

## **Town Of Wheelock Selectboard Meeting**

At Wheelock Town Hall and via Zoom

April 15th 2025

Present: Selectboard members: Ann Lawless, Mike Richardson, and Chuck Dill; Town Clerk Erin Swigart, recorder Meaghan Rinehart; citizens Brent Messier and Theresa Stimpson. Enid Ellis on Zoom.

6:04 pm **Call to Order** There were no Changes to the agenda.

### **ADOPT MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING**

Mike motions, seconded by Chuck to adopt minutes of 4\1\25. All in favor, so voted.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **VT Bond Bank Loan**

Ann read the VT Bond Bank resolution and clarified the rate and terms for the Selectboard and those present. The loan is for \$230,000 to be used for disaster relief repairs. with an interest rate of 1.30%. A portion will go to pay off the line of credit the town secured in August 2024. 50% of any FEMA payments for the 2024 disaster must be applied to this loan upon receiving payouts. Chuck motions, seconded by Mike to adopt the VT Bond Bank resolution as read and sign the related paperwork. All in favor, so voted.

#### **Animal Control Ordinance Draft**

Draft ordinance was reviewed and discussed. [The following details were confirmed by research after the meeting.] Once it is initially adopted by the Selectboard, the process of finalizing an ordinance involves a newspaper notice providing citizens the opportunity to file a petition to the Selectboard if they don't like the ordinance. The notice which will also be posted on the town website will provide details. Should a valid petition with the correct number of voter signatures (5% of checklist) be received, the Selectboard must call a special town meeting for a vote on the ordinance. If no petition is received, it goes into effect. Mike motions, seconded by Chuck to adopt dog ordinance. All in favor, so voted.

#### **MERP updates**

Postcards for the Energy Fair 5/17/2025 have been mailed out and plans are underway with help from Wheelock Community Initiative. Regarding the MERP Implementation project, we are waiting on window proposals due 5/2 to come in.

### **Vote to get rid of broken chairs & tables**

Our custodian needs a Selectboard vote to remove town property. Chuck motions, seconded by Mike, to dispose of broken, unfixable chairs and tables. All in favor, so voted.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Erin reports that software training will be started soon and audit meeting will be held on 4/29/25.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Appoint Eileen Boland and David Stahler Jr to NEKCV Governing Board**

Mike motions, seconded by Chuck, to appoint Eileen Boland and David Stahler Jr. to the NEKCV Governing Board. All in favor, so voted.

### **ROADS**

#### **Road report**

Chuck reports that things are starting to dry out, and crew is doing their best.

A resident complaint regarding Stannard Mountain Rd was read.

Dayton Blake's last day as an employee will be 4/18/25; he plans to continue to work as a temporary worker as needed, and hopes to return as a road employee for winter.

The Fire Department washed off the decks of the twin bridges (Peak Rd near Rte 122) and the crew are cold patching some potholes until better repairs can be made.

**Sign VTrans Financial Plan** Mike motions, seconded by Chuck, to sign the annual VTrans Financial Plan. All in favor, so voted.

**Equipment update** New Truck, lettering and registration. It was determined that registering new truck does not require a vote. Mike motions, seconded by Chuck, to have a magnet sign made with black background and white lettering, so as to resemble the lettering on the other truck. All in favor, so voted.

**09 Truck** Mike will take some photos and list it on Auction International. He has received a couple of local low offers, and will help those to bid online to the auction.

**Lawn mower** The search for a mower continues and a back up plan for someone to mow was discussed; perhaps our custodian if not road crew who will be busy.

**Gary Aubin Request** for trench across Allard Hill to bury electric lines & closing road. Chuck reported that Gary says it can be completed in 2 segments without full road closure. Chuck expressed familiarity with the state regs. Underground utilities will be marked.

**Fall Brook Request** Kurt Perry on Fall Brook Road (Class 4) requested that materials he is purchasing to do his own repairs on the road be delivered to the Town Hall parking lot. The Selectboard agreed to allow the old trailer pad in the side yard to be used for materials delivery for a duration of 15 days. Kurt will need to be mindful to not exceed the posted Fall Brook bridge weight limit of 16,000 lbs. Chuck motions, seconded by Mike for Kurt Perry to use side lot for materials delivery for 15 days. All in favor, so voted.

**Complaints** Residents have informed the Town on several occasions recently that vehicles were blocking access on Kenniston Hill Rd. Ann will write a certified letter to the property owner warning him of the violation and that towing is the next step.

**Damage to Garage** Shane Lanpher, Wheelock Mountain Carpentry, was the sole bidder for garage repairs (\$5,227.27). Chuck motions, seconded by Mike to accept the bid as is. A contingency that might require additional work after investigation was noted. All in favor, so voted.

**Driveway permits** Mike contacted residents on Peak Rd regarding their pending permits. He requested one homeowner to provide a plan for the proposed work. Another permit request had a clerical need and will be signed.

### **Twin bridge erosion**

Chuck looked at the bridge and thinks a state engineer should look at it.

Chuck made the Selectboard aware of 5 culverts found to have failed. Will be following up on options to replace.

### **FEMA 2024 update**

Ann reported that new reps from FEMA & VT Emergency Management have been assigned, and the first regular weekly meeting with them went well. Scott and Ann decided it would be best to forgo the FEMA mitigation process for work still to be completed because it takes too long. They will be focusing on the remaining work that could not be completed before winter on Stannard Mountain Rd, S Wheelock Rd, Minister Hill Rd Bridge, Boulay Road, Fall Brook Rd Bridge, and Sutton Rd. Reimbursement requests to FEMA for work already completed on these roads will be held up until the town develops the plans for the remaining work and secures any permits.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

**Review and sign warrants** Mike motions, seconded by Chuck to review and sign warrants. All in favor, so voted.

**CORRESPONDENCE** None

**VISITOR COMMENTS**

Resident inquired how to get their road on the list for ditching. Town Clerk advised.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** None needed.

**ADJOURNMENT** Mike motions, seconded by Chuck, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 8:34 pm.

Submitted by Meaghan Rinehart

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Ann Lawless, chair

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Mike Richardson

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Chuck Dill