

TOWN OF WENTWORTH NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN
Selectmen's Emergency Meeting
Storm Damage on
July 02, 2017

Present: Chris Bassingthwaite, Ray Youngs, and Arlene Patten

Also Present: Kevin Gilbert, Jeff Ames

Chris motioned to open the meeting at 10:17 am, seconded by Ray and approved.

Chris Bassingthwaite, Chair, was away on a business trip, in the State of Maine when he received the devastating news of the Town's storm damage. Quickly, he gathered his belongings of need and made his way back, driving in the torrential rains for approx. 5.5 hours. Upon his arrival, he immediately assisted with the assessment, coordination and cleanup process. Chris, and Kevin, worked together for countless hours, seeking hazards and dowsing all vulnerabilities. The exhausting measures taken by these men, kept our residents safe and informed.

Selectmen called for the emergency meeting to discuss the roadway damages and prioritize the urgency of the following resources needed:

- Equipment – Excavators, 6 & 10 wheel dump trucks, backhoes, front loaders, a grader, and a vibratory roller
- Equipment Operators – Noel King, Jared King, Dave Thompson, Dave Craveiro, Paul Davis Sr., Brian DuBois, Chris Bassingthwaite, and Kevin Gilbert
- Road Supplies – Crushed Bank Gravel, Bank Run Gravel, Sand, 1.5" stone, and culverts

Chief Ames met with the Selectmen and Road Agent to discuss the EOP. The Emergency Operations Plan was established at the Fire Station on 07/01/17, at approx. 7:00 pm. Chief Ames acted rapidly identified the disaster needs. Swiftly, He coordinated with the Highway Dept. the Road Closures, barricades, cones and signage, to alert the residents, visitors and many passerby's traveling through for the Holiday. His Volunteer Firefighter personnel maintained traffic control points, for the safety of all. The Chief identified an urgency on Ellsworth Hill Road with Camp Victory. The Camp was currently in succession with many approx. 60 campers and counselors. The roadway between Camp Victory and Ellsworth Hill Rd. had been totally washout, causing a 9'x30' culvert to lose ground and wash downstream, causing a large canyon with rushing waters. Chief Ames communicated with the head counselor and discussed the camper's safety, food supply, and determined if any medical or health concerns were imminent. No issues or safety concerns were acknowledged at that time. The Counselors felt no need to emergently evacuate at that time, and was agreed to wait until daylight hours. Chief Ames worked on the evacuation plan and route. He closed the EOC at roughly 10:05 pm. The Following day they Chief Ames reported that things went pretty smoothly with the evacuation and without event. No injuries or distresses were noted. FEMA has been contacted and will be following up.

The Select Board spoke of 5 roads that were damaged during the floods:

- Beech Hill Rd.
- Atwell Hill Rd.
- Cape Moonshine Rd.
- Nichols Hill Rd.
- Ellsworth Hill Rd.

All roads were heavily impacted by some sort of storm damage. Kevin Gilbert, Road Agent had spent many hours identifying the needs, driving and organizing the work crews to assist. Kevin stated that earlier today, Warren Sand and Gravel was open for use. He also mentioned that he will be contacting Cadreact's in Benton, NH for supplies, trucks, the use of an excavator and help with assisting. Larry King, owner of Precision Lumber, who offered his front loader during the disaster. Noel and Jared King offered their equipment and their expertise in operating the equipment. Dave Thompson offered and trucked gravel with two other workers; Dave Craveiro and Paul Davis, Sr. they assisted and drove the Town's dump trucks. Kevin will be looking into additional help and assistance from the State's Mutual Aid Program. The Select Board asked that all pertinent information to the disaster be kept in a file for reimbursement, such as; Photos – before and after, time cards, sale slips, notes, gravel deliveries, parts, equipment use and etc. Each worker should submit their hours, and use of personal equipment hours, to the Administrative Assistant, or Kevin Gilbert, on a daily basis.

Chief Ames stated that Paul Hatch, Field Representative, from the State of NH would be in touch along with FEMA, in the days to come. He also mentioned that he is available for any needs or questions.

The Select Board asked the Administrative Assistant to update the Town's webpage with some information about the storm damages and road closures.

The Select Board had a special request and emergent vote that took place. They discussed the need for Chris to return to his work duties in the State of Maine, and soon traveling for work to other states. The Board discussed the urgency to fill the resigned position of Pete Santom. They reviewed the letters of interest, discussed at length the candidates and qualifications. A decision was made to move forward with their choice. Chris Bassingthwaite made a motion to select Tracy Currier as the newest, interim Select Board Member. This was seconded by Ray and approved. Tracy will take the Oath of Office at next business meeting on July 5th, 2017.

Ray motioned to adjourn at 10:37 am and seconded by Chris and approved.

Respectfully Submitted by Arlene Patten

Minutes accepted by:

