

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 21, 2024

Present: Jeanne Gervais, Heather McElroy, Mike Testut, Pierre Gervais, Greg Manning, Noah Bond, Teresa Albacares, Mercy Manning, Jamie Budrewicz, Kathy Nelson, Lou Quigley, Matthew Wilson from the Chronicle, Gwyn Worthington, Brett Hedges and Teresa DeBonville.

Attending virtually: Mike Strait, Joel Cope, Ed Barber from the Newport Daily Express, Bruce Webster, Susan Foy, and Karen Kotecki from NEK Broadband.

The chairperson, Jeanne Gervais, called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Updates to the Agenda: None.

Public comment: Lou Quigley was present to ask the board for a decision on whether the town would be able to help with the cost of repairing his driveway after the July flooding. Mr. Quigley feels that his driveway flooded due to the negligence of the town and has asked if they would help cover the cost of the repairs. Noah told Mr. Quigley that he has sent the invoice for the repairs to the insurance company but has not yet received a reply as to whether this would be covered. The board told Mr. Quigley that they would be waiting to hear from the insurance company about their decision before pursuing with a decision on this matter.

Kathy Nelson was present to ask the board if they had received the signed receipt of the petitions given to the town clerk. The board has received the receipt and has acknowledged the receipt of the verified signatures of the petitions. Ms. Nelson stated her concerns on how the petition reads that this election shall be held on November 5, 2024, with no delays and no revisions. The board will need to investigate the process and law which needs to be followed to proceed with the Australian Ballot election as the petition states. Michael Testut motions to accept the petition. Pierre Gervais seconds the motion to accept the petition. More investigation will be done before we proceed with this. Susan Foy stated that she was offended by this petition and wanted this stated in the minutes of the meeting.

Gwyn Worthington was present to ask for the status of the estimate sent to the insurance company on the claim of her trees, and asked when someone would be up to repair her rock wall. Noah told Ms. Worthington that the insurance company has the information needed, and that it is now in their hands.

Brett Hedges was present to ask when he would receive a public apology in writing for false accusations against himself and his business.

NEK Broadband: Karen Kotecki from NEK Broadband was present to discuss with the board a location to put a host optical line site. Karen mentioned that the spot that they would come up with would be on the fire department property behind the station. The board mentioned that they would like to see exactly where this will be placed. A motion was made by Heather McElroy to grant an easement if the placement of the OLT site would not be in the way of the ATV Trails and all permits were filed and in place, and also to have Noah sign all the documents necessary for the process. Pierre Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Library Trustee Appointments: A motion was made by Heather McElroy to appoint Tara Martin, and Sandra Frizzell as the new library Trustees. Pierre Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Pay Orders: The board reviewed and signed the pay orders for the road department expense account and the general expense accounts.

Town manager's report: Noah went over the town manager's report. See the attached copy.

In his report, Noah mentioned the contractual figures for heating fuel for the upcoming 2024-2025 heating season. Noah gave the board two bids that had come in. A motion was made by Heather McElroy to allow Noah to go with the cheapest supplier after receiving a third quote. Pierre Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Other business: The board discussed giving Bruce Rumball-Petre a paid day off as well as the road crew for all the overtime worked during the flooding. After discussing that Bruce did not work as many hours as the road crew, the board decided to not include him in the extra paid day off to recuperate from all the hours worked during the flooding.

Greg Manning asked when the vacancy position for a road crew member would be posted. Noah will be working on this next week.

Mike Strait mentioned to the board that the CUD will be holding a meeting with all board members in town on October 19, 2024, and the select board will probably be invited to attend this meeting.

Gwyn Worthington mentioned to the board about a utility pole on Bellevue Avenue that didn't have any dirt under it. The board will have the road crew investigate this, and Mike Testut mentioned having the road crew look at the ditch on Pleasant Street near the digital speed limit sign.

Noah mentioned to the board to think about what policies and envisions that they would like to be working on.

Approve minutes of the previous meeting minutes: The board reviewed the minutes of the August 7, 2024, meeting. A motion was made by Heather McElroy to approve the minutes as printed. Pierre Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.