

**Wentworth Select Board
Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2021**

Those present: Arnold Scheller, Omer Ahern, Paul Manson, Chief Trott, Chief Ames, Francis Muzzey, Andrew Lasser, Linda Franz and Jordan King via Zoom.

Called to Order: Arnold Scheller, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Payroll and vendor checks were signed as well as the meeting minutes for January 12, 2021. Also signed were tax abatements for Holden, Richos and Boucher, intent to cut and timber tax yield for Bettez, a veterans tax credit application, and a payment request from the Bridges Capital Reserve account for HEB Engineers.

A.Scheller made a motion to accept the minutes for December 29, 2020 as written. Seconded by O.Ahern. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. J.King voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

A.Scheller made a motion to accept the minutes for January 12, 2021 as written. Seconded by O.Ahern. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. J.King voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

A.Scheller restated the Select Board meeting procedures emphasizing that agenda items must be sent to the Administrative Assistant by midday Thursday before the Tuesday meeting. Included on the request for agenda item, is topic of discussion and proposed solution. This will facilitate the meeting and enable the Select Board to make thoughtful decisions for the Town.

Chief Trott, Chief Ames and Road Agent presented their written reports, and they are a part of these minutes.

The Road Agent requested that the "Compensation Time Policy" be reviewed as it is not clear to employees. The policy was re-written.

A.Scheller made a motion to accept the changes to the Compensation Time Policy as written. J. King seconded. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. J.King voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

The re-written policy is a part of these minutes. The cap of forty hours of accumulated time will be researched further with how other towns handle this, and the policy may possibly be updated again in the future.

J.King reported that there is no new updated information on the gravel pit.

A.Lasser announced that he will not be able to continue with videographer services due to other obligations. His last date of service will be at the Town Meeting on March 13, 2021. He has been in contact with Pemi-Baker TV to inquire about their fees. They can provide this service for \$55.00 per hour which includes live broadcast on You Tube. Zoom meetings will also

be set up. F.Muzzey asked if we would be able to provide an index and access to the You Tube meetings through a link on the Town's website. This is not necessary as You Tube stores this information.

A.Lasser also gave an update on the broadband service from Consolidated Communications. He presented a letter of agreement with a bond attorney. Also discussed was the broadband service that may be available through New Hampshire Electric Coop. NHEC is working on getting service to whole town. There is no identified time line as of yet. There are other options that may be available to residents as well, Moonbeam and Starlink, that are both satellite service. He will provide more information in the future.

O.Ahern stated that Grafton County has put together a committee for a community broadband agreement. A.Lasser expressed an interest on joining that committee.

After much discussion, A.Scheller suggested that there are too many variables at the moment and too premature to sign a bond agreement. It was agreed unanimously to put the Consolidated Communication project on hold until we get more information from NHEC. A.Lasser will call bond attorney, and O,Ahern offered to get involved with getting A.Lasser on the Grafton County broadband committee.

J.King made a motion to appoint Andrew Lasser to represent the Town of Wentworth in communicating with the Grafton County Broadband Committee. Seconded by A.Scheller. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. J.King voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

J.King suggested that a warrant article be written to allow the Select Board to enter into an employment contract (for up to three years) with the Road Agent. Everyone feels that the Road Agent is doing an excellent job, and this would give more security for the position for both the Town and the Road Agent. L.Franz will contact the legal department at the New Hampshire Municipal Association for guidance.

A.Scheller made a motion to enter into a Budget Hearing. Seconded by O.,Ahern. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. J.King voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

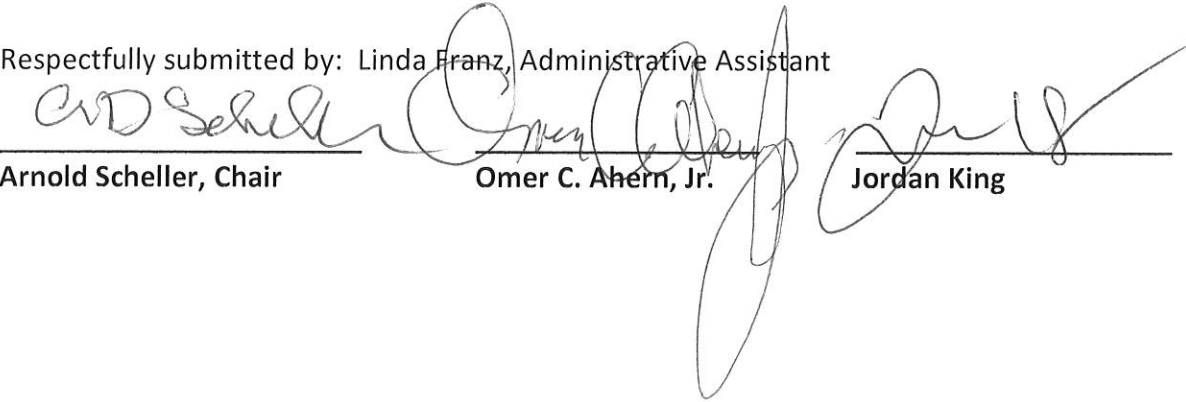
L.Franz explained the increase in appropriations by \$8,412 since last budget hearing. The lease for the new Highway Department truck was finalized at \$28,141, an increase of \$1,641. The ambulance service came in \$1,850 higher than estimated, now \$45,850. The library was able to finalize their budget, with an increase of \$1,921 now at a total of \$46,190. The gravel pit budget was increased by \$1,000 for surveying and studies. Also, there was some interest in the Conservation Commission, so a budget for \$2,000 was added.

The only concern was that the ambulance service did not provide a budget, and they need to explain the increase of \$5,000 over last year. L.Franz will inquire about who represents the Town in overseeing the ambulance committee. She will request a copy of their budget, and ask the Town's representative to present budget at next Select Board meeting.

A.Scheller made a motion to come out of the Budget Hearing. Seconded by O.Ahern. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. J.King voted yes. All voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

A.Scheller made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by J.King. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes. O.Ahern voted yes. J.King voted yes. All voted in the affirmative, and meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Linda Franz, Administrative Assistant

Handwritten signatures of Arnold Scheller, Omer C. Ahern, Jr., and Jordan King. Each signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line. The signature of Arnold Scheller is on the left, Omer C. Ahern, Jr. is in the middle, and Jordan King is on the right.

Arnold Scheller, Chair

Omer C. Ahern, Jr.

Jordan King

WPD Activity Report
Presented 01/26/2021

Please note that the following is a summary of notable activity conducted by the Wentworth Police Department, (WPD), but does not reflect "all" of WPD's activity during this time frame.

While on patrol Chief Trott assisted the Warren-Wentworth Ambulance with a call for service in Wentworth.

While on patrol Chief Trott contacted Grafton County Dispatch and Lakes Region regarding a large amount of smoke coming from the Beech Hill Road area that appeared to be coming from the back of a residence on Beech Hill unknown if it was in Wentworth or Warren. Chief Trott located the source and it was discovered to be an attended brush fire, just behind a residence in Wentworth, and that information was later conveyed to Chief Ames.

While on patrol Chief Trott came across a residence where the front door was wide open. This residence was on a back road in Wentworth and there were no vehicles in the driveway. Chief Trott notified dispatch and then cleared the residence to ensure no one had broken into the residence. A note was left for the home owner and the residence was secured by Chief Trott. It was suspected that the door had not been fully closed when the home owner left and the heavy winds that day must have blown the door open.

Also while on patrol Chief Trott came across a suspicious vehicle parked on Buffalo Road and unattended. In checking the vehicle was found to have no license plates and was unregistered. Contact was made with a female party who claimed ownership of the vehicle and stated that she had stopped because of engine trouble. After a brief conversation the female was issued a citation for an unregistered vehicle and then left the area. Further investigation by Chief Trott determined that the female had gone through the woods on Buffalo Road and attempted to steal a set of New Hampshire license plates off of a parked vehicle that was no longer registered and parked at a camp. Chief Trott will now be following up with an arrest warrant for that female for an attempted theft.



Chief Trott was recently asked by a Wentworth resident why the Wentworth police cruiser was seen in the Woodsville/Haverhill area a week or so ago along with some other police cruisers. For the purpose of transparency the following is the reason why. The WPD has a mutual aid agreement with all of our sister communities and extended communities such as the Haverhill Police Department. The Haverhill Police Department was handling a call for a male subject who was reportedly having some mental health issues and had barricaded himself in a residence and was armed with several knives and a machete. The Haverhill Police Department was assisted by NHSP, NH Fish & Game, the Bath Police Department and the Wentworth Police Department regarding this call. Contact was made with the male subject and we were able to talk him out of the residence without incident. He was then transported to a hospital voluntarily where he was able to get some assistance.

On the administrative end of things the WPD has had an influx in request for resident pistol permits. The WPD administrative assistant is working diligently to process those pistol permits as well as stay on top of her other administrative responsibilities. Because of the influx in administrative work/duties I have had her down here working other hours besides just on Tuesday evenings. Keep in mind that she is a salaried employee so there is no added expense to the community for these extra hours and we are anticipating that things will hopefully level off soon. This is also the time of year where we are completing year end compliance reports and seeing that they are submitted in a timely manner.

Last week my administrative assistant and I also conducted an impromptu traffic study in front of the W.E.S. I have heard and seen complaints from residents regarding speeding vehicles in the area of the school just before and after school. The data we collected at that time showed that some vehicles needed to be reminded that it was a school zone, but the majority were aware and abided by the school speed limit. Regardless, Chief Trott has conducted several proactive traffic patrols in the area of the school, both in the mornings, as well as in the afternoon.



Wentworth Fire

Calls for Service,

Toned and responded to an animal rescue, horse fell could not get back up.

Training We have added an extra training per month for the newer members of the department, we have seen good response to that as 7 were at the new member training program.

We are continuing with our normal programs on the other two meetings, this past week we trained on various large diameter hose for water source and supply operations. Discussing friction loss, flow rates, operating pressures etc.

Other. The Wentworth fire department was recently gifted 1200 feet of 4 inch supply hose from Laconia Fire Department as they were upgrading their hose. Laconia fire worked with lakes region mutual aid dispatch center to look at departments in the area that could put this hose to use, aiding in lessening the budget burdens for smaller departments. The cost of new hose of like size is approx. 6,700. A big savings to the department and town!

We had been having issues from an older computer at the station that we utilize for the national incident reporting system, We learned from one of our members that Plymouth State University has a program in place where a nonprofit organization can apply for a refurbished and updated computer and might get lucky enough to receive one of these units at no cost. Wentworth fire applied and did receive one of these computers recently and it is working great.

The bulk of the Wentworth firefighters have received round 1 of the covid vaccination this was based on voluntary basis most opted to get vaccinated.

Road Agent Report

1/26/2020

Over the last two weeks we have had a few small snow events to keep us busy , plowing , sanding and salting the town roads. The trucks have been maintained , washed , cleaned , greased , fluids checked regularly. At this point in the winter we have only used two loads of salt (Aprox 60 ton) and we have only used about 300 – 400 yards of winter sand , at this point we are way below our average use of salt and sand.

We got our waste oil furnace up and running on January 11th , we used it during the day only, the first two days to monitor its efficiency. After two days we started letting it run 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The furnace is using about 5 – 7 gallons a day and has been operating with out a hitch. A huge thank you to Steve & Ray welch for installing the chimney and making sure everything is to state fire code. I believe the furnace will pay for its self in about 2 years or less.

Looking forward to see what the rest of the winter brings to us. I am currently working on pricing and securing estimates for various projects I have for the upcoming spring and summer , Including tree trimming , roller rental pricing and boom mower pricing.

CURRENT POLICY

d.) Comp Time

Compensation for overtime may be in the form of compensatory time off in lieu of a cash payment. Such compensatory time will be at one and one-half hours for each hour of overtime worked in excess of forty (40) hours in any pay period. Before compensatory time is taken, the Select Board must approve the use of any compensatory time. Compensatory time may be used to cover time lost due to illness. This use is subject to the Select Board's approval. Employees may accumulate up to forty (40) hours of compensatory time. A comp time balance will be maintained in an employee's time record. Remaining compensatory time balances will be paid on the last payroll check of the year. If an employee terminates, payment will be subject to forfeiture.

PROPOSED POLICY

d.) Comp Time

Compensation for overtime may be in the form of compensatory time off in lieu of a cash payment. Such compensatory time will be at one and one-half hours for each hour of overtime worked in excess of forty (40) hours in any pay period. The Select Board or Supervisor must approve the use of any compensatory time before the time is taken. Compensatory time may be used to cover time lost due to illness or any other purpose approved by the Select Board or Supervisor. Employees may accumulate up to forty (40) hours of compensatory time per calendar year. At one and one-half hours for each overtime hour worked, this equates to sixty (60) hours of time off. A comp time balance will be maintained in an employee's time record. Remaining compensatory time balances will be paid on the last payroll check of the year. If an employee terminates, time recorded as of the termination date will be paid.