

Waterford Selectboard Regular Meeting
Monday, July 8, 2024 @ 6 pm
Davies Memorial Library

In Attendance: Gary Allard, Kevin Gillander, Ron Gray, Sue Hayes, Warner Hodgdon

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

Modification to Agenda

- Jim Hayes asked to add a Highway Department update. Gary Allard stated that it could be added to Citizens' Concerns.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Warner Hodgdon made a motion to approve the June 10, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes. Ron Gray seconded the motion. **Motion passed 4-0.**
- Ron Gray recommended changes to the June 24, 2024 Meeting minutes as follows:
 - Page 2, 3rd bullet – take out the word “each” in front of Board Members.
 - Page 3, 1st bullet, last sentence – Grant match should be 20%, not 25%.
- Warner Hodgdon made a motion to approve the June 24, 2024 minutes as corrected. Ron Gray seconded the motion. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Citizens' Concerns

Gary Allard asked that residents state their name, and try to keep discussion of their concern to two minutes.

- Jim Hayes – Ronnie McLaughlin would like the Town to provide material (gravel) to smooth up the pad area where the shed was taken down. The original agreement was for the Town to just tear down the shed.
- Jen D'Agostino – Why did the Selectboard manage the Totally Trees contract to cut trees in cemetery without notifying the Cemetery Committee or the land owner? The Selectboard should disband the Cemetery Committee.
- Clem Gray – Asked Warner Hodgdon to resign from the Selectboard over a budget issue.
- Howard Jones – The Fire Department went to Kirby twice and Victory once, he wanted to know if they had been billed. Heather Gonyaw, Town Treasurer, responded that they had. Mr. Jones asked if the Revenue would go to the Fire Department.
- Kathy Hodgdon – She would like the Selectboard to appoint a project manager to oversee the grant projects. She recommended Ron Gray.
- Maria Dantos – asked why nobody is getting a response. Gary explained that the Selectboard is listening to citizens' concerns.
- Ben Lyons – had a water problem due to Mad Brook in the Spring of 2023. He accused a Selectboard member of contacting the State. The State bothered his wife saying that the water had been diverted. Jim Hayes was on vacation, but was able to fix it when he got back from vacation. Heated discussion ensued over an old problem that had been fixed.
- Maria Dantos – the function of the Selectboard is to engage with the public and respond to complaints.

- Warner Hodgdon – Tried to address the Totally Trees contract concern from earlier, but was interrupted several times and was unable to provide a response.
- Debbie Allard – The Road Foreman should be in charge of road issues, not the Selectboard.
- More heated discussion about the Mad Brook water problem.
- Elke Billig – Would like to see the 100% coverage of Health Insurance for Waterford employees reduced. If current employees are grandfathered, it should be reduced for future employees.

Gravel Crushing

- Ron Gray contacted Manchester Brook Materials to let them know that the contract was disputed. The bid due date of May 31st did not appear in the bid documents, it only appeared in the Caledonia Record ad, which was not seen by Manchester Brook Materials. Ron advised the Selectboard to reject all previous bids and readvertise the gravel crushing contract.
- Jim Hayes stated that the top work that needs to be done before gravel crushing can happen has not been completed yet. Crushing could be pushed to October.
- Kevin Gillander made a motion to reject all crushing bids and have new bids due for opening at the August 12, 2024 Regular Meeting. Ron Gray seconded the motion. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Planning Commission Update

- Howard Remick talked to NVDA about updating the Town Plan. They will provide assistance at no charge.

Declaration of Inclusion

- Ron Gray made a motion to accept the Declaration of Inclusion for the Town of Waterford. Sue Hayes seconded the motion. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Quarterly Budget to Actual

- Ron Gray asked how long before a property with delinquent taxes is put up for sale. Marcel Lapierre stated that there is only one property in that situation and the owner has been making payments on it.

Transfer Station

- Sue Hayes made a motion to implement a punch card to eliminate cash purchases at the Transfer Station, while retaining the ability to use a check and keep trash pricing at current levels. Warner Hodgdon seconded the motion. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP)

- Sue Hayes made a motion to approve the updated LEMP. Kevin Gillander seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Town Garage Mold Removal

- Marcel Lapierre contacted contractors for quotes to remove mold at the Town Garage. Fixing the roof leak must also be addressed or the mold will return.

Recording of Town Board Meetings

- Tom Thomas has provided recording equipment for the Town to use. Heather Gonyaw created a YouTube Channel for the Town of Waterford, where the recordings will be posted. A link to the Channel will be posted on the Town website.

5-Year “I am Responding” Subscription Renewal Agreement

- Sue Hayes made a motion to approve and sign the Fire Department’s Subscription Renewal Agreement for “I am Responding” for five years. Warner Hodgdon seconded the motion. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Agenda for July 22, 2024 Working Meeting

- Citizens’ Concerns and Selectboard roles and responsibilities.

Executive Session – 1 V.S.A. §313, Personnel

- Sue Hayes made a motion to enter Executive Session. Ron Gray seconded the motion. **Motion passed 4-0.** The Selectboard entered Executive Session at 8:12 pm.
- Sue Hayes made a motion to invite Jim Hayes to attend the Executive Session. Kevin Gillander seconded the motion. **Motion passed 4-0.**
- The group exited Executive Session at 8:58 PM.
- Sue Hayes made a motion to hire Howard Remick as a Highway Department Worker. Kevin Gillander seconded the motion. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Ron Gray made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kevin Gillander seconded the motion. **Motion passed 4-0.** Meeting adjourned at 9:16 PM.