

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS MEETING MINUTES

March 7, 2024
7:00 P.M.
8:45 P.M.

Karen James
Eric Durgin
Cory Hale

Meeting called to order with all three municipal officers in attendance. Greg Sawyer, Patty Barber, Ethan Norcross, John Souza, Cheryl Hammond, and Patrick Hammond were also present for a period of the meeting.

The board opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The board accepted the minutes from February 12, 2024 and signed the warrants for this week, February 22nd and 29th.

Agenda item added under New Business, Solar Ordinance

Hiram Hill – John Souza and the Hammonds expressed their concerns initially at the Town Meeting this past weekend and wanted to come to this meeting to discuss with the board any options to making the road better. John expressed concerns about the condition of his portion of Hiram Hill Road. Several years ago, the road was paved and then torn up and turned back to a dirt surface and since then the condition of the road has worsened. He stated that the air quality is poor due to the dust from the mica that was in the gravel and feels that his well water is not as good as it used to be. John and the Hammonds said that Greg always does a good job fixing any issues that they have on the road but would like to see something done to prevent any further damage. The board and Greg heard their concerns and agreed that they would try putting Calcium down on the road this year to see if that helps at all. The board would like to visit the road in June and then discuss options for paving it in 2025.

Greg got a new tire for the Backhoe on Monday and will need to get another one next week to keep them even. He informed the board that he put 15 yards of riprap down on Tearcap/Hampshire Street this week.

The board would like to get specs together for doing the culvert on Trafton way and put it out to bid this spring.

Speed Trailer – Emma informed the board that the State got back to her about liability for damage to the speed trailer and stated that the State takes care of it. Emma submitted the request for the Speed Trailer loaner for this year and will update when she hears back on a date.

Marylou informed the board that we received reimbursement for the December 2022 FEMA storm of \$22,746.01 that went back into the Road Reserve account.

Ethan submitted the FEMA grant for the fire department this week.

Wade plans to start the flooring of the Fire Department on April 1st, and requested material cost up front, totaling \$5,400.

Recording of Meetings – At the Town Meeting, residents were interested in potentially recording selectboard and planning board meetings. Emma did some research on the cost of equipment. Depending on if the board wanted to just do audio or both audio/visual or live stream, the cost ranged from \$150-\$350 and to live stream it would cost more because the town would need to purchase a subscription. Emma got some feedback from the Town’s IT guy and other towns that currently live stream, and they all said it is difficult to live stream if you do not have one person that is designated to maintaining the video and making sure it is functioning properly. The board agreed it would be best to just record the meetings and have the camera on the agenda for the night and upload it to YouTube.

Upgrade Electrical & Data Cables – Marylou proposed updating all the cables in the office and adding a new outlet for the new copier and Guy’s desk because the current one is not safe. She got a quote from Connectivity Point to do the work and it was \$4,062.84. That includes taking out as much of the old cables as they can. They have not been updated in several years and it would help the internet connection issues that are currently happening. The board voted to approve doing that.

Marylou requested that the office be closed on March 22nd for Chris to install the new computers. The board approved.

BMV Training – There is a class on May 9th for Truck Training that Emma would need to become the BMV agent. The board approved closing the office for the day to allow office staff to attend.

The board signed the Stephen King Grant Funding Letter for the Fire Department, the support letter for the Hiram Veterans Memorial Bridge, the updated SRU Contract, and several appointment papers.

Eric asked if the town had a Solar Ordinance and if there was anything in it stating proximity of solar farms to property lines. Emma will send him the Ordinance that the town has and look into it.

The board entered executive session per 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) at 8:20 PM.

The Executive Session ended at 8:35 PM. The board discussed pay rates for Town Clerk, Deputy, CEO, Animal Control Officer, and Road Commissioner and crew.

The board approved the 2024 Pay Rates as amended.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Emma Ouellette