

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 20, 2019

Present: Michael Strait, Jeanne Gervais, Heather McElroy, Mark Castonguay, Don Sackett, Lisa Moore, Joel Cope and Teresa DeBonville

Chairperson, Michael Strait called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

The public hearing for the Transportation Alternatives Program grant opened at this time. Joel described the program to the board, and the board agreed this was a good idea. No public comment was made.

Update agenda: Dan Renaud requested permission from the board and road foreman to dig up a portion of Newark Road to place electrical lines to his property underground. This would be a 4 foot section, and Mr. Renaud said that he would replace the road with good gravel when he was finished. Mr. Renaud explained that it would probably take only about 4 hours to complete the project; and traffic would still be able to pass thru. The start date would be as soon as possible before the ground freezes. A motion was made by Jeanne Gervais to grant Mr. Renaud permission for this request. Heather McElroy seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Public comment: Don Sackett was present to discuss a problem about storm drainage onto his property. The board agreed to send a drainage agreement to the neighbor, Stephen Dwyer to sign to be able to start work on remedying the problem.

Newport ambulance: Newport ambulance asked to be on the agenda; but were unable to attend.

Road department: Mark informed the board that the dump trucks had been in the repair shop, but were all back now.

Mark will talk to Brighton Garage about where to put snow when they plow.

Buildings and maintenance: Nothing.

Pay orders: The board reviewed and signed the pay orders for the road account, and the general account.

Employee Health insurance and Medicare: The board reviewed the numbers from the MVP plan for the town employees.

Mark Castonguay had asked about options with the board for a "buy out" from the town's insurance for him and his family. The board will look into options that the town has and legalities on this situation before giving Mark a definite answer on this.

Lisa Moore asked for clarification as to what the town would cover for the employees and/or family members that were being forced to sign up for Medicare because they can not be covered by the town's insurance any longer. A motion was made by Jeanne Gervais to pay up to \$400.00 per month to cover the cost of Medicare and a supplemental plan for those employees and family members forced to be removed from the town's health insurance plan. Heather McElroy seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried. Michael Strait informed Lisa as well, that this would be re-examined every year just as the employee's health insurance is.

Recycling Center hours for holidays: The board confirmed that any holiday which falls on the days that the recycle center is normally open will be paid double-time to the employee.

Local Emergency Management Plan: A motion was made by Jeanne Gervais to put a \$1000.00 spending limit in the "LEMP" in case of unforeseen events during a declared emergency. Heather McElroy seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Essex NRCD fund request: The board clarified that the request from NRCD to up their appropriation from \$200.00 to \$500.00 will be placed on the warning for the 2020 town meeting.

Approve previous minutes: The board reviewed the minutes of the November 6, 2019 meeting. A motion was made by Jeanne Gervais to approve the minutes as printed. Heather McElroy seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Other business: The board agreed to have the Water and Sewer commissioner's sign the contract with Piscataqua and the select board will sign afterwards. The board had no questions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.