

Selectmen Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2023

Selectman Norman Beckwith called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Calling of the Roll:

Selectmen: Norman Beckwith, David Thorp, Bill Nye

Secretary: Carolyn Nye

Guests: Tim Gora, Derek & Crystal Stimpson, Floyd Hartford, Linda Hamilton

David made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from September 6, 2023, as written. Norman seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Norman asked David if he had time to get some cold patch to fill some holes. David said he has not done it yet. Norman said he will go and see what he can find.

Norman will be reattaching the sign by the school bus turnaround from the tree that had fallen to another tree.

David asked Derek if he would explain further about the program the Greenville school uses for students who need community service. Derek explained that a high school senior needed so many hours of community service to graduate. Derek would like to see the Town of Shirley take this opportunity to allow a student to do some community service around the town. Norman was concerned about insurance reasons. The Selectmen asked Carolyn to contact the school to see what would be needed to fill out a form and to get with MMA risk management to see what their process is.

There was a discussion about the new law that went into effect in Maine about Tax Acquired Property in Towns. The new law went into effect on June 30, 2023. The selectmen were wondering if it would not apply to the Town of Shirley because the resident who won the bid had signed the quit claim deed and paid the rest of the bid on June 29th, 2023. Norman feels like the money that is supposed to be held in an account for 6 years is not fair to the residents who pay taxes if they are not here in 6 years. This issue is still being investigated.

Norman also discussed with the other selectmen that the Monson Fire Department was called to Shirley 2 times for the Ambulance and Monson did not show up they turned them around the first time because they didn't show up. They came again and they canceled them again. Bill said normally when they send out an ambulance there are 2 people who go out, a driver and an attendant. Norman responded they get into places where there is no room because of trash or clutter. Bill said they should be utilizing the proper equipment to get the person out of the house. Norman then went on to say the Monson Fire Department could not make it here to get the person out of the house. Someone here in town came and helped Northern Light. Floyd asked so they called

Greenville. Norman said no Greenville does not come to Shirley because they are not paid. The ones that helped a resident were people who came from Greenville and helped the ambulance. Floyd responded with the Monson Fire Department should have sent someone. Norman said that is what he was trying to get at is that the Monson Fire Department has an agreement with the town of Shirley if the dispatcher calls the Monson Fire Department for the ambulance they are to come to Shirley. Carolyn asked Norman if he had called the Monson Fire Department to find out about this situation. Norman said no because he was not concerned and was just letting the other selectmen know what he heard.

Norman would like to know who is going to pressure wash the town post office windows this year. David asked how it was handled last year and Norman responded with he was the one who handled it.

Crystal asked if a resident could, do it? Norman said he doesn't care who does if it gets done. David responded with as long as they have a pressure washer and insurance. David explained that you must have insurance these days to back up any job you want to do here in town. He gave an example of what needs to be done for someone to repair the Town Hall Roof.

Norman said there are some residents who would like to spiff up the picnic area where the ATVs like to park. They would like to dig up the tar and smooth it up and keep the ATVs from parking there. Floyd explained that it is a beautiful spot and should be kept nice for the town residents to enjoy for a picnic or to go fishing. He feels it isn't right because the ATVs are mostly from out of town and don't pay taxes here in town and they leave a mess and spin their tires destroying the tar and grass. Norman explained Floyd would have to put an article in the town warrant to be voted on during the Town Meeting.

There was a lengthy discussion between the residents and Norman. The residents see Norman cutting trees around town and want to know if another resident was allowed to cut those trees. Derek was concerned if Norman was out there cutting the trees alone and something were to happen to him who would be there to help him? Crystal asked how a resident could get on a list to cut trees if they had insurance. Norman responded with you would have to have the proper equipment to cut those types of trees down and have the proper insurance. Norman explained that he got permission from the 2 selectmen to cut those trees down after the storm. Crystal asked do you have to keep all town jobs between the selectmen or can others start having a chance. Norman said you find a suitable person that will do these jobs. Crystal wanted to know if she was suitable, and Norman responded with that was entirely up to the board. Crystal said that she has asked Norman a couple of times to do other jobs and the response is always no and feels discriminated against.

Tim asked Norman how much he gets paid an hour to do things around town. Norman said he only charges \$70.00 an hour for his excavator. He does not charge for his truck or chainsaws. Tim asked Norman how much he made in the last fiscal year and would like a copy. Carolyn will get a copy from the treasurer. Tim also asked why a question he had asked about there being a conflict of interest with the Blanchard Rd case and county commissioners was not in the last meeting minutes. Carolyn said because when he had asked the question the selectmen were not aware of it until the Town Lawyers called on September 14 to inform them of this situation. The selectmen also felt that anything going on with the Town Lawyers will not go into the selectmen meeting minutes until there is a final determination of a case. Norman let Tim know if he was interested in the case that there will be a hearing with the County Commissioners on October 17th and that date could change.

Linda was concerned with what was said about her at the last selectmen meeting regarding the reports in the town books. Chris Falla had come to that last meeting and said his taxes had gone way up within the past 5 years and wanted to see the town reports for the last 5 years. Carolyn had misled Chris Falla and said that the reports were wrong in those books done by Linda. Linda was very hurt by the comment and wanted to know why that had been said. She felt that the auditors never found any of her work done incorrectly. Linda further stated that the exact totals he is looking for would be found in the auditor books. Carolyn apologized to Linda and said that it was not her intention to make Linda look bad. Carolyn was trying to say that if he wanted to see how all the money was being spent in the town it would not show everything in the reports from Linda. Carolyn also thanked Linda for mentioning the best place to find those totals is in the audit books.

David made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm. Norman seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Submitted by,
Carolyn Nye