

TOWN OF WHEELLOCK
SELECTBOARD MEETING
March 19, 2024

Present: Board members Ann Lawless, Jason Bora, Michael Richardson; Road Commissioner Glenn Cole; Clerk/Treasurer Carol Rossi; citizens.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm.

Ann Lawless expressed thanks to Jim Blackbird and Andy Buteau for their service and welcome to Jason Bora and Michael Richardson.

Report of Road Commissioner

Glenn Cole, road commissioner, reported on work being done to improve road conditions. He stated that 31 loads of gravel had been used on the South Wheelock Rd to address problems with washboard and potholes. The crew will be working on Sutton Hill and Burroughs Rd next. The crew continues to operate with only one truck. Repairs to the '19 International were expected to be completed by the 22nd.

Plugged Culvert Issue

Russel Ruff requested assistance with a plugged culvert and drainage problem on Peak Rd. Mr. Ruff explained that this is not a driveway culvert. The culvert runs parallel to the road for a significant distance across the front of his property and then under his driveway. Glenn Cole explained that he is aware of the situation but nothing can be done until temperatures remain above freezing. The first step will be to attempt to flush the plugged culvert out. A specially designed nozzle is needed for this work.

Stockpile of Materials for Emergencies

Glenn stated that he has created and would like to maintain a stockpile of materials at the Sutton Rd site for emergency road repair.

Grader Training

Sean Dernago, new member of the road crew, requested training in grader operation. The Board agreed by consensus that Glenn provide training for Sean.

VTRANS actions

The Certificate of Highway Mileage for Year Ending February 10, 2024 and the Certificate of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory were signed.

The motion as made by Mike Richardson to withdraw from the engineering grant for the bridge on Minister Hill, seconded by Jason Bora; motion carried.

Work Session

A 'work session' for the Board, the road crew and the road commissioner was scheduled for Thursday, March 28 at the town garage at 9:00am. Ann will contact Logan Perron, VTRANS District 7 representative, and invite him to attend.

Report of FEMA work

Ann Lawless reported that one FEMA 'project' totaling about \$40,000 has been completed and submitted. The second 'project' (bundle of smaller projects) was worked on today. We are still waiting for feedback on the third 'project.'

New Truck

Ann Lawless reported that she had contacted the salesman regarding the new truck that has been ordered. The salesman expected the truck to be ready before winter.

Energy initiatives

An energy audit, funded by a state grant that is part of the MERP program, was conducted at the Town Hall last week. A report and set of recommendations will be issued. This information can be used in applying for an implementation grant. In addition, the town received a MERP grant to "support capacity building."

Board Reorganization

Ann Lawless was nominated to be chair by Michael Richardson, seconded by Jason Bora; motion carried.

Mike Richardson was nominated to be vice-chair by Jason Bora, seconded by Ann Lawless; motion carried.

The motion was made by Mike Richardson, seconded by Jason Bora to continue with the current schedule for meetings; motion carried. Selectboard meetings will be at 6:00pm the 1st Tuesday of the month during the months of May – Sept and the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month during the months of Oct – April at the Wheelock Town Hall.

The Rules of Procedure and Conflict of Interest Policy were reviewed.

Warrants authorizing the issuance of checks for payroll and accounts payable will be ready for Board review and signing by noon on Wednesdays. Board members were in agreement that they would all come in rather than designate one signer.

Appointments

The following slate of appointments was presented:

Road Commissioner	Glenn Cole
Emergency Officer	Shane Lanpher
E-911 Coordinator	Shane Lanpher
Animal Control Officer	Cindy Cady

Agent to Convey Real Estate
Agent to Prosecute and Defend
Tree Warden

Town Clerk
Selectboard
Selectboard

The motion was made by Ann Lawless, seconded by Jason Bora, to adopt the slate of officers with the addition of Marc Brown as Emergency Officer in addition to Shane Lanpher; motion carried.

Pay Rates

The following rates of pay were proposed by Treasurer Carol Rossi:

town clerk	\$18,252/year
town treasurer	\$22,308/year
assistant clerk, assistant treasurer	\$21/hour
lister with state Level 1 Certification and/or 2 years experience and additional training	\$25/hour
lister – beginner	\$21/hour
janitor, officer coverage	\$18/hour

The motion was made by Ann Lawless, seconded by Mike Richardson, to adopt the proposed pay rates except for the beginner lister position and to set that at \$18/hour; motion carried.

Non-arbitrage Borrowing in Anticipation of Taxes

The motion was made by Mike Richardson, seconded by Jason Bora, to approve and sign the Non-Arbitrage Borrowing agreement with Community National Bank; motion carried.

Cemetery Bids

Bids were received and reviewed from The Eliminator of Lyndonville, Perkins Property Management of Barton and J M Yard Service of Cabot.

The motion was made by Mike Richardson, seconded by Jason Bora, to accept the bid of James Mangan of Cabot; motion carried. Ann Lawless will contact James.

Administration

The minutes of February 20, 2024 were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.

Submitted: Carol Rossi

Meeting Minutes March 19, 2024

SELECTBOARD
