

Select Board Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2024

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

Calling of the roll:

Selectmen: Norman Beckwith, Bill Nye, Nick Hanson

Secretary: Carolyn Nye

Treasurer: Vera Davis

Guest(s): Hutch Gagne, Barry Bateman, Bill Fortin, Tori Arey, Gene Turner, Tiffany Ellison, Derek and Crystal Stimpson

Norman made a motion to amend the meeting minutes of May 29th, 2024. A square feet amount needed to be changed from 1,000 to 1,500. Bill seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Bill made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as written from June 12th, 2024.

Norman seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Nick made a motion to elect Bill Nye as chair of the select board. Norman seconded.

Motion carried 2 for and 1 abstention.

Norman started with he will no longer be doing any work for the Town of Shirley. He spoke to a few residents who are interested in doing the work.

Nick asked Norman why he was plowing the snow at the Town Office and in front of the Fire Station and Post Office. Nick stated that it was in the Winter Maintenance Snowplow contract that the person who was responsible for the contract was the one who was plowing in those places. Norman responded that it was voted on that he was allowed to take care of it.

Bill said that MMA states that anyone who uses equipment or does work for the town must have proof of certificate of liability. Contractors must have a 1099 filled out along with proof of certificate of liability. Nick added that before starting work or contracting with the Town of Shirley they will have to show their certificate of liability.

Bill asked Norman what was going on with the paving of the parking lot at the Town Office. Norman said the last time he spoke with Jeff who owns Pike Industries Jeff didn't know when he was going to do the parking lot. Pike also said that their machines were too big to do the parking lot and he was going to subcontract it out.

Nick was concerned as to why pike didn't come back and grind it down before they left leaving a 2-inch lip on the edge. Norman said Pike was going to have Stan Kitchens take care of it, but Stan said he couldn't do it.

Nick said he had spoken with Mark Freeman, and Mark said he was awarded a bid to do ditching on the North Road, Blanchard Road and the Lower Shirley Corner Road. He would like to finish the job on the Lower Shirley Corner Road.

Norman said he spoke to Mark Freeman and told him he didn't know if they were going to allow him to do that and it was up to the select board because of the mess on the Blanchard Road.

Nick said Mark told him that he was finishing up on the Blanchard Road that was awarded to him last year. Norman said Mak is doing that for free. Nick said he shouldn't be doing anything without proof of certificate of liability. Nick asked this discussion to be tabled until the next select board meeting.

Norman said we need to wait to see how much money we are going to put into the Blanchard Road. Nick suggested the selectmen go and check to see how much money there is and look at the Blanchard Road.

Norman said David has all the information from FEMA and what was planned for the Blanchard Road. Tom Taliento had complained that the road was not graded, and FEMA gave the town permission to grade the road.

Nick went on to explain that the information that is out there right now is that FEMA has run out of money. Nick's concern is with the taxpayers having to pay for work that FEMA can't give a date when the towns will see any money for the repairs they are doing.

Norman was concerned that some culverts on the Blanchard Road needed to be repaired before the next rainstorm. Nick felt its best to make it passable at this time. Nick tabled this discussion until the next select board meeting.

Norman asked Carolyn if a letter had been sent to The Monson Fire Department letting them know that their contract was up on July 1st. Carolyn said she will take care of it.

Norman said that Matt Laroche was looking at placing a cabinet with free books somewhere in Shirley. Norman said the post office doesn't have enough room. Carolyn said the library already had a spot for residents to take free books and the town office would not be a suitable place. Nick suggested the day care learning center.

Norman brought up getting someone to put dirt next to the new tar. Nick said that will have to be put out to bid.

Norman spoke about MMA needing the town to put concrete barriers next to the generator and propane tank at the town office. Norman says he investigated prices and

Haley's has the cheapest. Norman says for MMA to reimburse the money to the town we must spend the money first.

The Planning Board said they can not stop anyone from buying up property in the Town of Shirley.

Norman says there are 2 dead trees on the Upper Shirley Corner Rd that need to be cut along with the bamboo at the y and the school bus turnaround.

There was discussion on the culverts on the west road. Nick suggested the selectmen need to drive around and make a list of what needs to be done.

Carolyn said the scanner/copier printer from 2015 in the office is no longer working because of the last storm with lightning. She will investigate prices for another one.

The guys from Premium have been laying cable for fiber optics in the Town of Shirley. There is no other information as to when it will be available to the residents.

Norman asked about Article 20 in the warrant that was voted on at the Town Meeting. The amount that was voted on was \$1,500.00. Bill suggested that all selectmen's wage go to \$1,800.00. Norman disagreed because the tax collector and the treasurer all went up by \$1,000.00 and the selectmen had not seen an increase for some time. He went on to say that Geneva was willing to give back her \$1,000.00.

Norman wanted to know who was going to take Davids's place to run FEMA. Norman was concerned about where the money was coming from that Vera has been paying David to do FEMA. Vera said that David has turned in some expenses but no time sheets for FEMA. Vera went on to say it's not coming from our budget because you didn't budget for it. Vera told Norman multiple times any money being spent on FEMA has been coming from the summer roads account. Vera reminded Norman that he has overspent on the Summer Roads account by \$20,000.00.

David said FEMA told him to keep track of his mileage and his hours. Vera said it's a good idea for him to keep track of it only because it was not budgeted for. Nick suggested we wait to see what should happen with FEMA.

Norman announced that he was done and that he suggested they find someone else to take his place as selectmen. He went on to say you will get a letter of resignation.

Tori asked if someone is working for FEMA do you have to have a certificate of liability. David said he is not employed by FEMA. Nick said he's not doing any work he's only doing the investigating.

David said he is only doing the bookwork for the town. He said if anyone was interested in doing this job they can. Nick asked David if he wanted to continue doing the work and submitting bills and when the town gets reimbursed, he will get paid. David said no you're going to pay me as I do work.

Nick said he will make a couple of phone calls to figure this out. Vera will talk to the auditor to see how to handle the expense of FEMA.

Bill Fortin asked if the town ever received money from the state through the cannabis program the town implemented. Vera and Carolyn said no. Bill wanted to know the progress on his competition. Bill Nye said that he is looking into the competitions paperwork and will be coming up with questions to ask Fred from the state. Bill Fortin is looking into suing the Town of Shirley because nothing has been done for 2 years. Bill Fortin went on to explain the O'Connor's paid for 500 square feet they made a clerical error of 1,000 square feet and they paid for one year when they have been in business for 3 years.

David said he talked to the Marijuana policy center, and they operate under strict procedures. The only one who can work with them is the code officer Brian Turner. Brian Turner has stated previously that he wants nothing to do with this. Bill Fortin said he will be back in 2 weeks for the status.

Hutch was disappointed in how the two budget meetings were handled. Hutch left the first budget meeting with six blank spaces. The second budget meeting the selectmen went line by line again and changed the 1st selectmen wage from \$2,300.00 to \$2,500.00. A comment was made "we need to take it easy on the taxpayers because people are going to call and complain." The response was "if they were concerned about their taxes they would be here". Hutch has lost respect and trust in the select board.

Barry would like to see a budget committee formed.

Nick made a motion to form a budget committee. Bill seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Nick made a motion to pay pike half of the invoice of \$77,967.05 for the paving on the Upper Shirley Corner Rd, North Rd, and the Lower Shirley Corner Rd at the intersection. Bill seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Nye-Secretary