

**Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, November 13, 2023**

These minutes were transcribed by Angela Eldridge, Secretary. Selectman Martha B. Eldridge was absent, Selectman Jonathan H. Smith was in attendance and Selectman Susan J. Simpson was in attendance. 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 reconvened the meeting at 4:15 PM.

Smith opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Input:

None Presented.

Meeting Minutes:

Simpson made a motion to approve the Work-Session Minutes for 10/16/2023. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Simpson made a motion to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for 10/10/2023. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Accounts Payable & Payroll Manifest:

The Payroll Check Voucher total was submitted for the week ending 11/11/2023. Wages were \$34,337.79. Payroll taxes were \$9,641.37. Total payroll is \$43,979.16. The General Fund is \$53,542.71. Fire precincts payment is \$146,029.86. The school payment is \$659,975. The water accounts payable are in the amount of \$2,046.49. The sewer accounts payable are \$71.97. The total accounts payable was \$861,666.03. Total Fund payments are \$905,645.19. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Review of Red Folder:

The Board received a Water & Sewer Warrant in the amount of \$21,844.42. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. Motion passed.

The Board received a Water & Sewer Warrant in the amount of \$12,127.74. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. Motion passed.

The Board received a Water & Sewer Warrant in the amount of \$40.00. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. Motion passed.

T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, provided a presentation to the Board on the Spring storm damage repairs. He wanted to put a little spotlight on the public works employees as they have been

doing a lot of work. They were able to get everything open and they are fixing it in a way that shouldn't happen again. We got a lot of rain really fast. He showed a picture of Foggs Ridge Road. The ledge on Foggs Ridge ran under the road and it would follow the ledge when the water got going. He showed pictures of the road after the second storm as well as what the road looks like now that it is repaired. They had someone come in with a hammer and they hammered a V into the ledge so that it didn't follow the ledge under the road. They lowered the pipes and now those humps are no longer in the road. They made the ditches deeper and got the water turnouts further out in the woods. He showed a mitigation that was done with a new irrigation ditch that across the field and that will take 80% of the water that comes off the mountain and put it across that field. He mentioned the sediment ponds that are fabric lined to catch the sediment before it goes into the woods. They received a drainage easement. The pipe is a smooth bore pipe so it will take more water. He discussed Bean Mountain. They widened the road to the edge of the right of way. Discussion ensued. He showed a picture of Blake Hill Road. They repaved and dug the ditches back more. Discussion ensued. He mentioned Bents Road and that campers couldn't get out because the water was going across the road. It was so bad that there was debris across the culverts. Guard rails were put back and the road was repaired. Discussion ensued. He showed a picture of County Farm Road. They got all the water off the hay fields, and they are trying to figure out a way to get it across the field. He found out while working with FEMA that he needs to work with DES because it is farmland but they have started the work. He showed a picture of where the new pipe will go. They were able to go to the right of way and get the ditches out. Discussion ensued. He advised that he is working on the FEMA workbooks. He went through the list of things to be documented. The most crucial item being that the storm in question get declared. All equipment has its own FEMA code. Invoices for all services must be documented as well as pictures of the site. He mentioned Grants portal, which is where he uploads documents. He has to sign off on every part of each project whether it goes through the CRC or Homeland Security. Discussion ensued. He mentioned that the hold up on Granite Road is because it has to go through a historic preservation committee to make sure that those granite walls and headers weren't historic. Discussion ensued. He discussed the efficiency of the crew and all the hard work they are putting in. Smith advised that this is just a snapshot of the incredible job that T.J. and the Highway Department are doing.

Old Business:

None Presented.

New Business:

None Presented.

Second Public Input:

Dallas Emery mentioned an article in the paper about State Representative Michael Belcher from Brookfield. He is not sure what was said at the State House but he was being called a conspiracy theorist and that he asked something about the Bill Gates Foundation. He said Belcher probably isn't wrong and asked the State Reps to find out more about what Belcher is talking about and maybe support him more. Emery doesn't believe the Bill and Linda Gates Foundation looks out for our best interests. Mentioned that Cordelli said some disparaging things about Belcher. Discussion ensued.

The next Budget Meeting is November 15, 2023, at 6:30PM at the Freight House.

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be November 27, 2023.

Smith wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Adjournment:

Being no further input, Smith made a motion to adjourn. Simpson seconded.

Adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Jonathan H. Smith, Chairman

Susan J. Simpson

Martha B. Eldridge (Absent)

To be approved at the next Selectmen's Meeting