

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 25, 2024

At the Selectmen's Meeting held on Monday, March 25, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. the following Board members were in attendance: Shawn White, Abbey Querrard, and Scott Black

Tina Wright, Town Clerk, swore in Scott Black, Selectman.

Chairman Querrard called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Abbey Querrard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following people were in attendance: Tina Wright, Town Clerk; Bob Loiacono; Dave Scalley; John Ross, Jr., Fire Chief; Gary Cross; Tom Ladd; Sondra Brekke; Maria Black, Scott Black, Jr.; Scott Burns; Candy Black; Brad Cross; Willis Wotton; Suzy Colt; Sara Doucette; Roger Doucette; Jay Ennis; Lloyd Van Horn; Jim Gooden; Todd Ferland; Fred Ingerson; Willis Wotton; Peter Russo; Judy Gessner, Bonnie Boswell, Mike Wright, Lisa Courcy, Randy Towns of All Metals Recycling

Old Business:

New Business:

Sara Doucette – Re: Letter from Board for Dalton Landfill Application

Sara Doucette said she is here tonight with Judy Gessner, Bonnie Boswell, Mike Wright, new President of Forest Lake Association. The Town of Whitefield voted in 2020 that they were opposed to the landfill. Sara is here to ask if the Conservation Commission and Selectboard would both weigh in on the wetlands permit application permit for the proposed Dalton landfill. Sara said some of the area conservation commissions have done some great work to show why the wetlands application is flawed. Based on studies and according to hydrologists that Dalton Conservation Commission have consulted with the submitted study is really an inadequate study. There needs to be much deeper drilling, more bedrock analysis, and hydraulics analysis in order to protect the water flow from the landfill site to Forest Lake, Burn's Lake, John's River and the Connecticut River. It is a threat to the town's water supply. Sara did send materials to the Selectboard and Conservation Commission with a lot of the forms and letters other towns have done. They cited a lot of the work that professionals had done. If you can say you endorse these studies and feel this is a threat to the town's water supply in other ways as well.

Shawn White said he is fine with the Conservation Commission writing a letter. Shawn said last time we discussed this the Board felt we have belief in DES, and the Board backs the Conservation Commission and are 100% behind them. The Board at that point said we don't need to get involved with it. DES is here for the State of NH and to protect the residents and Shawn believes they are here for us. Shawn works for DOT and works closely with DES. We

are all state bureaus and don't let anything slide. They hold things to the highest degree. If the Conservation Commission wants to write a letter, Shawn is fine with that. Scott Black asked about the background with Casella and getting in there. There were millions of dollars spent, and there were a lot of issues and DES is still helping them. Sara is not sure Bethlehem knew what they were getting into. It was an existing dump Casella took over and built an extensive landfill.

Sara said she differs with Shawn. Their citizen's group has done a lot of research and feel that the State has not funded DES adequately, and they will tell you that. They don't have adequate staffing or money. DES is not doing its own study. DES has not been open to public interest and public comment. Edith Tucker said exactly what Shawn said DES will take care of us, and if you talk to Edith today, she will tell you she found out differently and has been fighting this for five years.

Read about PFAS contamination. Casella had a 9,000-gallon spill recently and are still trying to clean the leachate out. Casella has had catastrophic spills everywhere they operate. We need to speak up against this. They are not competent stewards of the environment. Sara said she has zero confidence in them. The proposed sight for this landfill is the worse geological site there could be--they are fracturing bedrock at that site. Littleton Conservation Commission wrote a good letter. Bethlehem Conservation Commission wrote a huge letter. There are lots of models to look at. If we don't stop this now, it is going to be our legacy.

Sondra Brekke asked if Sara is asking the Board to write a letter in opposition to this? Sara said if the Conservation Commission could do digging in the reports and write their opinion then the Board can say we endorse their findings. Shawn said to clarify, the Conservation Commission can write a letter, and the Board of Selectmen will back it, but it is going to come from the Conservation Commission. We will write and endorse what the CC says. Lisa Courcy said the Conservation Commission meets again on April 10th and will put something together by then and will forward to the Board of Selectmen.

Jay Ennis – Re: Mt. Washington Regional Airport – Request to submit a grant request for an additional \$32,000 in ARPA Grant Fund

Jay said that the Mt. Washington Regional Airport received grant funding through the airport improvement program related to the ARPA grants that came out after Covid. The airport is eligible for an additional \$32,000 in ARPA grant funds. The grant has to be spent on operational expenses, but the Commission's intent is to justify this and transfer that money for capital improvements in the future so we are able to come up with the local without impacting the Town. Scott Black wanted to verify that be requesting these grants, there is no further commitment to the Town. Jay said that is correct.

Scott Black made a motion to allow the Mt. Washington Regional Airport to submit a grant application for \$32,000 for ARPA grant funds. The motion was seconded by Shawn White. All in favor, 3-0. Motion passes.

Randy of All Metals Recycling – Re: Recyclables at Transfer Station

Randy Towns of All Metals Recycling attended the meeting to discuss a change in the servicer for the recyclable's container at the transfer station. He wanted to let the Board know that they really appreciate the business and need the business. They have been here for 18 years and hate to lose the Town's business. Is it something we did? What did we do wrong? Shawn said they did not do anything wrong. There is a local landowner who has a recycling business and spoke with the PW director and went over costs for getting payment back for our recyclables. His dollar figures were better, and he is a local landowner in town. Randy said that there have been times when steel recycling hasn't been good, and when the steel wasn't worth anything. It was actually costing them money to get rid of steel. Shawn said the decision was made on the amount of money we are going to get back from a local landowner. The Public Works Director had informed us there was quite a big difference. Randy said they have been here through thick or thin. It is family run business, and it is very important to them. They hate to lose this business and hope there is some way they can get the Selectboard to reconsider. Shawn said this decision was made last fall. It wasn't relayed until the dumpster was full. If they would like to resubmit again to the Board, we will take another look at it. Randy said that is absolutely fine. That is more than fair. They do have an investment in the container, and they are in rough shape. Shawn said come up to the revenue by weight. Get the information to Judy and we will look at. Randy thanked the Board. All they do is metal recycling. Jim Gooden said that the current dumpster is full, actually more than full and needs to be emptied. The Board agreed to have All Metals empty the current dumpster, and we will go from there once they submit their new bid.

Open 2005 Ford E-450 Ambulance Bids

The Town advertised For Sale By Sealed Bid: The Town of Whitefield is accepting sealed bids for: 2005 Ford E-450 Ambulance, Diesel with Med-Tech Ambulance Body, 69,793 Miles. Can be viewed at the Whitefield Town Office, 56 Littleton Road, Whitefield, NH. Questions can be directed to the Selectmen's Office at 603-837-2551. Bids are due no later than 4:00 p.m. on March 25, 2024 at the Selectmen's Office (or by mail) to Town of Whitefield, Selectmen's Office, 56 Littleton Road, Whitefield, NH, 03598. Bids should be sealed in an envelope and clearly marked "Used Ambulance Bid". Ambulance is being sold as it. No warranty or guarantee to be provided. Bids will be open and read at the Selectmen's Meeting on March 25, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. The Town of Whitefield reserves the right to reject any and all bids received if deemed in the best interest of the Town.

Two Bids received:

R Enterprises, LLC, Greenville TN - Bid of \$3,500 – If approved a check in the amount of \$3500

will be mailed to the Town of Whitefield. Transportation will be handled by R Enterprices LLC within 30 days of the purchase date.

Scott Forbes, Lancaster – Bid of \$1,455

Fire Chief Ross said he feels we should accept the high bid and get rid of it. Scott Black asked Chief Ross what is it worth? Chief said it is all stripped. It has been broken down for the last six months. The Town has been battling with that ambulance for quite a few years and had had nothing but problems. Shawn said will they give us \$5,000? Shawn offered to contact them and negotiate, and the Board was ok with this. If they won't, the \$3,500 is a bid the Town will accept.

David Scalley – Re: Fireworks Permit Time Extension

David Scalley said he does his annual fireworks show around June 15th. He will hire police and fire. He is asking to go until 11:00 pm as it stays light out until 9 to 9:15. The Town fireworks permit says 10:00 p.m. Chief Ross explained that the town fireworks permit is for Class C fireworks, which is consumer fireworks you can buy locally. Dave has done these displays in the past. The town permit says 10:00 p.m. For Class B fireworks, which are bigger fireworks, you need to apply to the State of NH for a permit for that. The State of NH will have to come and inspect for that and there is no time frame on that permit. You need a licensed person to shoot them off, and the Chief of Police or Governing Body needs to sign off on it. The state insures it meets all the requirements.

Dave said that they will be held at his property on Green Meadow Drive off of Colby Road. Have had it there the last 3 to 4 years.

Shawn said he is fine. Scott said it sounds like it is more of a state permit. Town has control over Class C and those will be over by 10 pm. Scott said it is more of a neighbor thing and if they are fine with it. Scott suggests reaching out to the neighbors and see if they have problems going until 11 pm. There is probably always going to be someone who doesn't like it, but if you notify them in advance so they can take care of their animals, etc. Dave said he has let his neighbors know in the past. Suzy Colt – how do you define neighbor? She can hear those fireworks Dave does very loudly. Suzy is coming today to put it on her calendar.

Chief Samson said the reality of fireworks is regardless of situation there is going to be a group opposed to it, a group in the middle, and some who support it. Chief Samson said before we did this ordinance, during the summer we said 9 to 10 pm on the weeknights and 10 or 11 pm on the weekends. It is not going to make a difference. People who are upset about it are going to be upset about it regardless what time they are done.

Sara Doucette said it makes a big difference if it is 10 or 11. You can say the cut off is 11, but it will go past 11. Chief Samson said this is different—this is a very well-regulated event in particular and it is inspected by the State Fire Marshall. It is certainly done when it is supposed

to be done. Maria Black asked what is the event? Dave said we have it every year--a family party and invite family and friends. Dave said he is a member of the NH Pyrotechnics, and they come up and light off fireworks. There is no special occasion.

Chief Ross said that this organization gave a free show at the airport about 5 years ago. They had food vendors. Dave's property is next to the airport.

Shawn is fine with it. Scott said it is one day opposed to every weekend. If he had an event and it was special, he would hope his neighbors would understand it is one day. Abbey said it comes down to the state and a time extension. Chief Ross said that the state doesn't have a restriction on the time frame. The Town is who has the time limit.

MVG Sewer Invoice Follow-Up

Abbey recused herself from this discussion.

Lloyd VanHorn, General Manager of the Mountain View Grand, said this is a historical process that the Mt. Views pays out of their own funds for sewer and septic repairs and maintenance and then what is paid is deducted from the Mt. View Grand sewer bill. Shawn said originally it was only supposed to be just water going into the system not the solids. Solids are going into those tanks that is why they are running into the pumps. The original agreement the solids would be pumped at Mt. View Grand and only the other stuff was going into the system. Taking the solids is what seems to be causing the problem. The costs are thru the roof. Lloyd suggested that maybe the Town can speak with Welch's about that waste that is also coming from other residences up the street. The Mt. View pumping costs have gone up as well. It has been a problem for 10 years then the pumps went out. Shawn said that their system is taking solids, which originally they did not do, and that is a concern. Lloyd said that no repairs have done without the involvement of the town. Lloyd said he believes Mr. Larson had that verbal understanding and there was a lot of verbal back and forth. Mr. Larson didn't have the prior years' experience. Lloyd said that their legal team felt the agreement was very clear. Lloyd said they are asking for their sewer bill to be abated, per the agreement, so they are not showing up as delinquent. Lloyd said there should be no interest, as they asked for this issue to be addressed in August.

Discussion ensued about what was owed and what was to be abated. Scott said there was a lot of agreements that were supposed to be written down. Shawn said we do need to sign an abatement as that is what the agreement says.

Shawn made a motion to abate the sewer bill in the amount determined by the Water/Sewer Collector. We need clarification on what we are abating. There will be no interest on that amount. Scott Black said he had to pay interest on a water bill he was late paying on because he thought he had paid it already. The motion was seconded by Scott Black. All in favor, 2-0. Motion passes.

Eclipse Traffic & Concerns

Shawn White said that he was contacted by the State of New Hampshire (Bob Cristonson/Emergency Management Contact) who has come up with a traffic plan for the eclipse. They have a concern that traffic could be backed up along the common. They would like to block off Route 142 in front of the monument. That would only leave one intersection at the blinking light that would require traffic control if needed. Shawn said Tara Giles had contacted him about an event on the common and blocking off the street in front of the Bank. Shawn said it will be the town's responsibility to put up Type 3 barricades to block off the road. It was noted that it is a state road and they should be responsible for putting up the barricades. They are leaving it up to the town if we want to block off traffic or just leave it the way it is. Chief Samson said this is the first time he has heard this plan. Chief Samson said the PD has a plan in place for extra officers to work that day as the schools will be closed. Chief Samson said he does not feel we are at that point to close off that intersection, and that intersection is notoriously a bad intersection. If we get to the point we see a dramatic influx, then we can close that section and put a person on traffic control duty. We will only use it if we have to. Shawn asked Chief Samson to reach out to Mr. Cristonson, who is willing to work with us.

Chief Ross said he agrees it is a state road, let them shut it down. Abbey suggested using our notification signs coming into town, and Ed said that is great idea that we will discuss.

Scott said he feels we should leave it up to the Fire and Police as they are the ones who will be out and actually dealing with it. It is small window of time, and we want everyone safe. Scott said Groveton is the begging of 100%, and Lincoln and Woodstock are already sold out. Chief Ross said the area towns have been meeting with Weeks, and ramping up personnel.

Public Work Questions

Todd Ferland, Highway Department Foreman, had a list of items he had for discussion/thoughts:

2009 Ford F550 used to haul sludge from sewer plant to NCES is not currently safety inspected.

Sludge Hauling is currently happening one load (average 4-5 tons) a week.

Sludge haul to the Bethlehem landfill is a two-person job, averaging three hours per trip and requires Class-A driver's licenses.

2011 Ford F350 pickup – Todd was advised this vehicle would be assigned to the Sewer Department and this vehicle needs extensive body and framework to pass state inspection.

The board discussed with Todd different options to address these issues. Rob had said that the contractors he had spoken to would not be able to do this because of the tight area to get the truck and trailer in and out of. The Board said we will have Judy reach out to Beattie and Normandeau and see if they can come down and get together with Todd and Willis and look at this for us and give us a price to do the sludge hauling. Todd said these issues were brought to the attention of the Public Works Director in September. Shawn said they were not brought to

the Board. The Board asked Willis for the time being if he uses his own private vehicle for checking the pumping stations to keep track of his mileage and we will reimburse him for his mileage.

Culverts Newell Road; Parker Road (two):

Discussed the culverts. This is something we will need to come up with a plan to do these. Permits can take 12 to 18 months. The Board asked Todd to keep a band-aid on these until we come up with a plan and get our permits in place. We need to prioritize what has to be done.

Town Roads without Town owned turn arounds for snow plowing (seventeen roads):

Todd has a concern with this. No answer for this.

Town Garage, only two of the six main overhead doors are 14' wide needed to enter with a wing-mounted truck:

Will discuss at a later date

Building Maintenance, dept. specific (each dept. takes care of their own)

Will discuss at a later date

Trash Pick-Up at Boat Launches (Mirror Lake, Burns Lake) not owned by Town:

This is a sticky situation. We have agreements with Fish & Game that we are supposed to maintain these. Todd said there is a problem with household garbage being dumped. The PD does follow-up on these when possible. We realize it is an issue. It is easier to have the garbage cans than to have to go pick up the trash that is left all over.

Time Off:

Todd is wondering who do we approach for this. Shawn said he is responsible for the highway department workers, and for his requested time off he can let Judy know, and she will let the Board know.

Airport Plowing:

This is something we will reschedule and discuss with Jay Ennis of Mt. Washington Regional Airport and Todd Ferland.

Willis Wotton, Sewer Treatment Plant Operator reported he had a problem with the Pump Station at Grandma's. Champlain Pump Systems was up today, and they determined that all the controls work except for starters and controllers and they will be getting him a price quote.

Union Street Project – The engineer for the Union Street project, Owen Chaplain of Wright Pierce Engineers was in attendance at the meeting. Shawn said that we believe Edward Samson will be contacting Owen as we move forward with the Union Street project. Owen said the DOT needs a letter from the town to execute the contract. We are basically at the goal line of getting

an agreement. IGE was completed and negotiated a fee and met in the middle. Rob never provided them with a scope and fee approval with the IGE. He sent the agreed fee to DOT, but they need a letter. That is one of the first priorities that need to be done.

Jim Gooden said Normandeau was wondering about the building project that needs to be done at the transfer station. The Board said we will discuss this at a later date.

It was decided to not have a Free Transfer Station Day at this time, as we are short-staffed at the transfer station.

Paul Cormier was inquiring about a clean up bucket for the old backhoe at the transfer he would like to purchase it? Todd said he would look into it, and we can put it out to bid. Scott asked what would be a minimum ball park figure be? Todd thought maybe \$500. He will check into it and we can put together a bid.

Chief Ross asked about the plans for the Public Works Director office. He was wondering about the Fire Department using it. Shawn said we need some time before we decide on that office space.

Candy Black asked about moving that “No Parking” sign closer to Sunny’s. It is very difficult to pull out from Jefferson Road. Shawn said then we would have to look at the space in front of the Gun Store. It is tough call. The business owners in town don’t want to lose anymore parking spaces, and if we moved those it would take parking spots away. That intersection as a whole is a nightmare. Peter Russo asked about lowering the speed limit, which in turn affects time and distance. Shawn said we can’t legally lower it below 25 mph. There is a process to go thru with the state to lower speed limits.

April 8th & April 15th will be the Selectboard meetings for April.

Approve March 4, 2024 & March 12, 2024 Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Shawn White to approve the March 4, 2024 and March 12, 2024 Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Abbey Querrard. Motion passes, 2-0. Scott Black abstained.

A motion was made by Shawn White to enter non-public session at 8:09 p.m. pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3, II (a) for employee issues. The motion was seconded by Scott Black. Roll call vote: Querrard: Yes; White: Yes; Black: Yes. Motion passes, 3-0. The board entered non-public session at 8:09 p.m.

The Board adjourned from non-public session at 9 :18 p.m.

A motion was made by Shawn White 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. Roll call vote to seal the minutes: Black: Yes; Querrard: Yes; White: Yes. Motion passes, 3-0.

The Board's representatives for departments for emergency situations:

Scott: Police

Abbey: Fire

Shawn: DPW – Sewer/Transfer Station/Highway/Water

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.