

Select Board Meeting Minutes
July 24, 2024

Selectman Bill Nye called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Calling of the roll

Selectmen: Bill Nye, Nick Hanson

Secretary: Carolyn Nye

Treasurer: Vera Davis

Guest(s): Jim Touloupis, Eric and Carol Boothroyd, Hutch Gagne, Karen Jodrey, Jeff Mace, Tom Taliento, Tim Gora

Nick made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of June 26, 2024, as written. Bill seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

The selectmen discussed who should take over the FEMA position since David Thorp was no longer serving as a select board member. The selectmen agreed that the position should be taken over by the select board and not be handled by one person because information can be misunderstood or not followed with the proper procedures. The select board will be meeting with FEMA on August 9th to discuss what will be the next step in the process for reimbursement to the town from the December storm damage on the North Rd and Blanchard Rd.

Nick made a motion that all FEMA town duties be taken over by the select board members and not by one person. Bill seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Nick said he has spoken with the Greenville Fire Department and found out 2 years ago the Town of Shirley had an opportunity to sign a waiver with the Town of Greenville Fire Department to have a chance to use the New Greenville Fire Department and Police Department building for a safe place to place residents from the Town of Shirley if a house burned down or a 7-day power outage and the homes pipes froze. Two of the last selectboard members declined to sign the waiver.

Carolyn was asked to read an email from a concerned resident about the ATV traffic and noise on the west rd. The resident asked what could be done to get the ATVs to slow down, how does the Town of Shirley benefit from the ATV's riding on the Shirley Town Roads, and the excessive noise coming from the ATV's. The resident wanted to know who can vote to keep the ATVs off the main roads in Shirley.

Nick spoke with the Maine Department of Inland, Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW) about this issue. The select board members are the only ones who can vote to keep the ATVs off the main roads. Nick was told that the IFW is in the process of training more individuals to take on the job of keeping the ATVs in compliance. He spoke with a game warden who is hoping to patrol more in Shirley.

The selectmen and residents spoke about their concerns with the porta potty that the town pays once a year for the summer season. Residents feel that the ATV club should be the ones to pay for the use of it since they are the ones who use it the most. A resident felt that the ATV club should be the one to enforce the speeding of the ATVs. Residents are also concerned with the ATVs on the roads after 9:00pm. Many residents would like to see more signs with a speed limit of 25 MPH along with the hours they can operate. The residents on Blanchard Rd also have these same concerns. They let the select board members know that they used to have 25 mph signs on the Blanchard rd. and the last select board member took them down. The residents said there are two 25 mph signs on Blanchard Rd where a past selectboard member lives. Nick said he will take care of the signs.

Eric and Carole Boothroyd from Dover-Foxcroft are members of the Highland Chapter of the League of American Women Voters. They were at the meeting to observe how the selectboards interact with the town residents, and how they conduct their selectboard meetings in various towns. They will take this information and compile it together and share the information with the various towns. They also informed the select board that the State of Maine Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future has a program called Community Resilience Partnership which has grant opportunities for the towns and cities in Maine. They can help with washouts and culverts after storm damage.

The Town of Shirley is currently without an Animal Control Officer and the selectboard members are looking into it.

A resident wanted to know when the grass would be getting cut on the sides of the road as it is starting to get thick. Nick said it is on the list and he will call to get it done.

Residents voiced concerns with the logging trucks excessive speeds. The response from the select board is the residents can call the state police or county sheriff's office.

A resident asked for the proper protocol for speaking to a select board member. Carolyn explained the town has a correspondence policy that all questions need to be sent to the town office email and it will be directed to the person whom the email is addressed to.

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Nye-Secretary