

**TOWN OF LEMPSTER
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Approved Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2024**

Board Present: Mark Lightner, Everett Thurber and Phil Tirrell

Administrative Assistant Robin Cantara

Others Present: Jim Cheever, David Richards, E.J. Welch, Mindy Chadwick, Lynda Perry, Maren Ardell, Jennifer Gildner-Blinn and Steve Zakur.

Mark called the meeting to order at 6:58 P.M.

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

Approve/Amend Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting held on October 8, 2024 and the Emergency meeting held on October 17, 2024.

Phil moves to accept the October 17, 2024 minutes as written, seconded by Everett; motion passed.

Phil moves to accept the October 8, 2024 minutes as written, seconded by Everett; all in favor.

Old Business

Highway Department:

Mark shared verbal updates from the highway department on the following items:

Culverts – No additional culverts have been addressed since the last Board meeting.

Mountain Road Bridge – The Town is waiting on the guardrails. Mark explained that mostly Phil along with Everett came up with an alternative solution to open the bridge while waiting on the guardrails. The Town rented jersey barriers which have been installed. One lane of the Bridge is now open for passage.

Everett stated that the shoulder work on Mountain Road was supposed to be done while the road was closed and it has not been done. He would like to have a meeting with the three of them to discuss getting unfinished projects done.

Long Pond Beach & Wharf –Beach: Meridian will file the report due to DES at the end of October.

Wharf: We are awaiting DES approval on the after the fact permit. The original application was submitted with incorrect measurements. The original application stated the impact would be 12" X 90', it should have read 12' X 90'.

Shoulder progress on Mountain Road – Shoulder work has not started.

291 Grandview Road - Update on missed driveway skirt –The skirt has not been completed, Daryl has checked in with Pike on a weekly basis.

Road sign progress-No additional signs have been installed.

Roadside Mowing- Mountain Rd, South Road, Sand Pond Road and Long Pond Road have not yet been mowed.

Steel Beams –No additional scrap dealers have been contacted.

Vehicle Inspections - The 2004 truck needs King Pins, Steering U-Joints, U-Joints and Brake adjustments to pass inspection. The estimate received for the parts came in around \$6,000.00.

Department Reports

Transfer Station: The Packer box needs repairs to the back door and back supports. Everett mentioned utilizing the in town welder.

Conservation Commission: October 26 is scheduled for roadside cleanup, meet at the Town Office at 10:00AM. Lynda Perry would like it added to the website's calendar.

Fire/Rescue: Phil mentioned the department responded to an overloaded truck that almost tipped over on Route 10 and a wood shed fire in Acworth.

New Business:

Administrative and Correspondence

Budget Review –We are currently at 76% of the operating budget, calendar wise is 83%.

Adams Lock- Safe Repair CIP 012 Building Maintenance withdrawal request signed by the Board.

Intent to Cut – Map/Lot 246-001 – Signed by the Board.

Employee Time off Request – Signed by the Board.

Letter from Jim Lewis – Stating the School is behind on their budget forms. Mark explained that unfortunately this will cause a delay in the setting of our tax rate.

Public Participation

Mindy Chadwick & Lynda Perry- The ATV club will be hosting a trail ride on October 27, 2024.

E.J. Welch – E.J. inquired if the Board was looking for a new Highway Supervisor since Daryl had said he plans on retiring in June or July so the new hire could learn the position. Everett explained the Town is in the position of where do you find the money to hire an additional person.

E.J. inquired if we have paid in full for the mowing because last year the same roads were never mowed. He said there is another guy in Washington that also does roadside mowing, E.J. offered to get his contact information.

Steve Zakur - Asked for a detailed explanation for the holdup on the guardrails. Mark and Everett explained that the pattern for the guardrails were designed to the State's standard which is different than what was there. The guardrail posts required were not in stock and an adapter kit does not exist.

Steve inquired of planning for the highway department; some residents have asked for a schedule of work to be performed by the highway department including when they do work and how they do work. Everett explained the Board is going to try and asked who do you want to deal with irate taxpayers because their taxes doubled or irate taxpayers because their road isn't great. He stated that oversight of the highway department got looser and looser, they hoped it would get better. Lynda Perry asked about hiring a Town Manager. E.J. Welch suggests that Daryl could give a written report for each meeting that includes everything the department has done that could be attached to the minutes so people could see if a road hasn't been worked on.

Phil would like to hire an additional worker to run the Transfer Station and purchase a roll-off truck to

haul our own trash. This employee could then fill in at the highway department when not running the transfer station.

Discussion of ways to improve the transfer station operation continued, no decisions were made.

A question was raised regarding do we pay the highway crew extra for mowing, Mark explained they mow during their regular working hours.

Everett explained that based on the amount of taxpayers in Lempster vs. Newport using purchasing a grader as an example. The purchase would cost Lempster taxpayers \$5.00 but only cost Newport taxpayers \$1.00 based on the tax base. Comparison wise it is more expensive for individual taxpayers in a small town vs a larger town.

Mindy Chadwick asked about grants for equipment; Mark explained we are working with UVLSRPC.

Mindy asked if we were getting a crosswalk at the all-way stop; Mark responded we are not getting the crosswalk unless the town pays for it.

David Richards asked about the kiosk for posting town notices; it is being worked on.

At 7:57 PM, Mark moves to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Employees, seconded by Phil; all in favor.

At 9:01 PM Phil moves to return to open session, seconded by Mark; all in favor.

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

There being no further business, Mark moved to adjourn the public meeting at 9:02 PM, seconded by Phil; all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Cantara
Administrative Assistant