

TOWN OF DEERING

762 Deering Center Road
Deering, NH 03244

Board of Selectmen Final Meeting Minutes Thursday, September 7, 2023 7:00 P.M.

Members Present: Chair Jill Smith, Selectman Roy Watson and Selectman Steve Diers
Also Present: Town Administrator Peter Flynn and Recording Secretary Wendy Baker

Opening of the Meeting by the Chair at 7:01pm

Pledge of Allegiance

NEW BUSINESS

Item 1:

- **Manifest for Payroll of 8/23/2023 (\$11,048.71) and 8/30/2023 (\$16,988.60) and Accounts Payable**
- **Appointments – Jessie-Lynn Sullivan and Corey Sullivan to the 250th Celebration Committee**
- **Agreement – Park owner acceptance property and tax waiver of old abandoned mobile homes**

See attachment at the end of minutes for the complete Consent Agenda.

Selectman Watson made a motion to approve the items in the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Selectman Diers. Motion Passed 3-0.

Item 2: Carew – request to allow porta potty at Gregg Hill Preserve for weekend of 10/8.

Chair Smith said she has no issues with this request.

The Board agreed to allow the request through unanimous consent.

APPOINTMENTS

Item 3: Capt. Tom Cavanaugh - Re: Taser purchase options- clarification

Hold until later in the agenda.

Item 4: Highway Department

Chair Smith thanked Brett Martin and Darin Labier for everything they and the rest of the department are doing during this period without a Road Agent.

- **Loader Rental & Future Purchase**

Brett Martin informed the Board that the Highway Loader (with 9,300 hours on it) is at the end of its life and is not working properly. It was sent out for a repair estimate which is coming in at \$24,000 but that is not guaranteed to fix it. He said they could rent one to get by and needs to obtain a rental rate.

Selectman Diers asked when it is scheduled to be replaced.

Chair Smith answered in 2025.

Selectman Watson asked what time of year is the loader used the most?

Brett answered we are going into that time of year it is used most.

TA Flynn said that he asked Brett and Darin to come to give the Board an overview on the needs for Highway equipment.

The discussion turned to the needs of a 1-ton truck and a pick-up truck to replace the F-350 that isn't a running. A truck is needed that can plow this winter.

Chair Smith suggested using the vehicle that the Fire Department is taking out of service.

Brett said they have three quotes for a 1-ton and with the quote from HP Fairfield for approximately \$151,000, they could have it in a month. He said the price of a new loader could be \$300,000.

Chair Smith suggested looking at the Highway Block Grant for funding for the loader.

Chair Smith asked them to get a quote for a new loader.

Brett said once he has the loader back at the garage, he will be looking it over to see if the assessments to repair it are good and he will report back to the Board at the next meeting.

- **Winter Sand Purchase vs Screening**

Brett discussed the sand screening estimates and said in his opinion the Town should move forward with screening versus buying sand.

Selectman Diers asked what the cost was for purchasing sand?

Brett answered \$7 per ton plus the cost of trucking it in. He said they made a tentative appointment with Chappel the week of the 18th and reserved a box screener and excavator for \$5,800.

Chair Smith made a motion to approve the rental of a box screener and excavator from Chappel for one week for the amount of \$5,800. Seconded by Selectman Watson. Motion Passes 3-0.

- **Paving Discussion**

Brett explained to the Board that they have a list of the top four roads that work should be done on.

1. Longwoods and Houghton Crossing shoulder work.
2. Fisher Road & Bennington Depot Road for grinding and reclaiming, add gravel and leave it thru the winter. Total cost for 1 & 2 is \$20,380.

3. Topping 2nd NH Turnpike which will last 5-7 years and will pitch the water with a cost of \$210,540.
4. Topping Clement Hill Road for \$120,000.

Chair Smith recommended looking at all of the road figures including road work and equipment and sees value in proceeding with 1 & 2.

Selectman Watson made a motion to authorize the Highway Department to complete shoulder work on Longwoods and Houghton Crossing as well as grinding on Bennington Depot Road and Fisher Road in the amount of \$20,380. Seconded by Chair Smith. Motion Passes 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Item 5: Second Reading – Disposal of Surplus Material

Selectman Diers suggested replacing the wording in paragraph three “thrown away” to be “properly disposed of”.

Chair Smith didn’t see in an issue with that change.

Selectman Diers made a motion to adopt the Disposal of Surplus Material Policy with proposed amendment. Seconded by Selectman Watson. Motion Passes 3-0.

Item 6: Second Reading – Acceptance of Donations and Gifts Policy

Chair Smith said she looked at the statute and the policy should be amended to an amount of \$5,000 versus \$10,000.

Chair Smith made a motion to adopt the Acceptance of Donations and Gifts Policy with an amended amount of \$5,000 versus \$10,000. Seconded by Selectman Watson. Motion Passes 3-0.

Item 7: Fire Department - Ambulance bid update

TA Flynn said they had a sealed bid opening this week for the purchase of an ambulance.

Pat Murdough said they received 4 bids with 2 coming from the same company (a gas and diesel option). He said they are leaning towards a gas motor.

Acting Chief Connor said their recommendation is the Demers gas motor for \$371,874 which is only a 6 month wait versus a year.

Pat said they need to get delivery dates and compare the quotes closer and will have a decision at the next meeting.

Acting Chief Connor said he brought estimates for a few items to be considered for ARPA Funding. He proposed 5 Philips FRX brand AED units for a total of \$8,030.

Chair Smith made a motion to approve the purchase of 5 Philips FRX AED Units in the amount of \$8,030 from ARPA funds. Seconded by Selectman Diers. Motion Passed 3-0.

Assistant Chief Connor said he is still getting quotes on gas detection meters.

Chris Parece gave an update on McAllister Station regarding the heating system. He said the cost to remove the tank outside and move it inside will be \$1,400. He also said the units inside are up high and therefore pulling in hot air instead of cool air and it was suggest to lower all of the intakes. A quote for this is being formulated by the contractor.

TA Flynn said something like those things could be taken out of the Fire Department's Budget.

Quotes were received and reviewed for garage doors at Murdough and McAllister stations.

Chair Smith made a motion to approve the purchase of garage doors from Crawford at the Highway Department for \$17,944, 2 doors for \$8,326 at Murdough Station and 2 doors for \$9,875 at McAllister Station from ARPA funds. Seconded by Selectman Watson. Motion Passed 3-0.

Chair Smith asked if the Fire Department was able to help out on Safety Day, October 7th.

They answered they would pull something together to help.

Selectman Diers asked about Stop the Bleed Kits.

The Board had a discussion on various places these kits should be placed.

Assistant Chief Connor said he would gather more information for the Board to review.

Item 8: Minutes Approval - Public 8/17, 8/22 ,8/23 and 8/28; non-Public 8/17, 8/22, 8/23 and 8/28

Chair Smith made a motion to approve the August 17, 2023, August 22, 2023, August 23, & August 28, 2023 public minutes as presented. Seconded by Selectman Diers. Motion Passed 3-0.

Chair Smith made a motion to approve the August 17, 2023, August 22, 2023, August 23, & August 28, 2023 non-public minutes as presented. Seconded by Selectman Diers. Motion Passed 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Item 9: Town Administrators Report

1. Requested information from Town Counsel on personnel issue.
2. Contacted mobile homeowner re: picking up ownership and possibly receiving a tax waiver.
3. Sought and received information from Capt. Tom Cavanaugh – Tasers
4. Conducted bid opening for the new ambulance. Received 3 bids.
5. Met with Amy Charbonneau of Continental Paving re: Road Agent clarification.
6. Continue working close with Land Use coordinator and assessing clerk.

Item 3: Capt. Tom Cavanaugh - Re: Taser purchase options- clarification

Chair Smith said there is a proposal for a bundle to purchase body cameras and tasers together. She said she would like to see a quote for the tasers alone and she still feels a purchase for body cameras should be left up to the legislative body in the form of a warrant article. She also said she found that the State does have a grant program that is 50/50 match for body and dash cameras.

Selectman Watson said he agrees that the legislative body should weigh in on the purchase of body cameras.

Selectman Diers agreed.

Chair Smith asked TA Flynn to go back to Captain Cavanaugh to request a quote for only 5 tasers.

Item 10: Selectmen's Reports

Selectman Watson had nothing to report.

Selectman Diers asked if there was a decision in regards to Comcast?

TA Flynn said he is still working on it and is in communication with them.

Chair Smith asked if the Planning Board needs a minute taker?

TA Flynn said he was planning to have Nicole, the new Administrative Assistant compile the minutes from the video recording.

Selectman Diers said he will ask the members of the Planning Board.

Chair Smith announced there will be a 9/11 ceremony at 8:40am on Monday, September 11, 2023 at the memorial wall.

Item 11: Public Comment (MAXIMUM-3 Minutes)

The Board always welcomes public comment and feedback. This is the only opportunity for public comment. If there is any need for the board's response a request should include an appointment on a future agenda, to include supporting documentation. Forward your request to the Town Administrator at least five business days beforehand. When speaking please state your name and address.

Bob Carter thanked the Selectmen, TA Flynn and the Highway Department for the drainage work they have been taking care of.

Mike Stone asked if there was a plan for clearing the roads this winter in light of the high volume of employee turnover.

Tom Copadis expressed his concern regarding the leadership of the Town in the last two years, including the current Chair and feels careers have been destroyed as well as finger pointing happening.

Item 12: Non-Public per RSA 91-A:3, II, (a) & (b)

Chair Smith made a motion to go into Non-Public Session at 9:10pm per RSA 91 A-3, II, (a) & (b). Seconded by Selectman Watson.

Vote by Roll Call: Chair Smith – yes, Selectman Watson – yes and Selectman Diers – yes

The Board of Selectman came out of Non-Public Session at 9:59pm

Chair Smith made a motion to seal the minutes. Seconded by Selectman Watson, because it is determined that divulgence of this information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board.

Vote by Roll Call: Chair Smith – yes, Selectman Watson – yes and Selectman Diers – yes.

Chair Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:01pm. Seconded by Selectman Watson. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Baker

Wendy Baker
Recording Secretary