

**Wentworth Select Board
Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2021**

Those present: Jordan King, Andrew Lasser, Chief Trott, Chief Ames, Paul Manson, Omer Ahern, Francis Muzzey, Mike Leviss, Dave Clark and Linda Franz. Arnie Sheller attended via Zoom.

Called to Order: Arnold Scheller, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

The following documents were signed: Payroll and vendor checks; Meeting minutes for March 13, 2021; Release of Lien for Wright; DRA Form MS-232; Purchase request for culverts Timber tax invoices for King; Withdrawal from Bridge Expendable Trust for HEB invoices; Veterans Tax Credit Application, and an Intent to Excavate for King.

J.King made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from March 13, 2021 as written. Seconded by A.Scheller. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes, J.King voted yes, A.Lasser abstained. With a quorum vote, the motion carried.

A letter from the Office of Public Guardian regarding a local, disabled resident was discussed. The OPG requested that the accumulated interest and penalties accrued for unpaid taxes for the property at 599 Buffalo Road, Map 11, Lot 7-5 be waived. The property is for sale, and the taxes will be paid at closing. The accumulated interest and penalties as of March 23, 2021 is \$2,697.51 and accrues daily. The Select Board decided to waive these charges and any further accrued interest until principal taxes are paid.

A.Scheller made a motion to waive all interest and penalties accrued until the closing of the sale of the property located at 599 Buffalo Road, Wentworth at which time principal taxes will be paid. Seconded by A.Lasser. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes, J.King voted yes, A.Lasser voted yes. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

Three bids presented by the Road Agent for culverts were discussed. The lowest bid was from Pipe Connection in Center Harbor, NH.

J.King made a motion to purchase culverts and couplings from Pipe Connections. Seconded by A.Scheller. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes, J.King voted yes, A.Lasser voted yes. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

The Wentworth Police Departments policy for body-worn cameras and recording equipment was reviewed. Chief Trott gave a brief summary of the policy.

A.Scheller made a motion to accept the Wentworth Police Department Body Cam Policy and include with the Town's general policies. Seconded by A.Lasser. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes, A.Lasser voted yes, J.King abstained. With a quorum vote, the motion carried.

Chief Trott presented his written report for the Wentworth Police Department, and it is a part of these minutes. In regard to illegal dumping mentioned in the report, he and L.Franz will write up a notice to post on the Town's website.

Chief Ames presented his written report for the Wentworth Fire Department, and it is a part of these minutes.

P.Manson presented his report for the Highway Department, and it is a part of these minutes. Paul also discussed advertising for the third highway employee. An ad will be placed with NHMA, Face Book and the Town's website.

A.Lasser made a motion to place advertisements for a new highway department employee. Seconded by J.King. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes, J.King voted yes, A.Lasser voted yes. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

The Town's gravel pit was discussed. The Select Board decided to start on the surveys and permitting process using HEB Engineers. The usual three-bid process was overridden as the budget is only \$8,000, and HEB provided the original estimate to do the work.

J.King made a motion to hire HEB Engineers to conduct surveys and permitting for the Town's gravel pit. Seconded by A Scheller. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes, J.King voted yes, A.Lasser voted yes. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

Omer Ahern gave an update of the Grafton County Commissioners' Office. They are in the budget process, and just received an invoice from the State for \$500K to bail out the retirement fund. IT also needs to replace a lot of equipment in order to allow employees to work from home. The County may get some relief from the American Rescue Plan. He is working hard for the County to try to reduce taxes.

Snowplowing of Saunders Hill Road where it becomes a Class VI road was discussed. The landowner of the log landing that was discussed at a prior meeting will not give the Town permission to plow snow onto the landing, and the Town's plow truck does not have enough room to safely turn around. The Town does not want to set a precedent by maintaining a Class VI road. Therefore, there will be no change to how Saunders Hill Road is currently maintained.

J.King made a motion to continue to plow the Class V section of Saunders Hill Road with no change to the current plowing policy. Seconded by A Scheller. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes, J.King voted yes, A.Lasser voted yes. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

John Meade inquired on behalf of the Baker River Valley Snowmobile Club about using a .54-acre town-owned parking lot on Camp Victory Road. After some discussion about blocking driveways, a Class VI road and potential damage to private roads, as well as leaving no room for the Town's plow truck to turn around, it was decided not to allow snowmobile trailer parking on the lot.

J.King made a motion to not allow the Baker River Valley Snowmobile Club to use the town-owned parking lot on Camp Victory Road to park snowmobile trailers. Seconded by A.Scheller. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes, J.King voted yes, A.Lasser voted yes. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

An inquiry from NH Solar Choices to lease town-owned land for a solar farm was discussed. The Town does not have any available land that would be suitable. L.Franz to respond to inquiry.

Omer Ahern announced that a Grafton County budget hearing will be held via Zoom on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 9:00am. Also, regular Tuesday meetings are held via Zoom. Information is on their website.

Francis Muzzey made some public comments. He first wanted to thank Omer Ahern for instituting the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of Select Board meetings. He also stated that the Highway Department expenses for 2020 were approximately \$1,700 over the budget. Lastly, he suggested making a motion to withdraw funds from the Bridges Expendable Trust to pay for HEB Engineers invoices and to specify the purpose.

J.King made a motion to withdraw \$4,037.39 from, the Bridges Expendable Trust to pay for two HEB Engineers invoices for engineering study and funding assistance regarding the Frescoln and Cross Road Bridge projects. Seconded by A.Scheller. By roll call vote, A.Scheller voted yes, J.King voted yes, A.Lasser voted yes. All three 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, J.King voted yes, A.Lasser voted yes. All three voted in the affirmative and the meeting was adjourned at 6:16pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Linda Franz, Administrative Assistant

Arnold Scheller, Chair



Andrew Lasser



Jordan King

WPD Activity Report
Presented 03/23/2021

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.

I have received an increase in speeding complaints from residents which is normal this time of year. With the good weather people are out and about and we have experienced an increase in motor vehicle traffic itself. I have conducted several proactive motor vehicle patrols and will continue to do so to address these speeding complaints. I will also be utilizing the police departments portable radar signs to also remind people of their speeds in certain target areas. These radar signs have proven to be very effective and we are fortunate to have two of them.

We have been busy with our administrative paperwork which our office manager and I have been working on both in the office and remotely.

We are also being notified of court dates and hearings related to cases and arrests from 2020. I bring these matters up so when people see a Wentworth cruiser or their Chief in Plymouth or the Haverhill area it is most likely because of one these matters.

I did speak with Paul Manson regarding the question concerning the parking area next to Camp Victory. I think that subject will need some more clarification regarding it’s intended usage. I have concerns regarding the road, the width of the road, and potential motor vehicle related calls for service with the increased activity.

I am currently working on a reported theft that may very well turn out to be more of a civil matter than criminal, but, due to the nature of the report it has been very time consuming and involves more than 8 people in one way or another.

We are receiving an increase in reports regarding illegal dumping. I would ask that any members of the Wentworth community who sees anything that might assist us with these types of incidents to please call us. They may hold the small piece of a puzzle that might just make the picture a little clearer for us as to who may be responsible for these illegal acts.

Chief Trott has assisted the Warren/Wentworth Ambulance with several calls for service over the last couple of weeks. I also want to thank the Wentworth Fire Department and their members for assisting me and the Warren/Wentworth Ambulance when we need them. Their hard work and dedication is always appreciated.

I sent the selectmen a proposed schedule for the RumTown Speedway Racetrack for the 2021 season. The state of New Hampshire still has the same guidelines in place regarding COVID-19 that was in place at the end of 2020 and the racetrack will be complying with those guidelines. I bring this up prior to Dan Bowne coming in to ask for the selectmen's signature for another license to operate because Dan has elected to change the hours of operation. He will still be racing on Saturdays, but, instead of starting at 4:00 PM (1600) and running until 8:00 PM (2000), he will be starting at 2:00 PM (1400), and ending at around 6:00 PM (1800). The races will be over sooner, and the hours still fall within the hours outlined in the ordinance. I have no issues with the new hours of operation and to the best of my knowledge neither does the Warren/Wentworth Ambulance and Chief Ames of the Wentworth Fire Department.



Wentworth Fire Report

Calls for Service

Mutual aid to Rumney for fallen climber rumney rocks

Odor of LP

Assist ambulance with patient lifting and removal

Assist police department and ambulance with cpr on a patient

Training

practicing rescue tools operation vehicle extracation along with the set up of safety barriers for personell

Hose and nozzel operation and nozzel components, set up of ground monitors and blitz fire operations

Sunday 5 Wentworth members went to a breathing apparatus course in Rumney for rescue operations as well as may day operations.

Other

Fire permits required for all outside burning if there is no snow or limited amount of snow can be gotten from Jeff Ames, Paul Davis Jr, and Steve Welch.

Road Agent Report

3/22/2021

Spring is peaking around the corner. The worst of winter is behind us, and warmer weather will prevail. Over the last month we have been busy with a few small snow storms. With the warmer weather , the melting has begun. We had a frozen culvert on eastside road that made a mess with water going over the road and freezing , with thawed the culvert and cleaned the road.

I have taken the plows and wings off the trucks as well as the small sander for the 550. I have washed and rinsed the sander and oiled it for summer storage. In the next couple weeks we will bring the plows in and paint them and store them for the summer. We have had the York rake out combating the mud on the roads , we have had quite a mild mud season compared to some towns , I attribute that to , Having and keeping the gravel roads crowned and getting snow off them in a timely manner so the snow does not pack in. we are looking forward to the spring and summer maintenance and construction season , I have put a list of jobs out and I will attach it to this report.