

Wentworth Select Board
Meeting minutes
December 28, 2021

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

Called to Order: Arnold Scheller called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

The following documents were signed: payroll and vendor checks; meeting minutes for November 30, and December 14, 2021, intent to cut for Lasser, several abatement requests.

Arnie announced that the state is beginning to work on Route 25 over Swain Brook at the end of Beech Hill Road. The project will take a few months, and they are planning to put a temporary light there to control one-way traffic.

Chief Trott presented his written report for WPD activity, and it is a part of these minutes. Additionally, he reminded residents that it is illegal to plow snow onto the travel portion of any roadway.

Paul Manson reported that a resident on Frescoln Road, while plowing, knocked a very large header rock into the road gully, and it is blocking a culvert. The rock is too heavy for town equipment and will have to wait for spring. If there are heavy rains, the road may wash out.

Chief Ames reported that the WFD had many calls over the last couple of weeks, some locally and some involving mutual aid. He also has had several meetings with surrounding towns to discuss ambulance service and compare costs against the recent increase from WWAS. Most surrounding towns use Plymouth Ambulance Service, and the WFD would be required to respond to every call. If this is the case, some WFD volunteers would need EMS training and the WFD budget would need to be increased. He recommends that we continue with WWAS for 2022 and look into other options and get a plan into place for 2023. The Select Board asked Chief Ames to put together a committee to explore alternatives. Interest was expressed by Chief Trott, Francis Muzzey, Omer Ahern and George Morrill.

Paul Manson reported that the town took possession of the new Western Star truck. A new highway employee, Zachery Burns, started on December 23rd and is riding along with Paul until he is trained. The Freightliner truck broke down, and the parts will cost \$5,856 with labor provided by Kevin Knapp, no estimate on cost yet. He also reported that the highway department stores of salt and sand are being used up quickly. He may need to increase the 2022 budget to replenish.

The proposal for paving roads in 2022 was discussed. It was decided that the section of Rowentown Road that was proposed to be paved will be remedied with cutting back trees and brush to allow more sunlight onto the road to dry up the mud that tends to be prominent there.

A.Lasser made a motion to include two warrant articles in 2022 for road paving. Turner road in the amount of \$76,398 and North Dorchester Road in the amount of \$125,842. All monies will come from Capital Reserves and none from taxation. Seconded by J.King. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

The town received an assessment of the North Dorchester Road bridge from HEB Engineers. Due to the condition of the bridge, it will be posted for a maximum weight limit of 5 tons and passenger vehicles only. P.Manson will develop a plowing plan, and the WFD will determine a different route to service residences in the area.

A.Scheller made a motion to post the 5 ton weight limit on the North Dorchester Road bridge. Seconded by J.King. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

J.King reported that he has three interested parties looking at the gravel pit. He has provided them with information but has not heard back yet.

A.Lasser reported that Consolidated Communications is still working on a proposal for broadband. He also reiterated that only subscribers to the service will pay back the bond. There is no cost to the town. If there are not enough subscribers, Consolidated Communications pays the bond. This will all be built into their contract with the town.

L.Franz reported that FEMA has extended the project deadline for the 2017 emergency. We are waiting for the permitting letter from the DES on this. FEMA's RFI on the two bridge replacement projects has been extended as well. HEB is working on providing more detail to our responses. L.Franz will continue to follow up.

L.Franz spoke about the New Hampshire Retirement System. It would be a large and forever commitment for the town. The Select Board would like to look into other incentives to retain its employees, such as, larger pay raises and bonuses. They do not recommend a warrant article at this time.

F.Muzzey expressed his concern about snow plowing in front of his property. The plow was going too fast and came within inches of his vehicles.

At 6:52 PM, A.Lasser made a motion to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in

public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community. 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.

Re-entered the public meeting at 7:04 PM.

A.Lasser made a motion to seal the minutes of the just concluded non-public session. Seconded by K.King. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

At 7:06 PM, J.King made a motion to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c) *Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.* 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.

Re-entered the public meeting at 7:26 PM.

A.Lasser made a motion to seal the minutes of the just concluded non-public session. Seconded by K.King. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

J.King made a motion to include salaried, full-time employees in the holiday pay policy. Seconded by A.Scheller. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

J.King made a motion to pay retroactively, Christmas 2021 holiday pay to two highway employees. Seconded by A.Scheller. All three voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

It was briefly discussed that WFD must be prepared in case the warrant article for the WWAS does not pass at town meeting. Chief Ames will try to negotiate the cost and come up with a contingency plan.

A.Lasser made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by J.King. All three voted in the affirmative, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Linda Franz, Administrative Assistant

Arnold Scheller, Chairman



Andrew Lasser



Jordan King

WPD Activity Report
Presented 12/28/2021

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.

Chief Trott took a report of criminal threatening. In speaking with the calling party this was determined to be a mental health issue not a criminal threatening concern and a welfare check was conducted on the other involved party who was residing in another community in New Hampshire. The matter was documented but no further action was taken at the request of the calling party.

The Wentworth Police Department took a report of a possible computer scam. The calling party reported that they had sent a company a sum of money in order to have their computer revived and information on the computer freed up which was currently inaccessible. The matter is still being investigated. Chief Trott wants to remind our residents to make sure that any new businesses or services that you have not done business with before is a legitimate business or organization. One of the best ways to check them is through the Better Business Bureau (BBB) or check them out on the internet.

Chief Trott took a harassment complaint from a Wentworth resident which involved another Wentworth resident. Both parties were spoken with, and the matter was resolved amicably.

Chief Trott was called for a vehicle that had gone off the road on Rte #25 and was stuck in a snowbank. The operator was not hurt and there was no damage to the vehicle it was just stuck in the snow. With the assistance of Paul Manson from the Wentworth Highway Department and Steve Welch from the Wentworth Fire Department we were able to get the vehicle pushed out and back on the road again.

