

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 18, 2022

At the Selectmen's Meeting held on Monday, April 18, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. the following people were in attendance: Shawn White, Abbey Querrard, and John Tholl.

Chair White called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Abbey Querrard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Others in attendance: Rob Larson, DPW Director, Fred Ingerson, Water Superintendent, Gary Cross, Rhonda and Roland Caron, Dave Clifford, Scott Burns, Tom Ladd, Ken Jordan,

### **Complaint Re: Junk Vehicles at 39 Jefferson Road**

Neighbors of 39 Jefferson Road attended the meeting to express their concern with five unregistered vehicles being brought in to 39 Jefferson Road. They said the vehicles got pulled in during the night, and there are currently five pick-ups in the back yard. The vehicles are not registered, two have no plates, three have antique plates that are expired. Photos were shown to the Board. The group is concerned that this is starting a junk yard. Someone thought that more than two unregistered vehicles constitute a junk yard. Chair White said that the Police Chief has done up a letter, which states that the Town has received number complaints about the vehicles on the property at 39 Jefferson Road, which appear to be unregistered and not fit for travel. The property is located in a neighborhood in the center of town, visible from the road and many surrounding properties. Under state law, RSA 236:91-:129, the use of land or buildings for motor vehicles, machinery or scrap metal, junk cars is prohibited unless a motor vehicle junkyard is licensed and approved by the Board of Selectmen. This property is not licensed for a junkyard. It is requested that the offending items be removed from the property within 30 days from the date of the letter. Failure to do so may result in enforcement action which can include civil penalties as much as \$275.00 per day. They were asked to contact the Selectmen's Office as soon as possible to inform the Town of their intent with respect to this matter. This will be our first step we will take. It was stated that they go in the field at night up over snowbanks and they get stuck out there and a lot of hollering goes on. Shawn said if that is a concern, they should call the Police Department when it is happening so that issue can be addressed. The DPW Director verified that there is not a driveway permit for that property off of Maple Street.

Gary Cross complained about the camper and tent that has recently moved into Spring Street. Scott Burns, Chairperson of the Planning Board, said she got a permit for the camper, and it is only for 180 days. Gary said she is living there year-round, and to him Gary said it looks like a campground.

### **Water Bill for 50 Brown Street**

The Board received correspondence from the landowner at 50 Brown Street in reference to his recent water and sewer bill. Their normal bill usually runs \$200 or less. This bill was for \$5,041.58 due to an emergency event that they experienced at their home. The Board asked that we contact the property owner in reference to their insurance claim and to see if this is something the insurance company would cover. The Board would like him to get a letter from the insurance company stating that they do not cover the water bill. Shawn thinks there may be some abatement, but the concern is if the insurance agency covers this, then they should pay it. Rob Larson, DPW Director, said he feels abating this will be opening up a can of worms. Shawn said in years past there were abatements done, usually to have it come in around the base charge. Fred Ingerson, Water Superintendent, said he remembers abating sewer as that did not go through the sewer. Rob said if that person had given us an email address as a means of contact, they can tell within 24 hours if there is a leak. Fred said they read the meters once a month. Fred said it usually doesn't flag with a one to two day leak. The break was inside the house on the second floor. It did a lot of damage inside the house. Fred said that the curb stop got broken probably when the driveway was redone. Scott Burns said how it is presented to the insurance adjuster, it could go either way.

The Board signed the Notice of Intent to Cut for Map 223/Lots 22 & 23.

Shawn said that Katelyn Robinson of NCIC called last week to report that they cannot submit a grant for 2022 so that will not be going forward this year. We will look at it again for 2023.

Rob Larson, DPW Director, asked the Board to sign an USDA Assurance Agreement that the town complies and will continue to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Melissa Elander of Clean Energy NH reached out today as she would like to include Whitefield in a USDA Rural Community Development Initiative to expand the Energy Circuit Rider program. This would allow the Town to receive technical assistance from the Energy Circuit Rider.

The Board reviewed asphalt prices/quotes that Rob Larson, DPW Director, had received from Pike, Central Paving, Ammonoosuc Asphalt. Rob pointed out that in May of 2021, we were paying \$2.40 per gallon for fuel and currently we are paying \$4.31 a gallon. This will be reflected in all price quotes we will be getting for materials.

Chair White asked about doing paving of some of our in-town Roads, like Middle Street, Pine Street, Park Street, Brown Street, Otis Street, Cross Street. If we don't start putting something down on these roads, we will have to do a full reclamation. Mr. Larson said that he is working with USDA right now to do the village district for new water and drainage, which would include the in-town roads. He is applying for a grant, and waiting to see what they come back with. He would rather not put pavement down and then dig it up if we get approved for funding for these drainage and water projects. Shawn said he has been told that a lot of that money that is coming

in is going to stop at the state level, but hopefully we can get some of that funding at the town level. Rob said the initial plan was to pave exactly one mile of South Whitefield Road, from just past 38 South Whitefield Road to top of the hill by Varney Road where the pavement ends. The Board thought at this time we will hold off on any paving until Rob gets information back on the grants he has applied for.

Rob said that they have an issue with curb stops. Some that are sticking up out of the ground have been damaged by plows this past winter. Whose responsibility is this? Does the town repair those or does the homeowner have the town repair it and charge them? These are all prior to 2017. A few residents requested something be done with them. The ordinance that was written in 2017, Shawn said he disagrees with it because no one can own to the main. From the main to the curb stop has to be town-owned. To say they are responsible can't be done because there can't be private utilities in the right-of-ways. Shawn understands why it was written the way it was. Rob said he is re-writing the water ordinance. Shawn asked Rob if he could have it done by the end of June, and Rob said he will have it done sooner than that and will bring it to the Board for review. The Board questioned the town paying for curb stops that are damaged due to plowing. Rob said he feels the Town should repair those and bill the customers. Fred said some of them aren't going to take much to repair. The Board was ok with the Town repairing those and billing the owner, but reach out to them first so they aren't surprised with a bill.

Rob shared with the Board a solar landfill proposal he received. There is a company that wants to lease the landfill and put up solar arrays and then feed the town, the high school, the elementary school, pump stations and offset the solar energy they create and charge us a much lower rate. They will pay a lease fee every year. The Board thought it was a good idea to forward this to the Town Attorney for review.

Rob said he is making a 55-gallon drum for the purchase of DEF fuel because Rob is hearing that is going to be unavailable come June. Rob said Napa is the cheapest, and it was suggested to check with Scott Senecal as well. Salt prices were also discussed, and it may be a good idea to get some salt before the contract price expires in June. Cheapest place right now for culverts is Arrow Equipment. Rob said he has quite a few culverts on hand.

Shawn asked what the price was for H2O to do the collection system. Rob said the quote was \$36,000, which would be for monitoring all the wells, sewer lines, and doing any potential clean outs. That would be for two full-time employees. Was it doing the maintenance on the pump stations? No that was what was cut out. We are going to have two pump stations that are old, 1987 vintage, which would be the one by the trailer park and the one at Grandma's. Rob said Wright Pierce has been great in helping and directing H2O where to look for anomalies. They have been very helpful with staying on top of the phosphorous and nitrogen levels going in the river. Shawn mentioned that inverted syphon needs to be checked frequently as that can be a problem as well. Rob said that they have been maintaining the siphon.

The Board signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Civil Air Patrol and the Agreement with S&S Property LLC for 87 Brown Street.

John Tholl made a motion to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2022. The motion was seconded by Abbey Querrard. Tom Ladd said on Page Two, Paragraph Six it should be saturation "patrol" not control. The Board approved the Meeting Minutes of 4/11/2022 with the correction of patrol not control. Motion passes, 3-0.

A motion was made by John Tholl to enter non-public session at 7:19 p.m. pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3, II (a); RSA 91-A:3, II(d); and RSA 91-A:3, II(e). The motion was seconded by Abbey Querrard. Roll call vote: White: Yes; Querrard: Yes; Tholl: Yes. Motion passes. The board entered non-public session at 7:20 p.m.

The Board adjourned from non-public session at 7:44 p.m.

A motion was made by John Tholl and seconded by Abbey Querrard to seal the non-public session meeting minutes 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 and would render a proposed action ineffective. Roll call vote to seal the minutes: Tholl: Yes; Querrard: Yes; White: Yes. Motion passes, 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.