



**Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2020
6:00 PM
Mill Stream Elementary School Gymnasium**

APPROVED
08/05/2020

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Richard LaBelle, Town Manager
Sharon Dodge, Deputy Town Clerk
Peter Lyman, Bookkeeper

MEMBERS ABSENT

Matthew Everett

Also present for all or parts of the meeting were Tom Dexter, Kathy Libby, and Wayne Libby.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge to the Flag

3. Review/Approve Minutes of June 17, 2020

Vice Chairman Lyman made a MOTION to approve the minutes of June 17, 2020. Seconded by Selectman Lynch. MOTION PASSED.

4. Selectmen's Reports

Selectman Wilder spoke of resident concerns regarding the curb and crack spraying for weeds in the downtown. She inquired as to what chemical was being used. The Town Manager stated that he had that information in his office and would let her know. Selectman Wilder expressed concerns for the environment and potential damage.

Vice Chairman Lyman said the grass is getting tall at the intersection of Beech Hill and River Roads; he believes it is becoming a hazard. The Town Manager will resolve this concern.

Selectmen Lynch expressed concerns about debris in the roadway along Main Street. The Town Manager stated that Waste Management has, in the past, helped street sweep at no cost. He will contact WM to determine if they are still willing to provide that service at no cost and/or find an alternate method to clean things up.

Selectman Lynch also stated that she has heard a number of concerns regarding the condition of a property on Depot Street, including noise (specifically, barking dogs), smell, and the

impact on neighboring properties. She also noted that it is impacting the quality of Oosoola Park.

Chairman Frederick stated that there was a pothole near Ketterer's Law Office that needs to be filled.

5. Town Manager's Report

See Attached.

6. Discussion/Action on July 15, 2020 General Warrant #14

Vice Chairman Lyman made a MOTION to approve General Warrant #14 in the amount of \$631,547.36. Seconded by Selectman Lynch. MOTION PASSED.

7. Discussion/Action on July 15, 2020 Airport Warrant #7

Vice Chairman Lyman made a MOTION to approve Airport Warrant #7 in the amount of \$4,161.91. Seconded by Selectman Wilder. MOTION PASSED.

8. Discussion/Action on July 15, 2020 Sewer Commitment

Vice Chairman Lyman made a MOTION to approve the July 15, 2020 Sewer Commitment in the amount of \$41,608.26. Seconded by Selectman Wilder. MOTION PASSED.

9. Discussion/Action on Supplemental Sewer Commitment

Vice Chairman Lyman made a MOTION to approve the July 15, 2020 Supplemental Sewer Commitment in the amount of \$103.60. Seconded by Selectman Lynch. MOTION PASSED.

10. Public Comment (Limited to 2 minutes)

11. Discussion/Action on Truck Engine Brakes Concern

Selectmen reviewed letter from Waterville Road resident Wayne Libby concerning excessive noise from engine brakes and a request to install signage on Waterville Road.

Waterville Road residents Tom Dexter, Kathy Libby, and Wayne Libby spoke regarding how bad the sound is because of engine brakes coming down Waterville Road. They have counted between 10 and 40 trucks per hour. Mr. Dexter states speed is not being enforced; therefore, the speeding trucks are braking in front of their homes and their quality of life has diminished.

It was noted that JAKE brake signs were previously posted, but taken down when the Town was threatened with a lawsuit. At the time, the Board of Selectmen decided not to install alternative signage, as the signs were thought to be ineffective.

Selectman Lynch suggested the use of a speed feedback sign and/or trailer. She also noted that she did not believe that adding fixed street signage would be effective, as this does not address the root problem and there are no consequences associated with certain signage.

Mr. Libby read a letter from Waterville Road resident Reverend Nathan Richards into the record. Mr. Richards shares the concerns of his neighbors.

The Board discusses the possibility of working with law enforcement to address speeding concerns in the area, which may stem the engine brake concerns. In general consensus, the Board agrees to seek two, two-hour details from the Sheriff's Office to address speed concerns in the area of the 25 mile per hour zone on Waterville Road. The time for details will be determined by what residents believe to be the worst time of the day for using engine brakes. Additionally, the Town will work with State Police to consider requesting a commercial detail cover the area periodically.

Chairman Frederick recessed the meeting at 7:28 PM.

Chairman Frederick called the meeting back to order at 7:30 PM.

12. Discussion/Action on New Backhoe Loader Bids

Vice Chairman Lyman made a MOTION to accept the bid of \$109,000.00 from Milton Cat for the purchase of a Cat 420, including the trade of current equipment. Seconded by Selectman Lynch. MOTION PASSED.

13. Discussion/Action on Release of Tax-Acquired Property

Vice Chairman Lyman made a MOTION to release the Town's interest in tax-acquired property located at 458 Walker Road and identified on Town tax maps as Map 002, Lot 022 to Robert Poulin, for the amount of \$7,900.00. Seconded by Selectman Lynch. MOTION PASSED.

14. Discussion/Action on Fire Equipment Gear Dryer

Selectman reviewed information on a gear dryer for the fire department. At a previous meeting, the Fire Chief noted that the Department is in desperate need of a gear dryer, given the current pandemic situation. This has now become a more urgent need that the Board is considering.

Selectman Lynch made a MOTION to authorize the purchase of a gear dryer, in an amount up to \$10,000, subject to the Town Manager receiving three competitive estimates. Seconded by Selectman Vice Chairman Lyman. MOTION PASSED.

15. Other Business

Vice Chairman Lyman made a MOTION to add *Donations* to the agenda. Seconded by Selectman Lynch. MOTION PASSED.

Vice Chairman Lyman made a MOTION to accept a donation of \$100.00 from Joseph Poirier to support community food access. Seconded by Selectman Wilder. MOTION PASSED.

Vice Chairman Lyman made a MOTION to add *Discussion Regarding Sports Facility* to the agenda. Seconded by Selectman Lynch. MOTION PASSED.

Selectman Lynch discussed comments she has received regarding utilizing the airport for activities and purposes other than aviation, if that is permitted. In discussions, she has noted that the idea of a sports facility has been well received and she inquires as to whether or not this is a feasible consideration for the Town. She believes it can promote the airport, improve conditions for small businesses, improve the overall economic condition of the Town, take advantage of open space, and bring younger families to the community.

Selectman Wilder expressed concern regarding such a proposal, as it would eliminate the potential for solar projects at the airport. In addition, she believes such a project would send more people to the airport, which would result in increased vandalism to the property.

There was discussion about the feasibility and FAA requirements, which the Town Manager will look into with the airport consultant.

16. Adjournment

Vice Chairman Lyman made a MOTION to adjourn at 7:55 PM. Seconded by Selectman Lynch. MOTION PASSED.