

# Waterford Selectboard Special Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 15, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

Davies Library

In Attendance: Gary Allard, Sue Hayes, Warner Hodgdon, Ron Gray, and Kevin Gillander.  
Attendance list attached.

Gary Allard called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

## Modifications to Agenda

- No modifications were made.

## Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Sue Hayes made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the February 12, 2024 meeting. Warner Hodgdon seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0. Ron Gray and Kevin Gillander abstained.
- Sue Hayes made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as amended of the February 27, 2024 meeting. Warner Hodgdon seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0. Ron Gray and Kevin Gillander abstained.
- Sue Hayes made a motion to approve the Town Clerk's Town Meeting synopsis as amended of the March 5, 2024 meeting. Warner Hodgdon seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
- Sue Hayes made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the March 11, 2024 meeting. Warner Hodgdon seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0. Gary Allard and Kevin Gillander abstained.

## Citizens' Concerns

- Gary Allard announced that citizens' concerns will be taken at the beginning of meetings and will typically be responded to at a later date, either in public or privately with the citizen who made the concern. This will allow the Selectboard members time to research each question and give informed answers.
- Dave Morrison offered his thanks for the town giving out eclipse glasses.
- Howard Remick suggested putting the upcoming ATV ordinance on the ballot for the Presidential Election.
- Debrah Caldwell asked for an update on the town's pending contract with Calx. Town Treasurer Heather Gonyaw informed that the town has moved away from a formal contract and now pays a monthly fee.

- Dwayne Keach asked for signage to be straightened out throughout the town. He reported noticing signs that are bent, twisted, or a pole missing its sign throughout the town.
- Dwayne Keach asked for an update on plans for the Town Garage roof.
- Howard Remick spoke on behalf of the Planning Commission to inform that updating the Town Plan is a bigger project than anticipated, and they would like to ask NVDA for assistance. The Selectboard agreed to add it to the agenda for a future meeting to work on it further.

#### Green Up Conversation (Informational)

- Robin Migdelany was unable to attend, so the conversation was tabled. Green Up is May 4th. Town Treasurer Heather Gonyaw reported that the bags for Green Up Day on May 4th have been delivered and the town has already paid the \$100 appropriation.

#### Appointment of Library Trustee (Action)

- Kasii Oakley resigned from the library. Sue Hayes nominated Sue Watson to fill in the remainder of Casey Oakley's term, which will end in 2026. Warner Hodgdon seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

#### Open Bids – Mowing (Action)

- No bids were received. Three vendors previously committed to submitting a bid, so Sue Hayes volunteered to reach out to them and see what happened.

#### Festival Permit (Action)

- Ron Gray asked for clarification on how parking will be handled. Paul Bellefeuille clarified that the Fire Department will handle traffic control, and they do not need permission from the Vermont Agency of Transportation because they will be working in the parking areas and not on any roads.
- Ron Gray made a motion to approve the festival permit. Kevin Gillander seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Each board member signed the permit.

#### Review and Sign Dog Warrant (Action)

- Sue Hayes motioned to approve the dog warrant. Warner Hodgdon seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. All board members signed the warrant.

#### Budget vs. Actual – Q1 (Informational)

- Gary Allard noted that everything looked good and followed the budget, with only a slight overspending in public safety. Town Treasurer Heather Gonyaw reported that this overspending is due to invoices from last year that were submitted late by Calx. All else is on track.

### Highway Department Update (Informational)

- Road Foreman James Hayes reported that they have received two grants so far this year and are finishing up a third to await approval. They have resurfaced roads in Lower Waterford with ditching and stone placements. The scope of their work is to get roads in compliance with state standards for hydraulically connected roads.
- The state redirected traffic through a Waterford road while they fixed a mudslide on Route 2, and the increased traffic caused heavy damage. The state will reimburse the materials needed to repair the road.
- The department applied for a class two paving grant to repave Daniels Farm Road. If they aren't accepted this year, they will likely be accepted next year. There is a meeting scheduled with a state representative to look at the erosion problem on Hale Road.
- The town garage lost power during the last storm, and James Hayes noted that the generator does not supply power to the lights or heating, so he would like to address that from a safety standpoint.
- Eleven road signs in total have been stolen throughout the town. The cost of replacing those signs is not currently accounted for in the budget, and grants cannot be used to cover the cost.
- The department is working diligently on grading roads the best they can with the weather. They are currently grading on a priority basis, after which they will cycle based on area. It will take a few passes to get the roads back into good shape.
- Gary Allard asked for an update about working with the gravel pit. James Hayes reported the department will need to take a certification class that he is looking into scheduling. Gary Allard noted that cable and bucket trucks have left spools behind on the roads. James Hayes will get in touch with them to clean it up.
- Warner Hodgdon asked for more information about crushing plans for this year. James Hayes reported that in previous years, crushing was done every two years through McDonald who had been the most reliable choice. Warner Hodgdon noted that the service would need to be put out to bid according to the town's spending ordinance and James Hayes agreed. Sue Hayes will send the information she has to Warner so he can work with James to send out for bids.
- Kevin Gillander noted that the Cushman bridge has sections of the guardrail cut out. James Hayes says his team is aware of the damage and has plans to fix it.
- Town Treasurer Heather Gonyaw completed work with FEMA to get reimbursed for flood damage on Remick Road. The check should arrive in the next month or two.
- All board members signed a paper for the \$728 payout for the state.

### Fire Department Update (Informational)

- Fire Chief Colin Fucci couldn't attend the meeting, so he sent a report to Warner Hodgdon to read in his absence. The AFG grant was submitted by Treasurer Heather Gonyaw, they are now waiting to see if has been accepted. The new tanker purchase

agreement was completed last month. It will take an estimated 24 months for delivery. They encountered an issue with the forestry truck pump and leakage in the skid pump system. Everything was replaced by insurance, and the deductible was waived due to the department's outstanding history. There is currently no date set for that work to be completed. Jacob Fucci and Ashton Fischer have been promoted to active member status. The next training for the department is wildland fire review and EMS training with Calex. The department received 50 calls in the first quarter. As a reminder for the warm season, the town requires burn permits and has a burn ordinance.

#### Selectboard Priorities (Discussion)

- Sue Hayes made a motion to appoint Mike Barrett as the NEK representative for broadband. Warner Hodgdon seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0. Gary Allard abstained.
- NVDA appointments were tabled for a future meeting.
- The Selectboard identified their top priorities for the year and assigned members to form subcommittees for each one.
- The Town Garage was the top issue the board would like to focus on this year. It is not an easy fix and they will need to look for ways to fund the repairs. Energy audits by the state are coming up with the garage as the priority. A report will be issued after the audit that will allow the town to apply for grants. The audit is scheduled to be done by the end of June. Insurance companies are coming on April 23 to look at coverage for the building. Gary Allard and Kevin Gillander will be working on this issue.
- Warner Hodgdon and Ron Gray will work on organizing procedures, purchasing, and sourcing of gravel.
- Sue Hayes and Kevin Gillander will work on reviewing ordinances and policies.
- Warner Hodgdon and Ron Gray will work on creating an ATV ordinance.
- Gary Allard will work on managing roles and responsibilities.
- The board wants to meet with department heads soon to give expectations of what they should prepare for about next year's budget.

#### Agenda Items for Next Meeting regular May 13th

- Citizens' Concerns
- Mowing Contract
- Green Up Update
- Planning Commission Town Plan Update
- NVDA Appointments
- Letters
- Transfer Station
- Crushing Bids Update

Brief adjournment at 7:23pm before entering Executive Session.

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:44 pm.

#### Executive Session 1 V.S.A. § 313 Insurance Claim

- Gary Allard made a motion to invite Heather Gonyaw to the Executive Session. Sue Hayes seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
- Sue Hayes made a motion to authorize the Treasurer to allow the insurance claims adjuster to offer a settlement for damaged fencing and water trough. Warner Hodgdon seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0. Gary Allard abstained.

#### Executive Session 1 V.S.A. § 313 Personnel

- Sue Hayes made a motion to allow, this one last time, the rollover of unused vacation time for the Highway crew due to personnel shortages in 2023. Ron Gray seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0, Gary Allard and Warner Hodgdon abstained.

#### Adjourn

- Kevin Gillander made a motion to adjourn. Ron Gray seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Waterford Selectboard Meeting April 15, 2024

Sign In Sheet

Name

Signature

BRYANT FLEMING

Bryant Fleming

Carolyn Fleming

Carolyn Fleming

Howard W. Remick

Howard W. Remick

Tom Thomas

Tom Thomas

Sueley Watson-Thomas

Sueley Watson-Thomas

Kathy Hodgson

Kathy Hodgson

Herbert Nutter

Herbert Nutter

Clem Cray

Clem Cray

Dwayne Keach

DWAYNE KEACH

Jim Hayes

Jim Hayes

Kris Hayes

Kris Hayes

Patricia Caldwell

Patricia Caldwell

DS Caldwell

Deborah Caldwell

David E Morrison

David E Morrison

Maria Santos

Maria Santos

Helen PIKE

Helen Pike

Ben Gya

Ben Gya

Justin Stahler

Justin Stahler

Paul Bellefleur

Paul Bellefleur

Debbie Allard

Debbie Allard