

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS MEETING MINUTES

December 7, 2023
7:00 P.M.
9:25 P.M.

ERIC DURGIN
CORY HALE
KAREN JAMES

The meeting was called to order with all three board members present. Gary Pierce, Heather Duffy, and Bev Russell were present for a short period of time.

The board accepted the minutes for November 16, 2023 with a correction of changing "Victor Zelman" to "Andrew Zelman", and signed the electronically approved warrants for November 23rd and November 30th, and signed the warrants for this week.

Gary- Gary expressed concern to the selectboard on why he was not allowed to drive the firetruck this year, after he always has in previous years, for a fundraiser that he does with Call's Shop & Save. He got asked to be Santa for the event and was told by the Hiram Chief that the selectboard "had some concerns about him driving the truck". The selectboard stated that this is the first time they have heard of such allegations and don't recall saying that. Gary then stated that he has not been able to work or do any training at all because of injuries from a motorcycle accident he was in this summer, and he recently got surgery on his shoulder. The board explained to Mr. Pierce that it is standard for most workplaces that when someone is injured, they are not to attend any training or come to work if it affects their performance. Gary explained that all the communication he had with the Chief was via text and felt that it was not professional and the way he talked to him about it was not nice and would have liked a more formal way of communication. His main concern is why he was suddenly dropped from the Fire Department with no notice or explanation. The selectboard said that someone will reach out to the Chief and speak to him regarding this situation.

Plow Station 2– Cory had Jerry Day give a quote on plowing the Fire Department, and his quote was just as much as the initial quote that the Town got from Shea's. Eric said he would continue to take care of it, and the other two board members felt that it was not fair for him to do it without being compensated. A motion was made to pay Eric \$150/storm if he plows the Fire Department. Motion passed.

Logging Town Forest- Marylou Spoke with someone about crossing the railroad tracks when logging the town forest. She was told that a crossing permit would need to be issued, and the forester could meet with the logger when it comes closer to the time they want to start the project. The permit lasts one year and costs \$100 annually to file. The Town will pursue the permit when the time comes.

Generator Maint.- Cory got a quote to change the oil and air filter on the generator and it was about the same price that the Fire Department just paid to get theirs serviced. The board agreed to just schedule something because the price seems uniform everywhere.

Veterans Monument – Marylou reached out to some people who are on the monument to try and find out how they got their name on it and when they served. There were many different scenarios; some people were residents at the time they served, some were not, some people didn't live in Hiram until after the time they served, etc. Still unclear what exactly needs to be met to have your name placed on the monument. It is expensive to get your name put on, the board feels like the person that is requesting the new name should be the one to pay for it. The board advised Marylou to reach out to the person

requesting to add names and tell them that they need to know names of who served and when they served to determine if they can be on the monument or not. More discussion led to the board suggesting getting a committee together for the monument. The town could pay for the trip out here for a name to be added, and the applicant could pay for the labor itself; the town would only do it once a year with a minimum of 5 names to be added for them to pay for the trip. They will start reaching out to form a committee after the first of the year.

Trafton Way- Marylou spoke with Jesse Stacey about doing the bridge on Trafton. He stated that they do not have time to do it but suggested asking Brad Sanborn to do it. Cory said he would call Brad and ask him about it to see if he would be interested.

Hiram Hill Driveway – Eric got an email from Leonard Pierce about someone putting in a driveway across his land. Office staff were also contacted by Mr. Pierce and upon researching the problem, there was never a driveway permit issued to the opposing side. A few months back, the Code Enforcement Officer told them that a permit needed to be pulled, and they acknowledged that, but never pulled a permit.

SRU Budget – Bev Russell explained the budget increase for SRU. She stated that they are going to provide health insurance and benefits to the staff over there. The reason is that hospitals and other entities are offering more money to EMT's, so lots of them are leaving and getting better paying jobs, so they want to increase their benefits and pay so that they can keep staff. She stated that the mean pay for EMTs is \$34/hour and SRU is still under that by a lot. The health insurance cost was budgeted for 7 people, because some of the staff over there already have some sort of healthcare, so they wouldn't need it for everyone. They are hoping that this will bring more EMT's in and keep them on staff.

Fire Department Policy's and updated EMA Policy were signed by the board.

Deputy Chief Appointment- No comments on email from the Fire Chief appointing a new deputy chief.

The board agreed on January 18th for students from the school to come in for a presentation. Marylou stated there may be a class that is mandatory for her and Emma to attend in January, so she advised that we may not be able to attend a meeting if it falls on one of the meeting dates.

Health Insurance Rates – Board approved the town office staff health insurance rates for 2024.

2024 Holiday Schedule – The board approved the town office holiday schedule for 2024. They suggested scheduling a workshop sometime in July because we only meet once that month due to the holiday.

Tax Payments – 2 Sebago Road – Deadline for towns to foreclose on property was this week. The owner came in and stated she could make payments of \$1,000 a week and be done with 2021 taxes by the end of the year. The board agreed that would be ok to avoid foreclosure, but if she is not paid by the 28th of December, then we foreclose on it because she is already going past the foreclosure date. Another location in town is up for foreclosure. Every year the taxes are paid off at the 99th hour, Marylou spoke with the bank that normally sends the money for this property, and they said that a check would be sent out, but nothing has been received at the office yet.

Tri-Town Update - The bill to fix the floor of the compactor came in at \$11,000 with 163 hours of labor. There is a major rat issue at the dump, apparently there is a lady that can come in with her dogs and take care of it. She charges \$100/hour and can take care of 175 rats in that hour.

Emma explained that they are still receiving tri-town mail at the office and getting emails and phone calls for things to do with tri-town bookkeeping, even though we have tried contacting Hannah numerous times, and never heard back from her. Karen explained that there is some sort of misunderstanding because Hannah is not the secretary of tri-town, she is only the bookkeeper, so those issues would not be addressed by her unless they are bookkeeping related.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Emma Ouellette