

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, August 14, 2023

These minutes were transcribed by Angela Eldridge, Secretary. Matthew Sawyer Jr., Town Administrator, and T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, were also in attendance. The meeting was held in the Bub Avery Gymnasium at Town Hall.

Call to Order/Roll Call: Completed in the Work Session. Smith was absent.

M. Eldridge reconvened the meeting at 4:15 PM.

M. Eldridge opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Input:

Jen Spoffer, Ossipee Public Library Director, advised that in September they are offering amnesty month. They are inviting everyone to return to the library to return any overdue items and your fines will be forgiven. Also, there will be an upcoming story time with Sadie. Sadie is a therapy dog, and she will be at the library on the 8th and 29th of September at 3:30PM.

John Bent of 50 Bay Point Road advised the Board that he wrote them a letter about the maintenance of the last 1100 feet of Bay Point Road. He said that maintenance of that road has been cut back with no explanation. There are lots of potholes and washout areas on the road. He advised that there was a neighbor today digging a trench to try to solve his issue with the road. He just wants to ensure the road gets looked at as it is a very densely populated road. T.J. advised that the reason they haven't gotten to that road to repair it yet was because there were 9 roads in town that were shut down due to washouts and they are still trying to get those 100 percent open. They should finish Foggs Ridge Road tomorrow and then they will be doing Effingham Road. They got Bean Mountain Road opened up and they are trying to get to all of those. There are many roads that have not had the gradings they usually have but they have 3 private excavators, the grader, and the backhoe going non-stop. They have a T.V. and they are going to bring up some pictures in the next couple of weeks to show people what they have done. They are spending a significant amount of money on getting everything back open. The gravel they have used is 2 times the amount that's in the budget. We have to get roads passable before we can worry about potholes. They are trying to get to everyone, and Neil is doing the best he can to get roads open to full width. He encouraged people to go to the roads they had worked on to see the progress the crew has made. Bent said he appreciates the issues due to the storms in the Spring but there had been 4 incidents in the past 2 years as a result of these big storms where the other end of Bay Point Road has been maintained as well as the other dirt roads in that area but stops about 1100 feet from the end of Bay Point Road. T.J. said the crew goes around and figures out what roads are the worst. They have more town roads than any town around us and they are doing their best to get to them. They are trying to fix things, so they don't have to go through this again. Discussion ensued. Matt Sawyer Jr. advised that T.J. is working very hard with FEMA to try to acquire funding and some of what we have dealt with has already been declared National Emergencies and that the level of storms we are dealing with on 3 or 4 different occasions this year. T.J. advised that during the last storm he had to make sure the campers at different campgrounds in town could get out of those campgrounds if needed. There were 200 people stuck in a campground and they had to get those people out of there first and then Neil got roads open to one lane, then two lanes. Discussion ensued. T.J. said he would go down and look at that road.

Presentation:

M. Sawyer Jr. advised that the Friends of Constitution Park have put together a slideshow showing all the work that has been done. Pictures included the trails, kiosk, disc golf, gazebo, volunteers, pickleball, the new sign, new trees, School's Out Story walk, and the dog park. Edwina Boose advised that 2 picnic tables were placed at Beaver Trail and at the top of the hill. Mr. Bosse advised that Justin and Mike helped get those in place. He mentioned that this stuff can't be done without support like putting up the new sign as they don't have the equipment to do it. He thanked the town crew for all their help. The Board thanked the FCCP for their efforts. Chris Elliot mentioned that Saturday they have the rescheduled Party in the Park event from 10-1pm and he encouraged everyone to attend.

Meeting Minutes:

Simpson made a motion to approve the Work-Session Minutes for 7/31/2023. M. Eldridge seconded.

Simpson made a motion to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for 7/31/2023. M. Eldridge seconded.

Accounts Payable & Payroll Manifest:

The Payroll Check Voucher total was submitted for the week ending 8/15/2023 in the amount of \$38,180.41. The General Fund is \$144,318.61. Fire Precincts was \$146,486.44. School payment was \$1,440,358.00. The water accounts payable are in the amount of \$425.00. Sewer accounts payable is \$147.33. The total was \$1,771,215.79. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded.

Review of Red Folder:

The Board received a letter from the State of NH, Department of Transportation. It stated that the total amount the town will receive this year from the Highway Block Grant is \$178,687.53. Sawyer Jr. asked if that was one payment or for the entire year. M. Eldridge said that this was for the whole year, and we get it in 4 payments. Sawyer Jr. questioned the amounts and said he must be confusing that with meals and rooms tax. Discussion ensued.

The Board received a letter from the State of NH, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Forests and Lands. The letter states they will be cutting in the fall on one of Ossipee Lakes Natural Area that's located on Route 25 East. The early stages of this harvest does not anticipate an option for public bidding until the Fall of 2023. It says we will be notified of the timber volume and the successful bidder. It will be 44 acres.

They received a letter from the Business and Economic Affairs to renew their EERZ certification, that's revaluation of economic revaluation zone. M. Eldridge made a motion to appoint M. Sawyer Jr. to be the contact person for this. Simpson seconded the motion.

The Board received a request for an Abatement for Map 091, Lot 039 in the amount of \$3,460.00 for the Moultonville United Methodist Church. Simpson made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded.

The Board received a Water & Sewer Warrant for \$22,263.73. Simpson made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded.

The Board received a Water & Sewer Warrant for \$11,740.92. Simpson made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded.

Old Business:

None Presented.

New Business:

The paving on Huckins Road is supposed to happen by the end of the month, however, the barn that is technically located at 80 Main St., has an old granite foundation that has caved in and failed along that road and per town legal counsel we are getting an emergency engineering study done on it. He has a meeting with the engineer and the property owner to see what the risk and liability is on this to see if we can shore it up as they are way too far down the paving path to not do it now. Discussion ensued.

T.J. Advised that all the sewer manholes and water gate valves have been lowered down there and they have to be back up for the winter. There is a 2-inch base going there with a one-inch overlay. He explained the process of putting it all together to make it work for plowing. Discussion ensued.

M. Sawyer Jr. advised that the attorney's job is to mitigate risk and they are suggesting we shut the road down and that is not an easy option for the people that live on that road.

Joe Gildea will be meeting with T.J. tomorrow, and he explained that the road has been settling and pushing against the bottom of the foundation and cracking the blocks out. They would like to see that when the road gets repaved the water goes away from the barn. M. Sawyer Jr. said the engineer from HEB confirmed that appointment so they will all be there.

Second Public Input:

Dallas Emery asked for clarification that the road pushed out the property owners blocks so we have to pay for an engineer to see if his building is structurally sound. M. Sawyer Jr. advised that ultimately the town would attempt to recruit any costs of the deficient building per RSA 155B and there are more legalities involved as well. Emery said he heard 2 different things. That the road is pushing his building out and you're saying you need to get an emergency order otherwise you have to shut the street down. T.J. advised that the barn is a few feet from the edge of the road and the water is always going to run off the side of the road. Also scheduling could be an issue as well with the paving. Emery said he is just trying to figure out the money but he guesses it is more of an emergency than a money issue but it sounds like it may be a money issue at some point. The Town is just going to see what the engineers recommend and go from there with legal counsel and the property owner but the town wouldn't be typically responsible to pay for those kind of repairs. Discussion ensued.

The next meeting will take place on August 28, 2023.

Adjournment:

Being no further input, M. Eldridge made a motion to adjourn. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Adjourned at 4:38 PM.

Martha B. Eldridge, Chairman

Susan J. Simpson

Jonathan H. Smith

To be approved 08/28/2023