to extend an additional 800' of maintenance on the Class VI portion of Brown Road.

Street Signs- Daryl has received calls regarding missing signs. He asked the Board who is responsible for replacing the street signs on private roads; the general consensus was the Town should replace them due to emergency response benefits.

Budget Committee: Mark had received a request to further review the idea of adopting a Budget Committee. His findings are that it is far more complicated than it appears on the surface, a town meeting vote is required to give them any real authority. He feels that the Town hasn't done a great job in the past communicating with the community in regards to the budget process which is quite cumbersome and feels adding another layer would complicate it further. He vows to ensure a smoother and more transparent budget season reminding residents they are always welcome to attend the Budget Meetings. The first meeting is informational only. During the second meeting residents may ask questions and give opinions with follow up at Town Meeting.

New Business

Safety Committee discuss Appointments for the Town Office

Manager- Everett volunteers

Worker- On hold

Department Reports

Forest Fire Department:

David Richards reported there was a brush fire on Route 10 which started small and ended up burning about 2 acres as everything is so dry. David is unsure at this time if any of the surrounding towns will be billing for services, David stated if they do it will come out of his budget. Mark inquired if the Town could recoup funds from the responsible party. David explained that this was a wind driven accidental fire therefore it is not billable. If any of the attending towns bill Lempster we will submit a bill to the State and they will reimburse for half of the cost.

Fire Department:

Phil mentioned the department has begun cutting the trees around the old foundation located near the Fire Department and that the ladder truck has been certified which took 8 hours to complete.

Administrative and Correspondence

Budget Review - Mark stated we have spent 32% of the budget which is on schedule.

Everett explained the Board is instituting new protocol as was done in the past; the Board will be passing over any items not listed on the Meeting Agenda in advance. He explained that two weeks ago the Board was bombarded with items that were not on the agenda, which doesn't give them an opportunity to prepare or research for decisions, and isn't transparent to residents who may like to attend based on the posted agenda.

Melanie Kraus asked how to get on the agenda, Everett stated to contact Robin. (Agenda items must be received by Noon the Thursday prior as it is posted on Friday).

Mark added that public participation could also be utilized to request being added to the next meeting agenda.

The Board signed the following items:

Pistol Permit

Oath of Office – Appointment of the new TC/Tax (Kayla Brehio)

The Board moved back to Department Reports for the Conservation Commission:

Lynda Perry Chair of the CC stated she had contacted the abutter and he was present, she gave him the floor. Mr. Claytor spoke in regards to the No Parking sign placed on the River Road, he explained that he has been parking there for 26 years being careful not to block the entrance, and he had gotten notice that there was an event coming up involving clearing of brush and he does not want the brush cleared on his property as it acts as a buffer to his back yard. He is looking for assurance that he can still park where he always has, he explained that when he has his gas delivery they also must park there blocking the road. He has an annual party and has always felt it inappropriate to block Dodge Hollow Road so he has his guests' park on River Road. Again he stated he does not want the brush cleared along his frontage.

Lynda Perry stated it is a Class VI road so you have to be able to have public travel. The brush can be left there as long as it doesn't impede public travel, they want to bring a picnic table down and they can't get their pickup down there with the brush. Rich Claytor interjected with public travel given the status of the bridge is maybe a horse maybe an ATV but not a truck or a vehicle. He again brought up the fact that people had been parking where he parks since 1830, Everett explained he did not feel the sign was aimed at him, Phil stated it was never anyone's intention to take away his parking spot but since it is a public way they didn't want anyone to block the road for his (Mr. Claytor's) use or anyone else's. Phil feels the CC got involved because of the beauty of the spot, they want to clean up a couple of dead trees that are on the bridge so you can walk across it and to just trim what little bit of brush is sticking into the road. He doesn't foresee any vehicle activity due to the condition of the bridge and they should be discussing how to post the bridge as unsafe. Discussion continued on the inability to get a fire truck or rescue personnel down there if someone got hurt. Richard Fairweather stated it is a Class VI road and there is no guaranty of pass ability, and the town has no right to go down and trim trees on a Class VI road. Phil states there is nothing prohibiting volunteers from doing so. Richard said if they want to bring a picnic table down he will bring people to carry it down. Everett explains that the owners can cut anything they want on their side of the road. David Richards brought up that there is the potential that a town can do repairs on a Class VI road under fire protection.

Scott Goodspeed inquired where people are to park if they want to walk the road or use the picnic table, the response was on Dodge Hollow Road.

Conservation Commission Continued:

The No Parking sign will stay, but the Board feels it will not stop Mr. Claytor from parking where he does.

The Board of Selectmen will take a ride to review the River Road and follow up with the neighbors to come up with a solution.

Public Participation

Jennifer Gildner-Blinn would like to have on the agenda under Old Business determination of declaring the Drift New England project a Development of Regional Impact. (DRI)

Mindy Chadwick inquired if the Town has any plans on placing a crosswalk from the Town Office to the Library, it will have to be looked into.

Jim Cheever mentioned a damaged culvert on South Road, it was explained that the road is maintained on a seasonal basis. Daryl will take a look at it; South Road may need to be closed to thru traffic temporarily.

Sue Lichty mentioned potholes on South Road in need of fill.

A question was raised about there being any discussion on ATV use on town roads at the last meeting, Phil responded no.

Drift NE inquiry of additional permits issued by the town, no permits have been issued from the town.

Ted Kraus asked about the boards on the Mountain Road bridge, it was explained that the bridge is slated for replacement this year.

There being no further business, Everett moved to adjourn the public meeting at 8:05 PM, seconded by Phil; all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Cantara
Administrative Assistant