

Selectmen Meeting Minutes
December 27, 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

Guest(s): Tom Taliento, Karen Jodrey, Floyd Harford

David made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from December 13, 2023, as written. Bill seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

No Treasurer's report.

David made a motion to have the selectmen sign the paperwork for the Penobscot Forest easement turnaround for the plow on Blanchard Rd. Norman seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

David made a motion for the selectmen to sign a quit claim deed to return a property that went into tax lien foreclosure back to the resident who paid all taxes up to date. Bill seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Jason from Maine Municipal Association will be here to inspect the Town Hall, Fire Department, and the Town Office on January 24, 2024, at 6:00pm.

Karen Jodrey was wondering why there was no post in the newspaper for the Town looking for an Animal control Officer. She was upset that the selectmen had voted to do this at the selectmen meeting on November 15, 2023. Karen offered to do the job until the Town was able to find an Animal Control Officer.

Norman explained to Karen that the selectmen had talked it over at the selectmen meeting on November 29, 2023, and changed their minds after discussing that a lot of towns that do not currently have a dog officer are having difficulty in finding anyone to do the job. The selectmen were also concerned that if the Town doesn't have an Animal Control Officer it will fall into the hands of the selectmen, and they don't want the responsibilities that come with it. Norman suggested to Karen to investigate what it takes to become an Animal Control Officer and to get back with the selectmen to discuss it.

Karen is going to the County Commissioners because she wants the CC Road maintained by the Town. Karen said if you maintain part of it, you should maintain all of it. Karen said the CC Road starts at Draper Rd.

The selectmen explained to Karen that the Town does not own the CC Road. Norman said the E911 Addressing system changed it at Draper Rd a long time ago.

Norman and Mark Freeman repaired storm damage on the Blanchard Rd.

Tom Taliento wanted to know if the selectmen were aware of current FEMA funding for the state of Maine and the recent storm damage and was hoping this would be a great way to get the Blanchard Rd up to Maine Transportation Specifications.

Norman explained to Tom that the Town submits the storm damage on the Blanchard Rd to the State of Maine and the Town will only receive funding for the work that needs to be done.

Tom would like the Town to leave a slot for him after the snowplow has made its turn at the snowplow truck turnaround on Blanchard Rd. Tom said his concerns are getting out in an emergency and having to take his trash to the school bus turnaround. Tom said that he and Norman had spoken about this, and Norman said that he would help Tom best as he can but couldn't guarantee it and it would be tom's responsibility. Tom feels this is not a legitimate answer to the problem.

Norman suggested to Tom he could find someone to keep it plowed there and pay them to do so. David suggested bringing his trash out to the end of the Railroad Bed. Follow the snowmobile trail to the end where it crosses downtown Shirley and place your trash at the picnic area.

David and Norman both agreed that they are doing exactly what the County Commissioners ordered the Town to do, which is plow that end of Blanchard Rd for the residents who live there.

Floyd Harford was impressed how The Monson Fire Department responded to the calls in the Town of Shirley on the night of the rainstorm.

Norman adjourned the meeting at 7:02pm.

Submitted by,
Carolyn Nye