

TOWN OF WHEELOCK SELECTBOARD MEETING

November 7, 2024 6:00 PM

Present: Selectboard Ann Lawless, Mike Richardson, Scott Lang; Town Clerk Carol Rossi; Erin Swigart Assistant Treasurer; Enid Ellis; Hannah Morris & Wyatt Moreau from Wheelock Village Store; Shane Lanpher, Fire Chief; and recorder Meaghan Rinehart.

Call to order 6pm, by Ann

Changes to Agenda:
Signing warrants

The Selectboard Welcomes Hannah and Wyatt new owners of the Wheelock Village Store

Mike motions, seconded by Scott, to accept tobacco license for Wheelock Village Store. All in favor. Motion carries.

Mike motions, seconded by Scott to accept secondary alcohol license for Wheelock Village Store. All in favor. Motion carries.

Mike motions, seconded by Scott, to accept tobacco substitute endorsement. All in favor. Motion carries.

Ms. Morris is looking to solicit round up to charity suggestions, plans to improve gas pumps and make some upgrades to the store and create apartments, deli will be upgraded and hours will increase. In time gas pumps will be able to take cards. She noted that a Phase 1 environmental review has been completed.

OLD BUSINESS

Emergency Procedures

Marc Brown is thanked for his years of service.

Carol would like there to be someone designated for emergency services, since Mr. Brown has resigned. Mr. Lanpher responded that the next step is yet to be determined.

Mr. Lanpher informed the board on the current protocols for other types of emergencies outside of the role of fire department, what they are able to take on and do and what they are not and gives his support to whom the town would designate, and agrees to fill the role on a temporary basis until someone is designated.

The Selectboard asked questions about ways residents can be notified in the event of an emergency and whether we should create a list of vulnerable residents that should be given a check-in in the event of an emergency.

Security Cameras Proposal from Jon Potter, estimated cost \$1500. Scott makes motion, seconded by Ann to delegate Mike to get more information on specifics of what will be installed. All in favor. Motion Carries.

Work Environment Ann reached out to schedule a meeting with Sheffield Selectboard and was asked to wait until the regular January meeting. Ann followed up with Vt League of Cities and Towns, HR guidance and it warrants an executive session at a meeting with the two boards.

Carol informed the board the Dept. of Labor contacted the town about moving to bi-weekly pay and that we cannot do by monthly pay for employees. This does not include elected officials.

Town Hall Electrical Work Mike motions, seconded by Ann, to discuss electrical work project. Following a lengthy discussion, Mike motions, seconded by Scott, to engage to St Johnsbury Academy electrical class students to begin the work as stated in the proposal of 9/24 by Carol to focus on safety concerns with option to adjust the scope of work as needed. All in favor. Motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS

List of Pending Access Permits Mike motions, seconded by Ann to discuss access permits. The permit process was reiterated and made clear. Carol will send letters to homeowners whose applications are incomplete. Any permits filed prior to the recent access policy change will be honored under the old rules.

Budget Meeting Schedule Budget meetings are scheduled for 11\12, 11\26, 12\10

ROADS

Road Report

All emergency road repairs are complete. Road crew is readying for winter. The '09 needs 4 new tires. Sand screen, a winter necessity, will be repaired. The cost is \$2700 and approved via Wheelock Purchasing Policy. The new truck will not be ready yet as the dealer is unable to get parts. The town crew will remove the silt from Town Green.

The Selectboard and others present give a huge thanks to those who helped out with emergency repairs.

Loud Shout to contractors:

Damon Smith
Lawrence Riendeau
Kevin Riendeau
Garrett McHarg
Kyle Foster

And to Nate Bartlett: very cooperative landowner

2024 Contracts Ann motions, seconded by Scott, to sign contracts. All in favor. Motion carries.

Bids for Winter Plowing The sole bid was opened, from AKA property maintenance bid \$1500 for plowing a small section of Fall Brook Rd and Boulay Lane. Scott motions, seconded by Mike, to accept the bid. All in favor. Motion carries.

FEMA Updates The town is still waiting on category Z payments. Ann will submit one last piece of documentation Carol provided. FEMA is now reimbursing 90% of approved damage expenditures for the 2023 disaster. Previously the plan was to reimburse for 75%. Still waiting to set up the initial meeting for the 2024 disaster.

Ann motions, seconded by Scott, to have Mike sign the Warren Hill Trucking **Overweight Permit**.

At 8:36 PM Selectboard entering **executive session** to discuss personnel matter. At 9:02 PM the board comes out of executive session. The Selectboard made a decision to interview a candidate.

Ann motions, seconded by Mike, to adopt **minutes** of 10/15. All in favor. Motion carries.

At 9:04 PM Mike motions, seconded by Ann, **to adjourn**. All in favor. Motion carries.

Submitted by Meaghan Rinehart

Ann Lawless, chair

Mike Richardson

Scott Lange