

**Monday, September 30, 2024**

## **Board of Selectmen Minutes – FINAL APPROVED**

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**Board Members Present:** Dianne Craig (Chair, Selectmen); Alicea Bursey (Selectmen); Derek Tremblay, arrived at 7:30pm, (Vice-Chair, Selectmen)

**Guest (s):** Ryan Hall; Road Agent Shae Simino; Recording Secretary Melissa Salinardi

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The Board signed and reviewed the consent agenda.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Craig called the regular meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **ROAD AGENT REPORT**

- **General Update:** Shae Simino reported that the Highway Department has been working on shoulder work on Lear Hill Road. He hopes to start grading the roads soon.

He discussed several telephone poles that may need to be moved on Lear Hill Road and stated that he was researching whether the Town has the ability to ask the telephone companies to move the poles. Dianne Craig stated that she was not sure if the telephone companies would allow this type of change without a cost to the Town. Shae will continue to research this further Telephone pole to ask the phone company if it can be mowed. Some of the poles may need to be moved.

- **Beavers:** Shae reported that the beaver situation along Mummery Road continues to be a problem. Beavers are continuing to clog the culverts and make dams along the river that stretches from the Town culverts and up through a resident's property. Shae reached out to USDA Wildlife Reserve and received a quote to remove the animals from that area. Shae mentioned that the owner has not agreed to financially assist in the trapping of these animals; however, if nothing is done, the problem will become worse. Shae was concerned that he made a mistake handling beaver removal in the past by indicating to a previous resident that the Town could not pay for the removal of beavers that were on resident property and wanted to make sure the correct process was followed. The Board understood that something needed to be done in order to keep the culverts clear. The Board remarked that this particular situation directly impacts the Town bridges due to the concerns of erosion on the bridge area. The Board suggested that private companies be considered as the cost may be lower than what was presented.

Ryan Hall stated that he knew someone who was licensed to trap beavers and gave the information to Shae. Shae will follow-up with a few private companies to compare costs and see if the problem can be taken care of quickly. Shae stated that in order to fix the issue, it would not be enough to just trap at the culvert but rather the entire area. He added that he has seen at least five dams and that if only the culvert area was trapped, the

beavers would still remain an issue. The Board agreed that the entire area should be trapped to minimize the risk of the clogged culverts and potential flooding. Shae added that the property owner has already given the permission for a trapper to trap on their land.

- **Culvert Tracking System:** Shae mentioned that he has reached out to other towns to inquire about a culvert tracking system and has received templates that he hopes will be a useful way to monitor culvert maintenance and repair.
- **Transfer Station:** Shae presented the Board with a document from NRRA showing the Town's income and expense for the following; recycling, freon, tire removal, aluminum cans, comingle (plastic without glass), etc. The Board reviewed the document and will use it for budgeting purposes.
- **NHDOT Bridge Signs:** Melissa Salinardi highlighted an email that was received from NHDOT regarding a new weight limit sign for emergency access vehicles to be placed on Mummery Road East. The sign is to be placed at no expense to the Town. The Board reviewed the email and noted that although the letter was confusing it proposes no additional restrictions to the bridge and agreed to allow NHDOT to place the sign at the designated location.

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Fire Department Update:** Ryan Hall reported that four new active members have joined the Fire Department and two more potential candidates may be added soon. Alicea Bursey congratulated the Chief on the new members. Dianne Craig asked for a personnel update. Ryan Hall requested a non-public session to discuss this further.

*Alicea Bursey motioned to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (c), "Matters that, if discussed in public, would adversely affect the reputation of someone other than a member of the public body. However, if that person requests it, the meeting must be public. Such matters include any application for assistance or tax abatement, or waiver of fees or fines based on poverty or inability to pay." Dianne Craig seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Alicea Bursey-yes; Dianne Craig-yes; 2-0.*

The Board entered non-public session at 7:18 p.m.

The Board invited Ryan Hall into the non-public session.

The Board discussed a fire department personnel issue.

*Alicea Bursey motioned to come out of the Non-Public Session at 7:39 p.m. Dianne Craig seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Alicea Bursey-yes; Dianne Craig-yes; 2-0.*

*Alicea Bursey motioned to seal the minutes indefinitely as it would adversely affect the reputation of any person other than a member of this board and it would render a proposed action ineffective. Dianne Craig seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Alicea Bursey-yes; Dianne Craig-yes; 2-0.*

*Derek Tremblay arrived at 7:30pm. He did not join the non-public session.*

*Ryan Hall left the meeting at 7:40pm.*

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Review of Regular Meeting Minutes (September 9, 2024):**

*Dianne Craig motioned to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2024 “as is”. Derek Tremblay seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried, 3-0.*

- **Review of Election Day Meeting Minutes (September 10, 2024):**

*Alicea Bursey motioned to approve the Election Day Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2024 “as is”. Dianne Craig seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried, 2-0. Derek Tremblay abstained.*

- **Review of Public Hearing Meeting Minutes (September 16, 2024):**

*Alicea Bursey motioned to approve the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2024 “as is”. Derek Tremblay seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried, 3-0.*

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT UPDATES

- **UVLSRPC – Thriving Communities Presentation (follow-up):** Melissa asked the Board to review the follow-up email that was sent by Anna White of the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission regarding the Thriving Communities Regional Pilot Program. The Board reviewed the email and agreed to respond to the request to highlight 2-3 goals that the Town would like to see addressed. The following items taken from Ms. White’s email were identified by the Board as top priorities: *1. Utilize previous culvert assessments to conduct an analysis of where and what can be done to improve inadequate culverts. 2. Increase capacity in grant application (identifying grants, application process). 3. Understand and create alternative accessibility, adaption, and mitigation strategies for flooding and landslides in vulnerable areas; especially in the areas behind the Grange and Fire department buildings.*

## NEW BUSINESS

- **ZBA Email Correspondence:** The Board will invite the Building Inspector to the next meeting to discuss this topic further.

## OLD BUSINESS

- **Hazardous Building:** The Board will send one more follow-up letter to the property owner regarding a hazardous building situation and pursue legal action if no response from the owner is received.
- **Handbook:** The Board will continue to work on finalizing the handbook.
- **Utility Update:** No update at this time.
- **FEMA:** The Board discussed whether there were any updates from Eckman Engineering regarding the Lempster Coach Road Bridge Project. At the Public Hearing on September 16<sup>th</sup>, the Board awarded the bid to Pine Hill Construction. Dianne Craig stated that an extension from FEMA would also have to be acquired as the work is estimated to be completed after the FEMA deadline of December 31, 2024. Melissa Salinardi will

reach out to Eckman Engineering and the FEMA representative regarding these questions from the Board. Abutter notifications will also be sent to make abutters aware that repairs to the bridge will be starting soon.

**STANDING ITEMS & OTHER BUSINESS** (Some standing items may not have been discussed during the current meeting).

- **Monthly Budget Review:** The Board reviewed the monthly budget report. The Board had no issues.
- **Veterans Monument Repair**
- **Planning Board Update:** Derek Tremblay stated that the Planning Board met on September 19<sup>th</sup> and two members performed a site inspection of the proposed subdivision property. He stated that Fire Chief Ryan Hall and Road Agent Shae Simino joined the members in their inspection. Chief Hall mentioned that the property had adequate fire suppression and no additional fire pond would be needed. Mr. Tremblay also reported that the Planning Board continues to work with Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission regarding the Master Plan survey. He reported that the Planning Board is on target and under budget for the project. He also reminded the Board that a continuation meeting of the proposed major subdivision was taking place on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- **Brickyard Road Bridge**
- **Abandoned Property**

**OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED:**

**Gunnison Lake Access Road Complaint:**

Alicea Bursey formally recused herself as a member and moved to the public side of the room to address a complaint that was brought to the Board regarding her property on Washington Road. Alicea Bursey recused herself 8:13pm.

The Selectmen responded to a resident's follow-up complaint regarding the Bursey's property on Washington Road.

Dianne Craig stated that she reached out to Patrick Bell, Land Surveyor/Mapper, NH Department of Environmental Services Water Division, Dam Bureau to ask the following questions; Who owns the property at Gunnison Lake? Were any trees cut from the property on Washington Road to access the Gunnison Lake Road?

Mr. Bell responded that the Town does not own any part of the Gunnison Lake property and that he would respond if any trees were cut in that area. Dianne Craig read his response, "*To Selectmen, I have spoken with our survey crew from the dam bureau they report no evidence of a timber trespass on September 25, 2024 onto State property located at D-2 entrance off NH Rote 31 or Washington Road.*" Patrick Bell

Derek Tremblay stated that he also would have reached out to the state to confirm the ownership of the trees. Dianne Craig asked Mr. Tremblay if he had additional concerns. None were made. It was agreed upon by Mr. Tremblay and Ms. Craig to respond to the resident with the information provided by Mr. Bell.

**NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:**

Alicea Bursey continued to recuse herself and presented the other Board members with a letter of resignation due to personal reasons effective November 8, 2024.

Dianne Craig stated that she was sorry to see Ms. Bursey step down from the position and thanked her for her many years of service.

The Board discussed opening the position up to other residents that might be interested. A post will be generated and posted on the Town Facebook page indicating that the position is available and any interested parties should make the Selectmen know before the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Board agreed to review any interested candidates during the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

***Derek Tremblay motioned to accept Alicea Bursey's resignation effective November 8, 2024. Dianne Craig seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried, 2-0.***

***Dianne Craig motioned to adjourn. Derek Tremblay seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried, 2-0. Alicea Bursey abstained.***

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Salinardi