

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 4, 2024

Present: Noah Bond, Jeanne Gervais, Heather McElroy, Greg Manning, Mike Testut, Jamie Budrewicz, Pierre Gervais, Gwyn Worthington

Attending Virtually: Mike Strait, Mercy Manning, Bruce Webster, Joel Cope

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

Pledge of Allegiance: All attendees stood for the Pledge.

Updates to the Agenda: None

Public Comment: Jamie Budrewicz asked about the battery in the digital speed limit sign on Pleasant Street. The Road Crew is working on packing the sign and shipping it to Massachusetts for repair/battery replacement. The expected turnaround is about a month.

Gwyn Worthington asked about the status of the estimate sent to the insurance company on the claim of her trees. Noah informed Ms. Worthington that he spoke to the insurance adjuster and suggested three local arborists to assist with the claim. He informed Ms. Worthington that the claim is in their hands. Ms. Worthington also expressed concern about a rock wall on her property but within the town's right of way, stating that proposed edging and ditching will cause erosion and undermine the integrity of the wall and driveway. The Board informed her that they would visit the property to gather information but that proposed measures would not undermine her driveway.

Approval of Line of Credit from Community National Bank: Due to the ongoing expenses associated with the first and second July 2024 flooding events, Noah requested that the Town obtain a line of credit from Community National Bank in the amount of \$750,000 (5.07% interest with a 12-month term). He explained this will allow the Town to draw on credit for repairs/recovery measures pending reimbursement, track expenses accurately, and provide full transparency to the public. A motion is made by Greg Manning to approve the CNB line of credit in the stated amount. Pierre Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Heather McElroy makes a motion to authorize Noah Bond to sign on line of credit. Mike Testut seconds, all in favor, so carried.

Approval for Town Manager to be Added to the CNB Account: Noah requested that he be granted online access to the CNB account. This allows him visibility into the account and the ability to make ACH payments only. Heather McElroy makes a motion to approve Noah's access to the CNB account for these purposes. 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 attached copy). In his report, he discussed the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC), established in the Town Hall Gym. The DRC will be open Sunday-Saturday from 8:00am - 7:00pm, and FEMA may be in Brighton for up to 90 days. Noah also updated the Board on the MERP Grant. Grant submission is in September 2024, with award notification in October 2024. If granted MERP funds will cover energy efficiency improvements/updates in Town Hall, the Town Garage, and the Railroad Depot.

Other Business:

The position on the Road Crew is still open and the Town is actively seeking applicants. Noah is reviewing resumes with Road Foreman Andy Martin. Applicants must have a CDL-B to be considered.

Noah informed the Board that he is working to obtain a Wetlands permit to implement a temporary bridge on 10 Mile Square Road, which will enable work on a permanent bridge. He also discussed a large hole on Pleasant Street. It will be plugged with concrete and the road secured so a new culvert can be installed. Both projects are flood-related and are reimbursable through FEMA. He also discussed the need for edging and ditching on Bellevue/Pleasant Street, as well as culvert replacement, to mitigate flood risk.

Noah informed the Board that he accepted the heating oil bid from Oil Supply for the 2024-2025 heating season. He updated the Board on the proposal that NEK Broadband host optical line site be located at the Fire Department. Noah suggests that it be located at the Town Garage so it does not obstruct parking, snow removal, trail access, etc. He is waiting to hear back from NEK Broadband.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting: The board reviewed the minutes of the August 21, 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 6:25pm.