



TOWN OF DEERING

Board of Selectmen

762 Deering Center Road
Deering, NH 03244

Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2019

Selectmen present: Allen Belouin, Rebecca Mitchell, Bill Whisman
The hearing was called to order at 1900.

MEETING MINUTES:

Meeting Minutes – August 1st

Mr. Belouin made the motion to accept the public and non-public minutes of July 18th. Mr. Whisman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

New Business

ZBA Appointment-Ralph LaChance

Mr. Belouin made the motion to accept the appointment of Ralph LaChance as a ZBA member. Ms. Mitchell seconded. The vote was unanimous and so moved. Mr. Lachance was sworn in by Town Clerk Carol Baker.

Travis Putnam – HWY Dept Complaints

The Board welcomed Mr. Putnam to speak on his concerns on road conditions. Mr. Putnam asked the Board as to why we are hiring out for trucking and not using the town's trucks. Road Agent Brian Houghton explained that we are in fact using the town's trucks to perform other work at the same time we are hiring trucking. Brian explained that the Loader and Grader are out every day. With the loader, grader and one truck out, there are no other employees to do the trucking needed. Brian explained that hiring trucking has been done to assist the town in meeting the demand of the town road project for as far back as he remembers. Mr. Houghton explained that the trucks were in fact used for trucking for a while when Gerini Trucking had 2 trucks break down at which time Gerini trucking was only using 1 truck. Mr. Putnam explained that is less expensive to use our own trucks for trucking. Mr. Belouin and Mr. Houghton explained that the town does not have enough employees to complete trucking, projects and daily road work. Mr. Putnam acknowledged that he had in fact been hired by the town to work on the roads and provide trucking services in the past.

Mr. Putnam inquired as to what culverts have been serviced. Mr. Houghton named many roads that have had work completed on this year. Mr. Houghton explained the daily duties of the department.

Gravel

Mr. Putnam asked why we are not using gravel. He also mentioned that the gravel pit is being neglected and not being taken care of. The Board asked Mr. Putnam why he was in the Pit. Mr. Putnam said that the Pit is public land. Mr. Belouin reminded Mr. Putnam that in fact the Pit is public land but is not open to the public and was posted several years ago. Mr. Putnam then replied "well the gate was open". Mr. Houghton replied that the Highway Department has been using the gravel where needed especially in the spring during mud season. Mr. Houghton also mentioned that there was no need to be working in the Pit as he has plenty of material stock piled.

Cross Road

Mr. Putnam mentioned that the culverts on Cross Road were installed back in 1987 and they should have all been replaced with plastic culverts. Mr. Houghton explained that in fact the culverts were replaced in 2001 and that all culverts on Cross Road are plastic except for 1 that is steel and one that is concrete. Mr. Putnam asked why the

steel culvert hasn't been replaced. Mr. Houghton explained that it was in great shape and didn't feel the need to replace such culvert. Mr. Putnam explained that the culverts need to last as long as the new work on the road. The Board asked Mr. Houghton to replace the steel culvert on Cross Road.

Kenworth

Mr. Putnam asked why the Kenworth was left with salt in it all winter while it was out of service. Mr. Houghton explained that it was not salt but sand in the truck during this period.

Loader

Mr. Putnam showed pictures of the Loader exhaust pipe that was broke and asked why it has not been repaired over the past 2 years. Mr. Houghton explained that the exhaust has not been broken for 2 years and that it was repaired a few weeks past.

Backhoe

Mr. Putnam showed a picture of the Backhoe bucket with broken teeth and mentioned that the Shanks need replacement. Mr. Houghton explained that the Shanks had been replaced a few weeks past, temporary teeth are on and new teeth are on order and will be installed once they arrive.

Plows

Mr. Putnam then showed the board pictures of the plows. Noting that they need to be sand blasted and painted in order to preserve them. Mr. Houghton explained once again that the department is down 1 employee and that we recently hired a Grader Operator on July 5th. Once the Grading is caught up the plows will be addressed.

Survey

Mr. Putnam suggested that the Town conduct a survey on how the town is managing the roads. Mr. Putnam mentioned that the roads are in the worst shape in over 35 years at which time Mr. Putnam exited the meeting.

Clement Hill Road

The Board acknowledged a Positive comment from Stephen G. Walker in which Stephen said "The road crew did a beautiful!!! job grading and raking yesterday, as good or better than I have ever seen it all the way through. Just wanted you to know. Look forward to some Calcium Chloride when a little moisture comes along."

Police

It was noted that the Police Department could not make the meeting and will be on next month's agenda. The Board acknowledged that with all the conversations pertaining to the Highway department and that the Road agent is still present that The Board would take this time to speak to the Highway Department.

Mr. Whisman asked about catch basins and their maintenance. Mr. Houghton explained that the Highway department frequently checks and services catch basins. Mr. Houghton explained that the Zoski Road area use to be done once a year but the town actually does these twice a year now and are monitored to make sure they are clean and clear.

Mr. Whisman asked Mr. Houghton if there is a schedule for the year of work the Highway crew needs to get done and showing items of completion along with outstanding projects. Mr. Houghton explained that there is such a schedule and it is posted at the Highway garage. Mr. Houghton also explained that this schedule should be on the Town's new website in the near future.

Mr. Belouin asked the Road Agent about the gate at the pit. Brian explained how the gate was broken and that he has not found a company to install a proper gate. The Board directed Mr. Houghton to have the gate replaced even on a temporary basis. The Board also directed the Road Agent to find a welder fabricator that can build a proper gate.

Mr. Whisman spoke on the condition of Homestead Road. Mr. Houghton acknowledged that the crew would be working on this road in the near future to improve the condition.

Mr. Whisman spoke on the possibility of closing certain areas of roads to through trucking and perhaps weight limits on other roads. Mr. Belouin suggested that this item be on a future BOS agenda for discussion.

Mr. Whisman mentioned that the Invasive Weed sign at the boat ramp was damaged. Mr. Houghton said he will get it repaired.

The Board moved on to other items on the agenda being no further questions for the Road Agent.

TO BE REVIEWED AND/OR SIGNED:

- Employee Payroll August 7th
\$13,828.73
- Employee Payroll August 14th
\$ 12,882.88

- Elected Officials Payroll July 24th
\$2,018.44

- AP ACH XFER August 15th
\$30.00
- AP Manifest August 15th
\$121,520.10
- ETF (Concert) August 15th
\$500.00

- Warrant – Unlicensed Dogs
- Intent to Cut 201-002-000

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 2056.

Respectfully Submitted,

\s\ Allen Belouin
Chair, BoS

Selectmen Meeting 8/15/19

Please Sign In:


Elaine Griffin


Ralph LaChance

Thomas Kavanaugh
Eric Stauffer