

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS MEETING MINUTES

December 19, 2024
7:00 PM
8:00 PM

Karen James
Eric Durgin
Cory Hale

The meeting was called to order, Eric and Karen present. Cory unable to attend. Bruce McLaughlin, Dave & Darby Crowley, and Bev Russell were also present for a period.

The board opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board approved minutes from December 5th as typed.

Board signed previously approved warrant from December 12th and December 19th.

Added agenda item under Address Anyone Present – Bruce McLaughlin

David Crowley was present to get more information on the progress of Trafton Way Bridge repair. Karen explained that we ran into a few permitting issues that forced us to hold off on repairing the bridge until 2025, and the repairs will hopefully happen sometime between July 15th and October 1st, which is when in-stream work is permitted. There were two 36” culverts installed this summer to act as an overflow to temporarily fix the issue for this winter and next spring.

Bruce McLaughlin asked the board if they could help with the issue that he has of plow contractors pushing his trees and rock walls back every winter on his property on Bobbin Mill Rd. He stated that every year he must replant all his trees along his property line and move the rock walls back to where they were. He isn't sure if it is the town or SRU plow contractor doing it. Board stated that they would look at it during the daytime and talk with Ken Harmon about it.

Trafton Way – Shane Kelly sent us the analysis of Trafton Way Bridge this morning. There were 3 different options for replacing/repairing it. Karen would like to send it to some local contractors to see what they have for ideas on pricing, that way we can have a better idea of what to budget for in 2025.

New Settlement Road Bid Packets – Karen put together a bid packet for New Settlement Road. Locations for the full-depth reconstruction will need to be determined. Once Cory is available, Karen will get with him to discuss.

TAP – Marylou updated board that one of the Sunny Lane Properties is almost completely paid off, including 2024 taxes. The other one is no longer in foreclosure.

Gould Farm Road has one more payment left that will be paid next week.

Marylou spoke with the attorney regarding the Emmons Row property. Leah is going to review the payment plan contract and make a few adjustments. She hopes to have it back by Monday so that we can send it off for signatures.

Board set a date for January 23 to hold a Public Hearing for the Town's share of funds for the fire truck grant.

PFML – New Paid Family Medical Leave Law goes into effect January 1st. Employers with 15 or more employees are required to match employee contributions at 0.5%, or they have the option to cover the full 1%. Board voted that employee and employer should both contribute their 0.5%.

Gates at Salt Sheds – Dana informed Emma that the gate at the NE Salt Shed has been in rough shape for a while. Eric took some pictures the other day. Suggested looking into getting the gate welded onto the pole versus the setup it has right now so it will shut better.

Ken informed Marylou that the gate at the SE Salt Shed is not shutting and getting it welded will fix the issue. Marylou spoke with Charles Trueworthy who looked at it and said it was seized up. He gave a quote for \$800. Will reach out on Monday to see if he can look at the NE gate and give a quote on that as well and add both to 2025 budget.

Board reviewed Fire Department Inspection Reports that Ethan put together. There were no major repairs, just some handyman things. Marylou will reach out to Nate Maclure to see what he can do on the list.

The downstairs toilet at the HFD and expansion tank need to be replaced. Contact a plumber for pricing on that.

Fire Department needs light-up exit signs. Board recommended looking into getting exit signs for the Town Office as well, but not sure if they need to be light up or not.

Stephen King Grant – The Fire Department was awarded a grant for \$15,000 to purchase cleaning equipment for gear. Town must pay for installation and electrical costs. Will take those funds from Building Repairs in 2025 budget.

Workers Comp – In review of 2025 budget, it was noticed that we estimated road crew salary to be \$43,000 for next year. Staff would like to know if that should be altered since we are unsure that road crews will be on Payroll next year since we are moving to an appointed position. Board wants to keep it as is until March when the appointment goes into effect.

Bev Russell came in at the end of the meeting to thank board members for her gift. She also mentioned that she will be stepping down from the SRU board next year and will need someone from Hiram to take her place, which also includes her role as Treasurer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Emma Ouellette