

## **TOWN OF WHEELOCK SELECTBOARD MEETING**

12/16\25 6:00pm

Wheelock Town Hall and via ZOOM

Present: Selectboard members Ann Lawless, Mike Richardson and Chuck Dill. Charles Savoie, Theresa Stimpson, recorder Meaghan Rinehart, and Caledonia County Senator Scott Beck. Via zoom: Enid Ellis, Erin Swigart (town clerk), Marty Thieret, Paul Hayes (Caledonian-Record).

### **6:00pm Call to Order**

Changes to agenda: Vote for photo contest under Clerk/Treasurer report, and grant application information will be added to roads.

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

Chuck motions, seconded by Mike to adopt Selectboard minutes of 12/2/2025. All in favor, so voted.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Open and select bids for FEMA Alt Project grader stinger blades and tires**

Four distinct bids were received from Northern Tire for tires for the grader (6) and trucks (16). For grader stinger blades bids were received from Jordan Equipment Co, and from Wear Parts. After discussion, Mike motions, seconded by Chuck to accept bid for grader stinger blade assembly from Jordan (\$6085.36). Mike motions, seconded by Chuck to accept bid 1149447 from Northern Tire (\$23,504.16). All in favor, so voted.

Chuck motions, seconded by Mike to assign Ann to sign contracts when they come. 2 in favor, Ann abstained. Motion passes, so voted.

#### **Backhoe - financing**

Ann reported she had been in touch with backhoe vendor United Construction and Forestry. It will be ready in late January. She and Erin had been in touch with two local banks prepared with loan proposals when time comes. Bond Bank will be contacted. Issue tabled until machine is ready.

#### **Driveway permits**

No new communication.

#### **Dogs**

Ann has been in touch with Animal Control Office Cindy Cady and there has not been a visit to the property with violation. Topic was discussed and is in

conjunction with the next agenda item.

### **Violation of Solid Waste Ordinance**

Mike put together a one-page exhibit from his site visit with an excerpt from the on-line parcel map, photos and text showing the issues, blocking of right of way (ROW), and debris off the property, in violation of Wheelock's Solid Waste Ordinance. Chuck motions, seconded by Ann we send a letter to the resident to encourage them to comply with the ordinance and remove items from the ROW. All in favor, so voted. Ann will write the letter.

### **Pass motion to approve re-hiring Dayton Blake and opt-out**

Mike motions seconded by Chuck, that Dayton Blake will be rehired at \$26 an hour starting 9/8/25 with monthly health insurance opt-out payment of \$427.95 for Sept. thru Dec. to be paid in one lump sum in December 2025. (This action was necessary to validate a decision made at an October meeting but the information was not provided in open session following an Executive Session.) All in favor, so voted.

### **Verify approval to pay off Community Loan Fund #1888839050**

Mike motions, seconded by Chuck we pay off loan #1888839050 in the amount of \$232,503.88. All in favor so voted.

## **CLERK/TREASURER'S REPORT**

Proposed budget needs review and approval by first meeting in January. Erin requested that pay increases no longer be paid retroactively and begin after Town Meeting approval.

Cemetery bids will need to go out. Ann agreed to follow up.

All present at the meeting voted 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choices among 14 entries for the Town Report cover photo contest. Winner will be announced.

## **There was no NEW BUSINESS**

## **ROADS**

### **Road updates**

There have been numerous snow events already, including two afternoon storms requiring overtime.

Mike reported that information on the Galion and trailer has been submitted to the auction house and it bids can be ready by next meeting, 1/6/26.

## **Grants - Ann & Pat Moulton seeking CDBG funding for Hydrology & Resilience Study**

CDBG grant is due 3/2/26.

There is another grant opportunity from Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) with an application deadline of 1/20/26. Ann presented a draft letter of interest to apply. Ann motions, seconded by Chuck to apply to VCRD for the Climate Economy Resilient Communities proposal. All in favor, so voted.

Ann motions, seconded by Chuck to sign a draft letter of interest for VCRD grant. So voted.

There is a grant available from VTrans Highway Safety Improvements Program (HSIP) from \$5000 to \$50,000 and eligible projects include repair of broken guardrails, sign repair or replacement for curves, intersection improvement and trees encroaching roadway. Chuck and Ann attended a webinar and have reviewed the guidelines. Chuck motions, seconded by Mike to apply for HSIP grant. All in favor, so voted.

Chuck noted there is a tablet at the garage from when Malcolm was road foreman that should be re-instated to manage the Road Erosion Inventory (REI).

## **FEMA update**

Ann stated we will need to file an extension for Boulay and S Wheelock Rds. in January. Photos of completed work are required before the State will release its share of FEMA projects for '24 flooding.

Ann is working on separating Category Z administrative time from project management time in the time logs for Chuck and herself and struggling with the Excel spreadsheet. Vt Emergency Management has offered help.

## **VISITOR COMMENTS**

Theresa requested an updated delinquent tax report; Ann said it will be on the next agenda.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Greg Fields suggested extending WIFI to town garage using antennas. Chuck noted it would be helpful for those in the garage to have access for both parts inquiries and cell service. Ann will contact Jonathan Potter.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE AND ADJOURNMENT**

Mike motions, seconded by Chuck to sign warrants, documents and adjourn. All in favor so voted. Meeting Adjourned 7:39pm.

Submitted by Meaghan Rinehart

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Ann Lawless

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Mike Richardson

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Chuck Dill