

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**February 16, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER: Gil opened the meeting with the pledge at 7:05PM.

SELECTMEN IN ATTENDANCE:

Gilbert S. Harris, Joanne L. Andrews, Dorothy M. Richard, Wendy M. Thorne, Heath D. Edgerly

ATTENDEES:

- Dave Gibson, Wade Andrews, Dave Candage, Bill Jones, Steve McLean, Michael McLean, Ron Smith, Jody David

MINUTES:

- Wendy **motioned** to approve the minutes for February 8. Joanne **second**. **Four were in favor, Dottie did not vote.**

WARRANT:

- Gil said that they were not ready to be brought over and that they would have to get in and sign them as they are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Wendy read the announcements. Heath asked if they are still meeting on zoom and Gil said that they should make a decision. Heath **motioned** that we continue meeting in person as requested by the public. Wendy **second**. **Three were in favor, Joanne and Dottie did not vote.**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- Wade Andrews, Animal Control: Read the calls and the mileage that he had for the month of January. Gil brought up that they had talked about him documenting his mileage and made a comment about him doing that just handwritten. Wade said that those are forms that he had gotten from another town. Gil said that it looks good and it has all the information that is needed. Heath brought up the only thing different that he can see is the start and end mileage and Wade told him that he uses the GPS and it is more accurate than trying to keep track of it on a vehicle and that he always uses his house as a start point. Heath brought up either buying a tablet as a one-time purchase fee with no service contract or Wade uses his phone and they would have to pay him service fees. Wade said that the only thing he uses the phone for is GPS and that they would have to purchase a phone. Gil said that for the time being the handwritten information looks good to him and Heath asked what he meant by meantime and Gil said that come election time there may be an opening in that position. Wendy said that if they end up having to hire a new person they should make a decision,

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phone or a tablet and asked how Wade is being contacted now and Wade told her through a cellphone that belongs to the Town of Waterboro. Wendy asked when he gets calls and Wade said 24/7 365 days and that if someone wants the job that they are held accountable and are certified. Heath asked about how many hours in total and Wade told him that he doesn't keep hours and that the colder months are slower than the warmer months. Heath made a request that he starts keeping track of his hours and that they should have some set standard. Gil asked if Wade has someone who is qualified as a backup and Wade told him that he did have someone who handled Newfield and they were certified but they no longer do it. Joanne brought up waiting for the four towns that Heath had contacted and that they are all different and brought up Buxton and Heath made a comment about it being for his whole department and Joanne said no it says it on the website and that Limerick's budget is 35% of Buxton's budget. Heath asked if she had surveyed only Buxton and Joanne said no she had looked at the other towns and the only towns that are 365 days a year and 24/7 are Limerick and Waterboro.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Overlook Camera: Gil asked if they have a schedule of when that will be getting hooked up and Dottie said Bob was a couple of weeks (2-3) out on that and that he met with CMP to find out exactly what they wanted. Gil said that they would keep it on the agenda and update until it is complete.
- Mediation regarding BTH handicap access: Gil said that this goes through the Maine Human Rights Commission to deal with an issue of our compliance with the handicap accessibility. Joanne **motioned** that we ask for a full commission investigation in this matter, not do mediation. Wendy **second**. Joanne said that this mediation would be just a convenience for them in Augusta and they will not get their end of the story out. Joanne said that they are required under law to conduct a preliminary investigation and she does not believe they have received anything that even says that they have done that. **Four were in favor, Heath did not vote.** Gil said that he would let the attorney know so that she can advise to that affect.
- Gil **motioned** to accept a temporary CEO position to get us through until we have a full hiring process going on. Wendy **second**. **All** were in favor. Gil brought up advertising for the position and asked if they should put it in the Shopping Guide and the reporter. Wendy **motioned** to put the ad in the Shopping Guide and the reporter for a new Code Enforcement Officer. Joanne **second**. Gil asked about putting it in any papers besides that and Dottie brought up putting it on the website. Heath brought up putting it in the Portland Press Herald so it can reach more people. Wendy **amended her motion** to add the Portland Press Herald to that. Joanne **amended her second**. **All** were in favor. Gil asked about putting it in for the first two weeks in March and Dottie said yes.

NEW BUSINESS:

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- Schedule Executive Session for abatement: Gil brought up doing it next week at 6:00 at the Municipal Building. Heath **motioned** that we set up an Executive Session 6PM next Monday night at the Municipal Building. Wendy **second**. **All** were in favor.
- Dottie brought up the parking ordinance that Natalie had written and that the Board can approve it themselves and Gil said that he had gotten a copy and had not sent it to the Board and apologized for it and Joanne brought up tabling it till next week and Gil agreed so that they can read it through.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

- Question from Jody David about the Fire Department's equipment on his property and about the snow being put on his property and the tree that had been damaged and Heath brought up him sending an email a couple of weeks ago and that they had not replied to him. Gil said that he had replied when he knew it was going to be removed either this week or last week and Heath asked if they have a set date. Michael McLean, Fire Department, asked if Gil would try to set it up with Jody to have a face-to-face conversation with him to let him know what's going on and about the rods that have been pounded into the ground so that he does not get injured on them and address the snow issue with him as well. Gil said that he would try and set up a meeting to go over all the issues.
- Steve McLean asked if they have any update on the two lots that he made an offer on and that he was contacted by the Limerick Development Corporation and they are going to meet tomorrow at 3:00PM and Gil asked if he knew where it was going to be and he was told at the Municipal Building. Gil said that he would do his best to be there. Gil told him that he had talked to Mr. Harrisburg and that it needs to get so they can make a deal.
- Ron Smith, citizen/taxpayer of the town, asked what the qualifications of a Selectman are as he was asked what the qualifications of a Firefighter were and if in the qualifications there is a disciplinary action plan and that there is one person sitting in front of him that seems to think he is in charge, especially on social media. He brought up the harassment and bullying of citizens and the statements that that person is making and asked if that is okay with the Board. Gil said that they currently do not have a policy in place and that he is offering for that to be one of the work sessions that they have because they do not have a social media policy. Ron said that he had looked at disciplinary actions for Selectmen and that he had asked the secretary who was in charge of the Board and she had said the town and that there must be someone that a taxpayer can bring questions and concerns up to for you guys and Heath said the taxpayer. Gil brought up that if there is something severely to be discussed there is the recall potential and Ron asked if that happened at the same time that somebody was told to go to an Executive Session because they are not answering any questions on social media and he asked if you have to be at that Executive Session. Heath made the comment that he could definitely call an Executive Session as an employee and Ron asked if a Selectman can call an Executive Session on somebody and Gil said if it is deemed necessary yes. Ron asked in the three years he has been on the Fire Department if they have heard of a problem with how he does his job and the Board said no. Ron brought up that he

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uses his own time, vehicle, and phone that he does not get reimbursed for to go to training as a Firefighter. Heath asked if he gets a stipend for being lieutenant and Ron said yes and brought up that they get paid to sit up here and keep moving forward instead of pausing and focusing on something and getting something accomplished and that in moving forward so many times they forget what they wanted to accomplish in the first place. Ron brought up the Fire Department and the Fire Station and made a comment about trusting someone who knows what they are doing. Ron asked for an Executive Session on one of the Selectmen because he is putting his foot down on bullying. Ron brought up a video that people watch when they first come to the Fire Department and it is called "Welcome to the Fire Service" by Chief Rick Laski. Gil said that if Ron wants to initiate something along the lines of an Executive Session that would be something that would go through him as the chair. Ron made the comment of doing community activities and pulling the Fire Department into it so that they can appreciate the Fire Department and look into the ordinance and the Fire Chief. Gil brought up the new ordinance the citizens will be voting on in March and Ron brought up the citizens voting on a new Fire Station and Dottie said that they had voted no. Ron made the comment of them getting together and working together and to be the leaders of the town. Heath read the definition of a bully and Ron said to look up harassment. Heath brought up that an officer had told him that they need to be Firefighter one and two and have some EMS training to become a lieutenant and that the concern of safety was brought up and asked what the state regulations are to become an officer. Michael asked Heath what the qualifications are because he put it on Facebook that they have to have Firefighter one and two. Michael said that the State of Maine goes by BLS standards, Firefighter and he knows that because he made some phone calls today. Michael asked Heath if he has an issue with how the officers get voted in by the employees of the Fire Department and Heath said that it has always come in front of the Board to hire and in the new ordinance it says that the chief vets them but brings them to the Board and they make the final call. Heath also said that the ordinance says that if Michael makes officers and a new chief comes in then they can't take those officers out of those positions because the chief had put them there. Michael asked why they would want to take them out if he put them in and Heath brought up qualifications. Michael said that the officers have been trained by the York County Fire Chiefs' Association and most of them have Fire one and two and that Ron will have it within the next three months and Heath made the comment of how long he has been a lieutenant and Michael said that he has BLS standards with the bare minimum through the state. Heath made a comment about it coming back on Michael and Michael brought up the command system and that he has a 300 in the command system. Heath said that if an employee of the town and he asks a question as a singular Selectmen or a Board and they say they have been instructed not to reply to that because they have been told by their chief not to talk to him. Michael asked who is the sole representation of the Fire Department and Heath said you and Michael said that was his point. Heath made the comment that Michael can tell them not to talk to their employer and Michael said he told them that if they are not comfortable answering questions then don't tell them they can ask me. Heath said that Michael doesn't

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really answer his questions and Michael said that when he bullies or harasses one of the members on Facebook and he really wants him to communicate with someone like that it's horrible and asked why Heath would get involved with a matter like that on Facebook. Gil said that they were getting into an argumentative situation. Michael asked what Heath's issue is with the Fire Chief in the new ordinance and Heath said that it was Wendy and Mr. Hooper putting this together and that it wasn't a Board effort and what he put on Facebook was that people should read the ordinance. Michael brought up that Heath had put that he would be voting no and Heath said that that is his opinion and Michael asked why Heath thinks that the Fire Chief should not put the officers in place and Heath said the new one should not be the current one. Heath brought up that he had sent an email asking for all the names of the per diems, officers, and call staff and that he has been trying to get everyone together to hash this out and that when the Board and Michael won't answer the emails the townspeople are not happy about it. Michael brought up that the taxpayers are getting upset that Heath is harassing people on Facebook. Gil made a comment about ending the conversation. Michael read a comment and said that he did not want the position but he would help the town out to get them to a full time chief and that they brought someone in to assist. Wendy said that the ordinance had been read to the Board on TV and they voted on it to go on the secret ballot. Michael told everyone that there is a job description that will be out around March. Heath made a comment about how the officers are tight lipped with election season coming up and brought up them sitting down individually with the Board and that they should be able to talk to all of the officers. Gil said that it has gone on long enough and asked Michael to get Ron his phone number. Heath **motioned** that all employee files and records be removed from the Fire Department. Heath said that he would like this to happen so that he can look to see what qualifications the members of the Fire Department have instead of bringing it to the Board. Gil **second**. Gil brought up speaking to the town attorney regarding this and that the medical records should be kept with the Fire Chief under lock and key. Heath said that he is not looking for medical records just certifications and Gil said per conversation with the attorney because they are medical they should not be moved. **Four were opposed, Heath was in favor.**

- Jody David said that he had talked to Michael about moving the tent and that they were going to do it this weekend and that is all handled. He brought up the tree and the snow and what they are going to do and Heath brought up the line of sight and if he can put a pin in it and Jody said that they had put pins in and that in the contract it says to not put any snow on abutters property. Jody brought up getting a response saying that they are going to look into that and Gil said that he had emailed him and his focus was on the Fire Department equipment.
- Gil brought up correspondences from town people the last week and he would like to draft some responses and get them to the Board to critique or edit and get some responses back and Heath said that in the future respond with they are working on it.

ADJOURN MEETING:

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- Wendy **motioned** to adjourn. Dottie **second**. **All** were in favor.
- The Meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM.

These minutes were approved by the Limerick Board of Selectmen on: February 22, 2021

**End of Broadcast**

Respectfully submitted,

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Courtney Davis

**FOR DETAILS OF MEETING  
SEE RECORDING  
AT SRC-TV.ORG**  
“Limerick Selectmen’s Meeting”  
Under Brick Town Hall  
February 16, 2021  
By Gail Libby