



TOWN OF DEERING

Board of Selectmen

762 Deering Center Road
Deering, NH 03244

Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2020

Selectmen present: Allen Belouin, Rebecca Mitchell, Bill Whisman

The meeting was called to order at 1900 via video teleconferencing because of the COVID-19 public health crisis and Governor Sununu's emergency order #12 pursuant to Executive order 2020-04 which authorizes the Board of Selectmen to meet electronically.

Others present include Russell McAllister, Town Administrator, Brian Holton, Road Agent.

Minutes

Mr. Belouin made the motion to approve the following minutes from March 17th, March 19th, April 10th, and the non-public minutes from March 19th and April 10th. Ms. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

New Business

Highway Department Report

Road Agent Houghton reported that the solar panel installation will be complete within the next day and Eversource would be changing the meter out within 14 days. The new meter recorded the electricity created by the panels and the electricity used by the highway garage netting out the difference. The highway operations will move to summer hours which are four 10-hour days commencing the following week. Staff was affixing new siding to the old salt shed and a garage door from the highway garage is scheduled to be installed. Mr. Houlton discussed issuing paving bids for the finish coat on Cross Road along with pavement grinding on Longwoods and Houlton Crossing. The Board discussed their concerns about the effects of unemployment on tax payments because of the Covid virus. The TA noted that the issuance of paving bids will provide cost data associated with the planned work. The issuance of a bid in no way obligates the Board to authorize the work and the attendant expense.

Tubbs Hill Culvert

Mr. Houlton briefed the Board about his research into the history of the culvert installation. There are no records in the file for when the culvert was installed. According to conversations with the previous Road Agent, Peter Beard, the culvert has always been there.

Committee Assignments

Ms. Mitchell made the motion to nominate Mr. Whisman as Chair of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Belouin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. Other committee assignments;

Planning Board	Bill Whisman
Zoning Board	Allen Belouin
Conservation	Rebecca Mitchell

Temporary Rate Adjustment for EMS

The Board reviewed Fire Chief Gorman's memo seeking a temporary wage increase for EMS personnel during the COVID-19 virus pandemic. The Board noted the exceptional circumstances and heightened risks for EMS personnel and FD volunteers responding to emergencies during the pandemic. Mr. Belouin made the motion to temporarily increase hourly rates for EMS and FD personnel two (\$2) per hour. Ms. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. The Board next reviewed a request to provide weekend coverage. According to Chief Gorman volunteer weekend EMS coverage has been difficult during the pandemic. His recommendation is to add two per diem shifts, one for Saturday and one for Sunday. The cost of additional coverage per weekend is \$600. Chief Gorman offered another coverage alternative wherein an on-call stipend of \$50 per day for a volunteer to agree to be available during the shift period. If there is a call for service the volunteer will also receive wages for the hours worked during the call. The Board discussed the proposals and agreed that a combination of the two proposals might better ensure necessary weekend coverage during the pandemic. So, if a per diem employee was unavailable for a weekend shift then offering a volunteer stipend will ensure that there are two people to staff the ambulance. Mr. Whisman made the motion to approve the hybrid approach – adding per diem weekend coverage with a volunteer stipend (\$50/day plus wages for actual hours worked) backfill. Mr. Belouin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

Goal Setting

The Board agreed to meet April 26th at 0800 via Zoom VTC to determine goals for the coming year.

Police Chief Appointment

Several days have passed since the final candidate interviews and the TA asked if the membership were ready to make an offer to a specific candidate for the Chief of Police position. Mr. Whisman made the motion to make a conditional offer of employment to Mark Philibert as the Deering Police Chief with a starting salary \$75,000 per annum pending a successful background investigation. Mr. Belouin agreed and seconded the motion. Ms. Mitchell also agreed on the choice. The vote was unanimous and so carried. Mr. Philibert is currently a full-time officer with the Hillsboro PD.

Chimney Bids

The Board reviewed the following bids.

Vendor	Address	Bid
Pendlebury Masonry LLC	New Boston NH	\$ 10,730
Sin Cal Chimney	Hillsboro NH	\$ 9,125
Webber Masonry and Tile	Antrim NH	\$ 7,875
Dan Hasting Masonry Contract	Greenville NH	\$ 8,050
Structural Preservation Systems	Cheshire CT	\$ 48,300

Mr. Belouin noted that the inclusion of a chimney cricket is important to keep water and snow from accumulating between the intersection of the sloped roof and chimney. Mr. Whisman made the motion to award the bid to Sin Cal Chimney and to also have a cricket included. Mr. Belouin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

There being no further business to come before the Board Mr. Whisman made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. The meeting adjourned at 2010. Roll call vote: Allen Belouin, Aye; Rebecca Mitchell, Aye; Bill Whisman, Aye.

Respectfully Submitted,

\s\ Russell McAllister
Town Administrator



TOWN OF DEERING

Highway Department

762 Deering Center Road

Deering, NH 03244

March 2020 Report

The municipal class V and class VI roads have the spring weight limit posted on them. The beavers have been active on Gereni Brook at Second NH TPKE, Camp Road, Pond Road and the brook by The Wilkins Cemetery on County Road. We have been having to clean those culverts out weekly. We have a lot of rotted and leaning ash trees on our lower bank behind the pole barn. One of these had come down and hit our neighbor's house below. We had all the leaning and dead trees cut down and we cleaned them up. There will eventually be a wall going down from our driveway to existing wall, fence up top so no one can drive off the edge and rip papp on the embankment for erosion control. We have been prepping for the solar to go on our rear roof. Darin went over roof and its good to go. We Pulled the old storage trailer out and got rid of that eye sore. We had only two storm events in March. We only salted the pavement on the March 4th event. All the snow melted by noon on the gravel roads. On the March 19th event, we received eight inches. We plowed off the paved roads and salted once and plowed what we could of the gravel roads with trucks but did the majority of them with the grader moldboard as the roads were very soft. With only one salting on each event we only used a total of 38,600 lbs of salt to treat the paved roads this month and used no sand. We replaced the fuel rail on the Grader and serviced that. We serviced the loader and backhoe. Brett has been out around the gravel roads smoothing them up with the grader. They are still soft and it's still early so we are not getting right into the ditches yet. This year's mud "season" was a polar opposite of last year. We stock piled 390 yards of one and a half inch stone in our pit this winter. We put one hundred and five yards of stone on Pleasant Pond Road, sixty yards on North Road, thirty yards on Zoski and thirty yards on Dickey Hill Road. Things that are coming up in April/May are the siding of our old salt shed that we made into a shed. Finishing the siding up on the rear of our building here as cleaning up around it has made it an eye sore from the upper parking lot. I believe the solar will be installed here in April. Grading up all our Gravel Roads and stock pile our winter sand for next year. I have been measuring the culverts, counting catch basins and under

drain footage that we will need on Longwoods Road and Holton Crossing Road.

We have had our struggles here personally and professionally in our department with the Covid 19. We have been helping each other out, asked questions or help from the towns other department heads and members. We are all healthy and pushing forward though this.

Brian Houghton
Deering Road Agent

To: Board of Selectmen
From: Chief Daniel Gorman, Deering Fire & Rescue
Subject: Fire & Rescue Report, March 2020

Date: 04/09/2020

News: The month of February Deering Fire & rescue (DFR) responded to fourteen (14) total emergency calls. The breakdown of responses is below.

We are monitoring the COVID 19 pandemic on a daily basis and are working with the Interim Town Administrator Diane Kendall and all of the other department heads to stay on top of this situation. In the month of March, we transported two (2) patients that fell into the potential COVID- 19 category. We are happy to say that both patients tested negative for COVID-19. We have been hard at work, developing an Emergency COVID -19 Standard Operating Guideline for personnel to use when responding to ALL calls, not just medical calls. I will attach the SOG to the end of this report.

This pandemic really changes how Fire and EMS operate on emergent and nonemergent situations when dealing with the public. Unfortunately, you will not see our EMT's walking into your homes with a smile on their face, you will see them with a mask, gloves and eye protection. These providers will not be walking right into your home to get too the patient's side to see what's wrong. Now, you will see a provider stop at the door and try to make contact with the patient or family members so that they can ask the very important COVID-19 questions. Does the patient or anyone else living in the home have a fever, chills, headache, cough, cold like symptoms? Any recent travel out of the country or state? Have you had any close contact with someone that has tested positive for COVID-19? If the answers are no, our provider will enter the building to assess the patient. If there were any "yes" answers, then the provider or providers will put on N95 masks and isolation suits before entering. Social distancing will be used as much as possible. This more coordinated, slower response to the patients' side is for two very important reasons. First of all, we need to keep our responders safe. If we lose two (2) EMS providers to a 14-day quarantine, we have lost a third of our call Ambulance personnel and could make it harder to get the ambulance out for any further EMS calls during the nights and weekends. The second reason we have to take this approach on calls is that we are trying to protect the patient and their family from potentially getting COVID-19.

Grants: We are still working on a NH Department of Homeland Security Grant for EMS in the Warm Zone. This grant helps departments to acquire safety equipment such as body armor, trauma supplies, and more to prepare towns for any potential active shooter events. The first step is to get our members certified in the EMS in the Warm Zone awareness and operations courses. Most are done with the training. Then we will talk with the Board to discuss applying for the grant.

The FEMA SAFER Grant will be opening soon. This grant help departments with staffing issues and recruitment and retention efforts of employees. I hope to be able to talk more about this in an upcoming Board of Selectmen meeting.

Upcoming goals:

- 1) Performance Reviews
- 2) Continued information gathering for any COVID 19 updates and guidelines.
- 3) Policy review and updates

FEBRUARY ACTIVITY REPORT:

Total Emergency Responses – 14

Per Diem Total Responses	8	On Call Total Responses	6
Per Diem EMS Responses	5	Call EMS Responses	4
Per Diem Fire Responses	3	Call Fire Responses	2
Per Diem MVA Responses	0	Call MVA Responses	0
Per Diem Transports	4	Call EMS Transports	3
Per Diem BLS Transports	0	BLS Transport	0
Per Diem ALS Transports	4	ALS Transport	3
Mutual Aid EMS Given	0	Mutual Aid EMS Given	0
Mutual Aid Fire Given	0	Mutual Aid Fire Given	0
Mutual Aid EMS Received	1	Mutual Aid EMS Received	0
Mutual Aid Fire Received	0	Mutual Aid Fire Received	0
Paramedic Intercept Received	0	Paramedic Intercepted Received	0
ALS Intercept given	0	Missed EMS Calls	0

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Gorman

Daniel Gorman, Fire Chief/EMD