

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
February 12, 2024
MINUTES**

Call to Order

5:30 – Chairman McGarry called the meeting to order

Present: Chairman Fred McGarry, Vice Chairman Richard Pitman, Selectwoman Cynthia McHugh, Selectman Will Huebner, and Selectman Steve Barry.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Library MOU:

Chairman McGarry states he had reviewed it and sent it back to the Library Trustees for final review. Sadie Stimmel explains they received it and after several edits and iterations they have a completed MOU that the Library Trustees are happy with. Chairman McGarry asks if anyone on the Board has questions and no one does so he states he will need a motion for the Chair to sign.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

Regular Business

Review of Outstanding Minutes 1/29/2024:

Motion: Selectwoman McHugh

Second: Selectman Huebner

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

Payroll Manifest/Accounts Payable Manifest:

- Payroll Manifest – 1/31/2024, Gross, \$95,546.98. Net, \$62,796.36. All ready approved and signed electronically by the Board.
- Accounts Payable – 2/12/2024, \$21,274.40

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

- Accounts Payable – 2/5/2024, \$1,479,873.97. \$1.4 million went to the school. Already approved and signed electronically by the Board.

Signatures/Correspondence:

- Signatures
 - Several Veteran's Tax Credits:
 1. Michael Klein McNeil. \$750.00.
 2. Barry J. Brown. \$750.00.

3. Charles Shaw. \$750.00.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman makes a motion to approve veteran's tax credits for Michael Klein McNeil, Barry J. Brown, and Charles Shaw in the amount of \$750.00 each.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 1 - Motion Carries

- Timber tax. Rosco and Kathleen Blaisdell. \$5778.45 to be collected.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman makes a motion to approve the collections of timber tax monies in the amount of \$5778.45 from Rosco and Kathleen Blaisdell.

Second: Selectman Huebner

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

- No Cost Change Order from R&D Paving to extend the completion work on a project started last year to June 30, 2024.

Selectman Huebner and the Road Agent, Pete Schibbelhute, discuss costs and decides change order works.

It is clarified there is no cost on the change order and that the original cost was \$195,132.00 and previous change order was \$186,570.00. This work order extends the work out while keeping it at \$186,570.00.

Lastly, they discuss where this work is being done.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman makes a motion to approve the no cost change order to extend the paving work with R&D Paving.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

The Board and Mr. Schibbelhute discuss what work is to be done next and the monies available.

- Road Name Request. Options are Cartier Way, Sprites Way, and Lilly Way.

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman makes a motion to approve the Road Name request of Cartier Way.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh

Discussion:

Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

- Correspondence -no correspondence

Town Administrator's Report:

Mr. Harrington states he does not have a report this evening.

Unfinished Business/New Business/Other Business:

- Unfinished Business
 - no unfinished business

- New Business
 - Selectman Barry brings up the contract for the hauling of waste and recycling from the transfer station and the costs of the transfer station. He explains his idea of some changes to that could be made at the transfer station. He asks that Board request Ray Ellis and Kevin Lemieux to research the communities around Deerfield and spend the next year coming up with a plan of what needs to be done with and to the transfer station.
The Board discusses the transfer station and changes that could be made and they decide to request Mr. Ellis and Mr. Lemieux to look into it and report back to them.
 - Selectman Huebner explains an email received from a citizen about the roads that included images and Mr. Schibbelhute explains he saw this as well and explains the work the highway department has been doing and why and provides the options to try to get things done faster, both including more funds.
It is agreed they are doing as much as they can and as quickly as they can with the funds and resources available and that possibly hiring 1 or 2 more people is part of the solution.
Lastly, Selectman Huebner suggests that they use the last of the ARPA funds on the roads and to come up with a list each month of what has been done and what will be done.
- Other Business
 - no other business

Non-Public Session

Citizen's Comments

- Kevin Verville. McCarron Road. Mr. Verville explains that he was the citizen who sent the email and explains what was in the email and why he sent the email.
- Harriet Cady. Ms. Cady believes there used to be 4 people working at the highway department and would like to know why they are not hiring more people to bring it back to 4.
- Ray Ellis. South Road. Mr. Ellis explains his career working for the NH DOT. He explains how the town of Madbury, town of Candia, and town of Rollinsford handles the road work for ideas that could possibly help Deerfield.
- Robert Prieto. South Road. Mr. Prieto agrees with the previous speaker and encourages the Board to move forward with the plan to create a list each month of what has been done and what will be done.
- Kevin Verville. Requests to have his email with the photos attached be added to the end of the minutes and Chairman McGarry agrees to have it attached.
- Leo Preston. Old Centre Road. Mr. Preston states he is concerned about the plowing and explains why and requests that they go back to doing it the way they used prior to 2 years ago.
Mr. Schibbelhute comes forward and speaks to the issue.
- Suzanne Steele. Harvey Road. Ms. Steele starts by giving her appreciation to Mr. Schibbelhute for the road crews hard work and Chairman McGarry's mention that towns with fewer road milage have larger crews because it brings perspective. She then speaks about her opinion on the transfer station and the research she has been doing on ways to improve the Deerfield transfer station.

Adjournment

Motion: Vice Chairman Pitman makes a motion to adjourn.

Second: Selectwoman McHugh
Discussion:

Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

Next Meeting: February 26, 2024 at 5:30 pm

*The Minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted by Randi Long, Recording Secretary
Pending approval by the Board of Selectmen*

Email from Kevin Verville:

Mr. Chairman, and members of the board:

I have put off sending this email for months now, hoping that the issues would be identified and corrected. These problems are serious, and expanding at an alarming rate. The Deerfield select board is in charge of the highway department, and it long past the time that these issues should have been identified, and corrected by the board.

Today I drove to DCS, and back home, and then to the dump. I was horrified by the amount of roads that have severe erosion along the edge of the pavement, which has, in many cases, already lead to the loss of paved roadway, and many more stretches where loss of paved road is imminent. To compound this issue of neglect, much of these stretches of road are roads Deerfield has recently invested tax payer money to rebuild. Yes, that is correct, we are about to start losing the paved edges of roads we recently fixed.

To be clear, I have not driven around town auditing the conditions of our roads. These are stretches of roads that are in such need of runoff edge repair (adding fill) that the average person, with no road construction experience, would agree is in desperate need of attention.

Again, to be clear, we are talking about replacing roadway gravel along the paved edge of roads. This is simple, easy, and inexpensive work that should be done proactively, not neglected as it is today. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Please do not give me the song and dance that this is a result of recent storms and we just haven't had a chance to get to it yet. Many of these stretches of road have been like this for months...almost a year! Can we please stop throwing good money after bad by doing major road fixes only to neglect their upkeep to watch them wash away again.

This is the responsibility of the select board! Get off your duffs and get it done. Stop waiting for citizen complaints to react to. Enough is enough. Take the bull by the horns and do the work that you were elected to do.

Meeting House Hill Road

Haynes Road

Range Road

Middle Road

McCarron Road

to name but a few. Take a drive around town, take notes, and get it done BEFORE the spring rains come and wash our roads away!

Respectfully,

Kevin Verville

9 McCarron Road

Deerfield, NH 03037

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