

TOWN OF WENTWORTH NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN

Minutes of Meeting February 1, 2011

Present: Randy Morrison, Steve Davis, Francis Muzzey and Catherine Stover

Also Present: Richard Slocum, Paula Davis

Randy Morrison moved to open the meeting at 6:04 pm, seconded by Steve and approved.

Richard thanked the Board for allowing him to serve at the Transfer Station. He inquired when /if he might be hired back. Steve stated that the layoff was only as a result of slow usage of the transfer station at this time, and that in the Spring, Richard would be the first in line to be considered as the 2nd attendant at the Transfer Station.

Randy and Steve discussed the 2 remaining bridge projects; Evans and Dufour. Steve stated that Nancy Mayville has stated that Evans bridge will be done in 2011 and the Evans bridge to follow in 2012. Steve also stated that Dubois & King have stated they are willing to work with Piper. Steve requested that this item be placed on next week's agenda for discussion.

Selectmen reviewed & signed:

- A Highway requisition for Oil
- Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2011
- Supplemental Intent to Cut re: Camp Pemi, M/L 04-03-06 & 04-06-06, OP# 10-475-21
- Supplemental Intent to Cut re: Coursey, M/L 14-01-01, OP# 10-475-17
- Intent to Cut re: Franchi, M/L 08-11-13 & 18, OP# 10-475-28

Steve discussed a Warrant Article submitted by Palmer Koelb and Howard Taylors regarding NH Legislature to approve a US Constitutional Amendment to restructure the US Congress regarding term limits, pensions, retirement etc. Steve asked that Paula Davis check the list. The signatures (15 in all) were checked and certified by Paula Davis and Deborah Vlk.

Steve requested that a discussion be placed on next week's agenda regarding Evans and Dufour bridges.

The Selectmen discussed the upcoming elections. They discussed those that have given notice to run and the various positions to be filled.

The Selectmen discussed Nance Masterson's inquiry regarding appointment of Sharon Sanborn as a Library trustee. Donna Herley has given, and the Library Trustees have accepted, her resignation. Motion by Francis, seconded by Steve to approve appointment of Sharon.

Steve stated that he has spoken with Wesley Muzzey in regards to the placement of his gate by RM Piper during the Saunders Hill Bridge Project. Wesley stated that he is not satisfied with the relocation of his gate, and stated that he would like to have it placed back in its original location.

Steve stated that he has spoken with Bob Durfee of Dubois & King, and Bob stated that he will speak with Nancy Mayville of the DOT to see what might be needed to rectify the situation. Steve stated that there is an existing easement agreement. The Board discussed the guard rails. They stated that there are now guard rails in place that were not there originally. Steve stated that Wesley Muzzey's biggest objection is the placement of the gate, not the guard rails.

Randy and Steve approve contributing \$75.00 towards the purchase of new coffee pot for the Town Offices to be shared by the Selectmen's office, Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office and the Police Department. Francis stated that he is opposed to the use of town money for this purpose.

Steve motioned and , Randy approved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm.

Motion by Steve to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm, seconded by Randy and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Stover

Minutes accepted by _____, _____, _____.

TOWN OF WENTWORTH NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN

Minutes of Meeting February 8, 2011

Present: Francis Muzzey, Randy Morrison, Steve Davis, and Catherine Stover

Also Present: Ellie Murray, Palmer Koelb, Craig Pascoe, Carol Friedrich, Chief Kevin Kay, Donna King, Steve Welch, Ray Welch, Patty Welch

Francis Muzzey moved to open the meeting at 6:05 pm, seconded by Randy and approved.

Chief Kay gave a status update. He stated that the department has been dealing with lots of calls, working on past burglary issues, and lots of travel. Craig Pascoe asked about when the burglaries occurred...Chief Kay stated from about the October time frame forward. Carol Friedrich asked the Chief if his department has weighed in on the issue of a new proposed bill which would allow anyone to carry a firearm either openly or concealed, without a license. He stated he's not aware of it. Carol discussed her concerns that anyone might be able to obtain and carry a weapon without a license. She stressed the need to have law enforcement weigh in on this topic. Discussion followed amongst the Board and attendees on the topic and the board felt the proposed law seems as though it might be excessive.

Donna King discussed a letter she received from Convex LLC. Convex is selling some of their property, and requested that Board consider waiving a portion of interest and/or fees as a result of the property being in a lien status. The Board inquired as to whether Convex has requested abatement. The administrator told the board, that we have not received an abatement request. At this time, the Board has decided not to grant this request.

Donna also addressed the appointment of Sharon Sanborn, as library trustee. She asked when the Board had appointed her, and the Selectmen told her this occurred at last week's meeting. Donna stated that any type of topic regarding election, she should be brought into the meeting. Steve agreed, that she should have been called into the meeting last week, and stated that we will do so in the future. Donna stated that the trustee will be appointed until the term of the office runs, which is 2012. Donna read relevant RSA pertaining to appointment of the Trustee to the Selectmen.

The Board and those in attendance discussed inventory penalties assessed previous to 2009 without warning taxpayers in writing prior to levying them. Carol Friedrich stated that this penalty was illegal and a class action lawsuit could be brought against the town. Steve stated that it would be his desire to look into identifying those owners that may have been improperly penalized, and reimburse them the penalty plus interest. After much discussion of the years involved, Steve made the motion to go back to when the penalties were first assessed to identify the taxpayers and amounts collected, and further to have the report completed by April 15, 2011. Francis seconded the motion and it was approved by the board unanimously.

The Board reviewed a billing received from Cross Country Assessors in the amount of \$500.00. Motion by Steve, seconded by Francis and approved that no further bills be paid to Cross Country until Cross Country has rectified the errors identified by the DRA.

The Board Reviewed and signed the 2011 contract for the Wentworth Warren Ambulance. This contract is for 15 months, expiring in March 2012.

Steve requested that the Dufore and Evans bridge projects be placed on next week's agenda for discussion..

The Selectmen signed the Minutes of Meeting 02-01-11, a refund for Michel Revocable Trust, 12-01-04, 2011 contract for Crane & Bell and MS-60A.

Budget hearing was opened and began at 7 pm, motioned by Francis, seconded by Steve and approved.

Discussion was led of the Warrant Articles by Francis Muzzey. Updates/changes occurred regarding the following:

- WA #4: amount to increase to reflect additional \$500.00 for the Town Clerk, Tax Collector's budget due to software updates, total now \$283,745
- WA #8: the amount was adjusted to reflect an increase in the Highway Department of \$2,500.00 needed for additional winter sand, total now \$189,650.
- WA#12: Francis stated that because we have recently received reimbursement payment from the state in the amount of \$38,334 in relation to Saunders Hill Bridge, we will need to increase the amount on this Warrant article by this amount, total now \$161,988.
- WA#13: The Elderly Exemptions to increase; the amounts shall update to \$10,000 for 65 up to 75 years, \$15,000 for 75 up to 80 and \$25,000 for 80 years and older. Steve requested to know how many people currently receive this benefit. The administrator will provide a list next week.
- WA#14: Expendable Trust Funds to increase from \$72,500 to \$82,000. A suggestion was made to increase the Road Paving from \$10,000 to \$20,000.
- WA#19: Amount adjusted to reflect increase in 2011 contract, total now \$19,000

Motion from Francis to accept, seconded by Steve and accepted budget with noted updates.

Francis motioned to close hearing at 7:59 pm, seconded by Randy and approved.

Motion by Francis to adjourn the regular Selectmen's meeting at 8 pm, seconded by Steve and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Stover

Minutes accepted by _____, _____, _____

TOWN OF WENTWORTH NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN

Minutes of Meeting February 15, 2011

Present: Francis Muzzey, Randy Morrison, Steve Davis, and Catherine Stover

Also Present: Chief Kevin Kay , Ellie Murray, Palmer Koelb, Craig Pascoe, Donna King, Jeanie Forrester, Adele Fulton, Peter Holden, George Morrill

Steve Davis moved to open the meeting at 6:00 pm, seconded by Francis and approved.

Selectmen reviewed and signed:

Voucher payments
Minutes of Meeting of February 8, 2011
Highway requisitions
Payment application #7 submitted by R.M. Piper

Jeanie Forrester stopped to speak with the Board. Jeanie discussed the Governor's new proposed budget cuts and its effects. She said there is a lot going on right now meeting with departments, working on budgets and so forth. She also spoke of the Senate Education Funding Plan, and brought News Release information related to this plan. There was also discussion regarding the upcoming Northern Pass Project. Jeanie encouraged people to contact her, and told us that she currently runs a weekly column in local papers such as the Record Enterprise.

Steve made a motion, seconded by Randy and approved that the Board accept the proposal set forth by Dubois & King in regards to the relocation of Wesley Muzzey's gate which was moved during the Saunders Bridge project. This motion was opposed by Francis.

Chief Kevin gave a status update. He said they are dealing with suspects and arrests regarding burglaries that occurred last fall. Chief Kay stated he would like to bring another person onboard to supplement their roster. With race track season just ahead, they will need 3 people on board to cover regular patrol and racing events. ..

Peter Holden of Holden Engineering presented information and handouts to the Board regarding the Evans Bridge repair, which is on the red list due to erosion. Different possible repair/replacement scenarios were discussed including possible materials which could be considered such as timber, concrete arches, precast deck panels or frames. Also discussed was the possibility/option of building a new bridge downstream. He stated that his firm would like the opportunity to bid. He also mentioned the Dufour Bridge. Although he has not yet looked at this bridge, he is willing to do so and return to discuss further.

Adele Fulton, of Law Office of Garner, Fulton and Waugh, addressed the selectmen regarding deeded property issues. Adele discussed liability issues related to allowing previous owners continue to live on the property. Adele also discussed inventory penalties.

Francis discussed a complaint of a broken window on Pond Brook Road. He stated that he and Bobby had looked at the window. Francis stated that parties have requested that the highway department not use the grader on this road. Francis and Randy agreed that the grader not be used on Pond Brook road without prior approval. Randy stated that he will look at the window as well. The board also discussed the posts around the common. Some have been broken and damaged due to snow removal and will need repair when weather allows.

Motion by Randy, seconded by Francis and approved to allow the Police Department to hire an additional Patrol Officer.

Francis noted that Randy Rugar has given his notice of resignation from the Highway Department. Randy has accepted a position with the State Highway Department. The Board noted they have appreciated Randy's past hard work.

Francis motioned, seconded by Randy and approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Stover

Minutes accepted by _____, _____, _____.

**TOWN OF WENTWORTH NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN**

Non- Public Minutes (1) of February 15, 2011 Meeting

Present: Francis Muzzey, Randy Morrison, and Catherine Stover

Also Present: Adele Fulton

Francis moved to go into a Non-Public session, seconded by Randy and approved at 8:02 pm, per **RSA 91-A:3, II(e)** – Discussion of pending or threatened (in writing) litigation against the Town or Town Officials, Board Members or employees. Selectmen had a conference with legal counsel. Francis motioned, seconded by Randy and approved to come out of the non-public session at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Stover

Minutes accepted by _____, _____, and _____

**TOWN OF WENTWORTH NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN**

Non- Public Minutes (2) of February 15, 2011 Meeting

Present: Francis Muzzey, Randy Morrison, and Catherine Stover

Also Present: Chief Kevin Kay

Francis moved to go into a Non-Public session, seconded by Randy and approved at 8:58 pm, per **RSA 91-A:3, II(c)** – Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person unless such person requests an open meeting; however, this cannot be used to protect a person who is a member of your Board, Committee or Subcommittee. The Board discussed staffing issues. Francis motioned, seconded by Randy and approved to come out of Non-public session at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Stover

Minutes accepted by _____, _____, and _____

TOWN OF WENTWORTH NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN

Minutes of Meeting February 22 2011

Present: Francis Muzzey, Randy Morrison, Steve Davis, and Catherine Stover

Also Present: Chief Kevin Kay, Ellie Murray, Palmer Koelb, Bobby Cass, Randy Comsteller, Carol Friedrich, Peter Holden, Rick Vincent, Randy Rugar

Francis moved to open the meeting at 6:00 pm, seconded by Steve and approved.

Selectmen reviewed and signed:

Payroll checks

Voucher payments

Minutes of Meeting of February 15, 2011

Highway requisitions

Intent to Cut for Volante, M/L 08-11-09, OP#10-475-29

Report of Cut for Kauk, M/L 08-11-05, OP#10-475-10

Crane and Bell contract for 2011, Option 1 selected

Steve apologized for having to leave the meeting early last week, as he was ill. Selectmen briefly recapped last week's meeting with our legal counsel, Adele Fulton and the discussion of town deeded properties.

Bobby Cass gave a Highway Department status update. He said the winter has gone well, with only a few break downs, and the sand pile is holding up well, we have used half of the pile and are now using some of the recycled sand.

Administrative Assistant inquired about Jury duty; whether the town pays employees their regular wages during jury duty. Steve stated that he believes it is standard for the employee to submit to the employer any monies paid to them by the state for jury duty, and the employer then pays the employee their regular wages. The Administrative Assistant will look into this.

Chief Kay gave status update. He reports that the department is still dealing with issues related to the burglaries, investigations etc. He stated they are looking at 5 or more arrests.

Carol asked about the burglaries. Chief Kay stated that there were numerous burglaries during last fall. Carol asked where residents could find this information, and the Chief stated the department regularly updates their Facebook site (search for Wentworth Police Department) as well as a Twitter account <http://twitter.com/wentworthpolice>; both links can be also found on the Wentworth Town website).

Carol also mentioned that she had difficulty finding the Wentworth School Board Minutes. She said she was told the minutes can be located on the Wentworth Town Website, but had difficulty doing so

Rick Vincent, who has done previous assessor work for the town, came to speak with the Board. He wanted to let them know of his interest in once again supporting the Town's assessing needs. Although his schedule is full for this year, he would like to meet with the Selectmen at a later date to talk about next year. Selectmen stated they would contact him.

Peter Holden discussed both the Evans and Dufour bridges. He told the Selectmen, he was able to verify that both bridges are on the State Aid Program Report, eligible for rehabilitation. He spoke of the work that would need to be done, including permits, impact and wetland studies. The Selectmen discussed different options and challenges including replacement vs. repair (Peter brought booklets that show possible options which are available to the public in the meeting room).

The office has received a request from the Office of Congressman Charles Bass to hold office hours at the town offices on April 27th from 9:30 am to 10:30 am. Motion made by Francis, seconded by Randy and approved.

Francis stated that our Legal Counsel had spoken with the Board last week regarding Inventory penalties. Francis stated that legal has indicated that the Town need only go back 3 years in our review of those property owners who may have been incorrectly assessed penalty fees. Both Carol Friedrich and Randy Comstellar expressed their dissatisfaction. Francis stated that the Board has not yet made a decision on how far back the review will go.

Francis motioned, seconded by Randy and approved to go into a Non- Public Meeting at 7:29 pm, per **RSA 91-A:3, II(a)** – Dismissal, promotion or setting compensation for public employees. Motion by Francis, seconded by Steve and approved to come out of Non-Public at 7:44 pm.

Motion by Francis, seconded by Randy and approved that pending Randy Rugar’s confirmation of resignation, the board will authorize to accept Paul Smith’s application for the Highway Department.

The Selectmen requested that Randy Rugar come to the meeting, to discuss his resignation. Randy Rugar came to the meeting and confirmed that he was aware of newly presented state budgets requiring cut backs in some areas, but feels confident that he will not be affected by this and confirmed his desire to resign from the Wentworth Highway Department. He stated that he would like to keep his certification for the transfer station current.

Francis motioned, seconded by Randy and approved to go into a Non- Public Meeting at 8:04 pm, per **RSA 91-A:3, II(e)** – Discussion of pending or threatened (in writing) litigation against the Town or Town Officials, Board Members or employees. The Selectmen discussed last week’s Non-Public meeting with legal counsel. No decisions were made. Francis moved to come out of the Non-Public session at 8:15 pm, seconded by Randy and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Stover

Minutes accepted by _____, _____, _____.

**TOWN OF WENTWORTH NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN**

Non- Public Minutes (1) of February 22, 2011 Meeting

Present: Francis Muzzey, Randy Morrison, Steve Davis and Catherine Stover

Also Present: Paul Smith

Francis moved to go into a Non-Public session, seconded by Randy and approved at 7:29 pm, **RSA 91-A:3, II(a)** – Dismissal, promotion or setting compensation for public employees or the investigation of any charges against him, unless the employee affected has a right to a meeting or requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. Selectmen discussed application of Paul Smith for the Highway Department. Francis moved, seconded by Steve and approved to come out of the Non-Public session at 7:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Stover

Minutes accepted by _____, _____, and _____

**TOWN OF WENTWORTH NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN**

Non- Public Minutes (2) of February 22, 2011 Meeting

Present: Francis Muzzey, Randy Morrison, Steve Davis and Catherine Stover

Francis motioned, seconded by Randy and approved to go into a Non- Public Meeting at 8:04 pm, per **RSA 91-A:3, II(e)** – Discussion of pending or threatened (in writing) litigation against the Town or Town Officials, Board Members or employees. The Selectmen discussed last week's Non-Public meeting with legal counsel. No decisions were made. Francis moved to come out of the Non-Public session at 8:15 pm, seconded by Randy and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Stover

Minutes accepted by _____, _____, and _____