

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS MEETING MINUTES

December 21, 2023
7:00 P.M.
8:00 P.M.

ERIC DURGIN
CORY HALE
KAREN JAMES

The meeting was called to order with all three board members present. Greg Sawyer, Phil Davis, and Jill Wheeler were present for a short period of time.

The board accepted the minutes from December 7th with a few grammatical corrections. The Board signed the electronically approved warrants for December 14th and December 21st.

Ernest Day Road – Phil Davis explained that they have a potential buyer for the house he built at 75 Ernest Day Road, and although the road is closed for winter maintenance, the buyers attorney would like something in writing from the Selectboard stating that the Town will still maintain the road during the months of May to October, when the road is open to Town maintenance. Emma drafted a letter for the board to review. The board signed the letter and gave a copy to Phil to provide to the attorneys.

Greg – He got through the storm with some minor damage. There was no significant damage anywhere, there were a lot of trees down throughout the town and some clogged culverts that caused some minor washouts. There is a culvert on Notch Road that causes the road to wash out every storm that we get; Greg asked some contractors what it would cost to put in a box culvert to prevent further damage, and they all quoted around the same price range of \$250,000-\$300,000. Greg did say that there was enough room to build up the road instead, and it would be cheaper to put two 6-foot culverts in that would help the water flow better.

A tire on the F550 popped and Greg was able to get a spare tire from Scott to hold him over until it was fixed. We do not currently have a spare for the 550. Sullivan Tire said that they have some in stock and he asked if it would be ok to pick one up over the weekend. The board agreed that it would be smart for us to have one, so they approved him to pick one up from Sullivan Tire.

Backhoe Insurance Claim – During the storms this past week, a tree branch fell on the backhoe while working on one of the town roads and smashed out the back window. Emma reached out to MMA and put a claim into the insurance to repair it. She got quotes from United/Nortrax in Westbrook for the parts, and they quoted \$809.60 for the window and handles that were on it. Portland Glass would do the work and they are supposed to be reaching out next week to schedule an appointment to come out and quote the labor.

Email from Patty Barber – The board received an email early this week from Patty Barber expressing concerns of the public having increased access to Selectboard and Planning Board meetings. The Board voted to have the meeting minutes available on the Town website for a 12-month period once the minutes have been approved by the board.

Town Office Ramp – Emma informed the board that there have been many complaints that the ramp is very slippery, even when there is salt put down. Cory said he would reach out to Ken Harmon and have him remove the rubber mat that is there.

Day's Firewood – Jamie reached out to office staff this week and informed them that they are getting those blue street signs that state how many miles down the road a local business is, put on Brownfield Road in Porter and another one at the end of Brownfield Road in Hiram. Porter signed off on the one going in on their side of the road, and MDOT signed off on the one going on the Hiram side of the road since it is intersecting a state road. Jamie wanted to make sure that the Hiram Selectboard was ok with that or if they wanted to sign off on anything before they finalize it. The board agreed that since MDOT signed off on it, they didn't need to act on it.

Karen stated that the Tri-Town meeting got cancelled this month, so she will bring up concerns that were talked about at the last selectboard meeting, when Tri-Town meets again.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Emma Ouellette