

Selectmen Meeting Minutes
July 26, 2023

Norman called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

Calling of the roll

Selectmen: Norman Beckwith, David Thorp, Bill Nye

Secretary: Carolyn Nye

Treasurer: Vera Davis

Guests: Jeff Mace, Kirk and Linda Hamilton, Tiffany and Gene Turner, Vera Davis, David Vangel, Tim Gora, Pam Knowlton, Hutch Gagne

David made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from July 12, 2023, as written. Norman seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

There was a lengthy discussion among the selectmen and residents with article 33 in the warrant which read to see if the Town of Shirley will vote to raise and appropriate \$38,550.00 to replace the Town Hall Roof and utilize the ARPA covid funds \$23,763.56 to defer the costs. Residents felt that the amount to fix the roof was high, they felt that someone could fix the roof for less, they felt it should have gone out to bid, that the bid was used on a personal level and not a professional level.

Normans' response to these comments the 3 selectmen had looked elsewhere for the bids but did not hear back from one, another person said they wouldn't fix the roof for less than \$50,000.00. Norman said since the 3 selectmen were unable to find anyone to fix the roof, they voted to allow Larry Stanley to do the work.

Norman made a motion to put the Shirley Town Hall Roof out to bid. Bill seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

The bid for the Shirley Town Hall Roof will go into the Eastern Gazette, The Shirley Post Office, Town Office, and the Town Website.

Vera read to Norman that the Auditor wrote that you may need to look at the article about grant rules because you're spending federal money and there may be some rules. You may not want to do competitive bidding in the environment you would be lucky to get many bids if at all. You may want to add language that in absence of availability of competitive bid process that you just get quotes. If you can get 3 good quotes to save you time you can put it in writing.

Geneva sent an email to Vera stating that she was appointed by the 3 selectmen to be Deputy Treasurer.

Vera responded with a Maine Statute 30-A MRSA section 2603 The Treasurer may appoint in writing 1 or more qualified persons to serve as his/her Deputy Treasurer. The appointment must be signed by the Treasurer. The Deputy serves the will of the Treasurer and may perform any duties of the office described by the Treasurer before assuming duties of office a deputy must be sworn and the oath recorded with the Municipal Clerk. A deputy's term of office coincides with the treasurer's term of office. If the treasurer leaves office any deputies term ends and loses his/her authority to act. Vera has appointed Carolyn Nye to be her Deputy Treasurer and has taken and signed an oath and it's recorded in the Town Office. Vera would like to appoint a second Deputy Treasurer in case she becomes sick or needs to go into the hospital. She needs someone who can step in and understands quick books programs and accounting.

Norman asked Vera if the \$30,000.00 that was discussed at a previous selectmen meeting was taken out of the sell of the tax acquired property at 35 North Rd. to offset taxes. Vera answered with we had to take out tax liens and we can't take a final figure out what the town expenses are that were spent on that property. Vera still needs to discuss this with the auditor on how this process needs to be handled.

The warrant was handed out and signed by the selectmen.

David was upset that Geneva sent an email to Vera that was inappropriate and feels that a town official should never send another town official such an email and Geneva needs to reply with an apology before the next selectmen meeting.

Vera would like Geneva to take the deposits either to her house or the Town Office.

A question was raised about Geneva working out of her home as Tax Collector. MMA states that at one time a person was allowed to work from their home as a Tax Collector. In the future any newly elected Tax Collector must work in the Town Office.

The Planning Board sent a resident a letter informing them that if they want to have a marijuana license in the town of Shirley, they must fill out a marijuana business license and pay a yearly fee.

Donny Denbow wants to sell his house to someone in Guilford. Donny wants the town to condemn the house and he wants the town to clean it up. Donny's wife does not want to sell the place. Donny was offered money from another party. They want the health officers' help in condemning the building and then Brian Turner will send a letter condemning the building. Then the Town will call the Town Lawyer to see what the next steps are to take.

Gene Jr's son asked if he could ride his ATV across the Town Property at the Upper Shirley Corner Rd to go to work.

Norman made a motion to allow residents to cross the town property at the Upper Shirley Corner Rd on ATV's or Snowmobiles. Bill seconded the motion carried 3-0.

David would like security cameras to be placed in the Town Office for security reasons. Norman will call Seacoast Security.

Linda thinks it would be good to have town policies.

Hutch asked if he could rent a space at the Fire Department stall for a riding lawn mower for the winter. Norman said he will find him a space.

Paul Brown will be getting the paperwork to fix the Upper Shirley Corner Road with a basic bid package.

The Auditor recommended that the county tax assessment needs to be put into the annual town warrant as an article.

David encouraged residents to keep coming to the meetings and having input with how they see the town being run and if they see something they are concerned about the selectmen doing to ask questions and to keep the selectmen moving in the right direction.

Norman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm. David seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Submitted by,
Carolyn Nye