

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

Present: Noah Bond, Mike Strait, Jeanne Gervais, Heather McElroy, Greg Manning, Mike Testut, Pierre Gervais, Rick Hannux, Michelle Wilcox, Doug Brent, Jamie Budrewicz, Annie Budrewicz, Sheila Alabaraces, Beth Rodondi, Andy Martin, Brett Hedges, Mike Strait, Lisa Cooper, Trish Furino, John Furino, Donna Yeaden, Wayne Yeaden, Judy Valente, Norman Whiting, Gwyn Worthington, Ed Barber

Attending Virtually: 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: Judy Valente inquired about a letter she and other property owners had received from the town regarding planned road work on Pleasant St/Bellevue Ave. Noah explained that the town communicated with property owners abutting the project, which will include ditching, edging, and jetting. The focus is on diverting water from the road.

Gwyn Worthington attempted to discuss her stone wall but was advised by Jeanne Gervais that they could not speak to the matter because of the ongoing legal case.

Brett Hedges spoke about a letter from the zoning administrator, as well as the zoning bylaws she had sent him regarding his Meadow St. auto shop property. Mr. Hedges said that he is making concerted efforts to clean his property of “wrecked” or “junk” vehicles to move into compliance. He expressed that he felt his business was being singled out. Zoning administrator Beth Rodondi said she would only talk about his situation and that Hedges had multiple violations and complaints from neighbors. Noah suggested Mr. Hedges and Ms. Rodondi meet to discuss this issue further.

Rick Hannux brought up the extra traffic and excess dust on Creamery Road due to the solar installation. Noah said he would speak to Green Lantern Solar regarding measures to mitigate this.

Library and Fire Department Budget Report: Michelle Wilcox, Director, Island Pond Library, requested the Board allocate an additional \$3000 for the library budget. She said that while the library is able to obtain grants, this is not a secure source of funding and additional town support would allow the library to deliver additional programming for the community. Joel Cope noted that the library budget had not increased in several years.

Rick Hannux, Chief, Brighton Fire Department, requested that the board allocate an additional monies totalling \$6500 for equipment purchase, training, equipment maintenance, and maintenance/repair. He also told the Board that the newest fire truck in the fleet is a 1996 and indicated that they were looking for options to purchase a newer, used, truck in the coming years.

Bridge Project Discussion: Noah discussed the need to address the washed-out bridge on 10 Mile Square Road, either by installing a temporary bridge while building a permanent bridge or by installing a permanent bridge only. Work on the temporary bridge is not reimbursable and would cost an estimated \$250,000. The state will not cover any costs because there are other routes available to enter and exit 10 Mile Square Road. Heather McElroy made a motion to put in a temporary bridge. Pierre Gervais seconded 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). The town will proceed with planned road work on Pleasant St./Bellevue Ave. Noah informed the Board that the MERP grant application will be submitted Thursday, September 19, 2024. He also addressed the issue of the NEK Broadband host critical optical line site. It will be located on property within the town's right of way near the fire station. It will not impede traffic, snow removal, parking, or fire department activity.

Noah informed the Board that the town has two strong candidates for the open road crew position. They are conducting background checks and interviews and hope to hire within three weeks.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting: The board reviewed the minutes of the September 4, 2024, meeting. A motion was made by Pierre Gervais to approve the minutes as printed. Greg Manning seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Adjourn: Heather McElroy made a motion to adjourn at 7:18. Pierre Gervais seconded the motion, all in favor, so carried.