



**Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
September 16, 2020  
6:00 PM  
Conference Room, Norridgewock Town Office**

APPROVED  
10/07/2020

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ronald Frederick, Chairman  
James Lyman, Vice Chair  
Matthew Everett  
Lindsey Lynch  
Sara "Sallie" Wilder

STAFF PRESENT

Richard LaBelle, Town Manager  
Peter Lyman, Bookkeeper

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

Also present for all or parts of the meeting were Somerset County Sheriff Dale Lancaster, Somerset County Chief Deputy Mike Mitchell, Joseph "Skip" Viles.

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Frederick.

**2. Pledge to the Flag**

**3. Discussion with Sheriff Lancaster & Chief Mitchell Regarding Law Enforcement Opportunities in Norridgewock**

Sheriff Lancaster provided an overview of the geography and demographics on Somerset County. There has been an increase in calls for service in recent years. Norridgewock is averaging about 2,000 calls per year (approximately 13%). Many of these calls are reactive, but the Department isn't able to effectively police the community proactively.

Sheriff Lancaster suggests consideration of adding a 40-hour per week deputy to the community would help serve as a deterrent. The deputy would be assigned to Norridgewock and would work closely with Town administration. This would help address traffic concerns, drugs, and a variety of other public safety concerns.

Selectmen Lynch inquired about the number of calls proportionate to population. There was no definitive answer, but it was reinforced that the number of calls responded to are primarily reactive; this opportunity would support more proactive policing.

Selectman Wilder inquired as to why Norridgewock's call rate is disproportionately higher than others. It was noted that there are drug concerns throughout the County, but Norridgewock has its own unique concerns.

Program Costs: Year 1: \$200,000; Year 2: \$136,000; Year 3: \$140,000; Year 4: \$153,000; Year 5: \$158,000. Every three years, the vehicle would be replaced under this proposal, but could be adjusted depending on mileage and other maintenance factors. Salaries are subject to union agreements. It is expected that there would be a minimum commitment of three years.

Vice Chairman Lyman is in support of this proposed program. There is a funding mechanism in place and there is a more defined need. There was a time when we may not have needed the added service, but there is presently a more defined need.

Vice Chairman Lyman inquired as to whether or not there would be enforcement of municipal ordinances. Sheriff Lancaster stated that there is willingness to work with the Town to enforce various ordinances. Vice Chairman Lyman also inquired about the process of selecting an employee and what may take place if a part-time deputy is assigned to Norridgewock and then has to attend Academy, etc.

Selectman Everett supports the proposal, but understands that there are concerns about the financial impact on taxpayers. Chairman Frederick shares the same position in supporting the proposal, but also the financial concerns. It will be important to provide a strong explanation and details for taxpayers to understand the proposal. Selectman Wilder expresses support for the proposal and notes that she hears from many residents expressing concerns about drugs/needles, traffic, among many other issues.

Sheriff Lancaster spoke about the opioid epidemic and the threat of drug addiction in the County. The Department has partnered with Redington Fairview General Hospital to stem opioid abuse. There has been a concerted effort in the jail to deal with recidivism; a position has been created to help inmates deal with their addiction to opioids. There is a new State program that has partnered with Maine Access Points, which has promoted needle exchanges within the community. This was concerning, especially since many of these points are mobile. There are many concerns about the operation of these exchanges.

Skowhegan has been a recent target of mobile needle exchanges; the Town has since passed an ordinance to regulate exchanges. The County Commissioners are moving on a proposed regulation, but municipalities have far more reach. There is a model ordinance that can be adopted to control the presence of needle exchanges within the community.

#### **4. Review/Approve Minutes of September 2, 2020**

Vice Chairman Lyman made a MOTION to approve the minutes of September 2, 2020. Seconded by Selectman Lynch. MOTION PASSED.

#### **5. Selectmen's Reports**

Vice Chairman Lyman noted that he has received several calls regarding internet access on Beech Hill Road. He also noted that the noise from the motocross has also increased in volume and frequency. The amount of traffic to and from the facility has also increased drastically.

Selectman Wilder has received several inquiries as to when the Library will be open regularly. Selectman Wilder suggests opening the library up to senior citizens.

Selectman Everett noted that a concerned citizen cut brush back at the end of Hatto Farm Road.

**6. Town Manager's Report**

See Attached.

**7. Discussion/Action on September 16, 2020 General Warrant #18**

Selectman Everett made a MOTION to approve General Warrant #16 in the amount of \$284,791.10. Seconded by Selectman Lynch. MOTION PASSED, 4-1 (Frederick, Everett, Lynch, Wilder in favor; Lyman opposed).

**8. Discussion/Action on September 16, 2020 Airport Warrant #9**

Vice Chairman Lyman made a MOTION to approve Airport Warrant #8 in the amount of \$140,166.85. Seconded by Selectman Lynch. MOTION PASSED.

**9. Discussion/Action on September 16, 2020 Sewer Commitment**

Selectman Everett made a MOTION to accept and sign the September 16, 2020 Sewer Commitment in the amount of \$20,676.11. Seconded by Selectman Lynch. MOTION PASSED.

**10. Public Comment (Limited to 2 minutes)**

Skip Viles inquired about the funding for the law enforcement proposal and if taxes would remain flat. Would money be reallocated from TIF or from Waste Management tipping fees.

**11. Public Hearing on General Assistance Ordinance and Appendices**

Chairman Frederick opened the public hearing at 7:40 PM.

Chairman Frederick closed the public hearing at 7:41 PM.

**12. Discussion/Action on General Assistance Ordinance and Appendices**

Selectman Everett made a MOTION to adopt the 2020 General Assistance Ordinance with Appendices A through H for October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021. Seconded by Vice Chairman Lyman. MOTION PASSED.

**13. Discussion/Action on Quitclaim Deed Signing**

Selectman Everett made a motion to approve and sign a quitclaim deed to Carlton Worthley for Lot 247 at Sunset View Cemetery. Seconded by Vice Chairman Lyman. MOTION PASSED.

Selectman Everett made a motion to approve and sign a quitclaim deed releasing the Town's interest in property located on Frederick Corner Road to Mary P. Wallace and Joan E. Van Gorden Hersey, which was secured through liens not released from 1984 and 1985. Seconded by Selectman Wilder. MOTION PASSED.

**14. Discussion/Action on Donations**

Selectman Lynch made a MOTION to accept a donation of \$100.00 from Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Poirier to support community food access. Seconded by Selectman Everett. MOTION PASSED.

**15. Other Business**

Vice Chairman Lyman inquired about the status of a tax-acquired property on Walker Road.

**16. Adjournment**

Selectman Lynch made a MOTION to adjourn at 7:46 PM. Seconded by Selectman Everett. MOTION PASSED.