

**SELECTBOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
October 4, 2021 (Final)**

Attending via Zoom from Town Offices: Mary Gavin, Selectmen; Deb Jones, Finance Manager.  
Attending remotely: Selectmen Joe Ronan, Kevin Gish; Road Foreman Frank Rogers.

The Chair convened the meeting at 6:33 pm.

1. **Review/approve agenda:**

**Kevin Gish made the motion to approve the agenda as published. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

2. **Public Comments:**

Mary Gavin asked about the National Opioid Settlement. Joe Ronan will be following up with attorneys regarding settlements. Kevin Gish said he had an informal inquiry from Norwich Solar Technologies. They are interested in expanding the array on Rte. 132 near Beaver Meadow Road. Kevin indicated he thought it was a good idea. NST will likely attend a future meeting to discuss.

3. **Review/Approve Minutes:**

**A motion was made by Mary Gavin to approve the minutes of September 20, 2021 as presented. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

4. **Finance Manager Reports & Warrants:**

**Kevin Gish made the motion to ratify PR Warrant for period covering 9/12 - 9/25/21 for a cash draw of \$13,303.71. The motion was seconded by Mary Gavin and carried unanimously.**

**Mary Gavin made the motion to approve AP Warrant #1214 in the amount of \$4,764.34 for payments to: Alta Material Handling (formerly Liftech for JCB backhoe) \$156.43; Compucount \$186.47 for Sept payroll; Consolidated Communications \$287.28; De Lage Landen Financial \$94.53 copier lease monthly payment; Evans Motor Fuels \$2,917.74; EyeMed Vision \$64.41; Foley Services \$57.48; Green Mtn Economic Development Corporation \$1,000 for shared position with 4 Town Coalition supervised Americorp position. **The motion was seconded by Kevin Gish and carried unanimously.****

**Joe Ronan made the motion to approve AP Warrant #1215 in the amount of \$14,772.87 for payments to GMP \$495.81 (3 of 5 monthly invoices); Howard P Fairfield \$374.93 for mower part; Magee Office Products \$60 (3 mos.' copier service); Northeast Delta Dental \$467.64; Pike Industries \$13,374.49 of which \$4,322.73 is for highway structures top coat on Fay Brook Rd. **Mary Gavin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.****

**Kevin Gish made the motion to approve AP Warrant #1216 in the amount of \$125,799.03 for payments to Royalton Area Senior Center \$2500 (annual appropriation); Sabil & Sons Inc. \$1,229.14; Southworth Milton Cat \$862.10 (side shift cylinder for grader adjustment (too tight); Twin State Sand & Gravel \$3,618.69 for super grit sand; USPS \$116 for Town Clerk stamps; US Bank \$117,152.20 for annual principal of \$110,000 and semi-annual interest payment of \$7152.20; Valley News \$130.90 for Planning Commission legal notices; VLCT Employment Resource \$190 for quarterly payment. **Mary Gavin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.****

**Mary Gavin made the motion to approve AP Warrant #1217 in the amount of \$19,873.99 for payments to VLCT PACIF \$15,023.21; VMERS Retirement \$4437.80 (Sept 2021); WB Mason \$1.98. **Kevin Gish seconded and the motion carried unanimously.****

**Kevin Gish made the motion to approve AP Warrant #1218 Recreation in the amount of \$412.50 for payments to Stateline Sports \$112.50 (soccer balls); Upper Valley Portables \$300 (porta-potties). **Mary Gavin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.****

**Kevin Gish made the motion to approve AP Warrant #1219 OSH in the amount of \$2,291.04 for payment to VLCT PACIF (property & casualty insurance). **Mary Gavin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.****

Deb Jones also reported the audit is almost complete. Deb is reviewing the audit letter now. She will send the final report to the Selectmen when ready.

Deb Jones presented Health Insurance rates for the upcoming calendar year. The average premium has decreased by about 6%. This decrease in premium is likely not going to be a trend. Adjustments to the Town's HRA arrangement were also discussed. After more discussion the Selectboard indicated they have the information needed to vote, once they have fully reviewed the spreadsheet. It was suggested the Selectboard consider wage increases for all staff.

## **5. ARPA Funding:**

It was reported that the sessions at the Town Fair on ARPA were informative and helpful. Deb Jones reported that NEMRC has set up a set of expense and revenue codes that can be used to track ARPA funds. Deb reports she continues to work on the Loss Revenue "bucket" as this may give us the greatest yield for our APRA funds. Community engagement is also recommended. There was a suggestion that perhaps several towns could spend some of their ARPA funds on a common project. It was suggested we put out a survey and then schedule a public meeting to get input on how to spend ARPA funds.

## **6. Highways:**

Frank reports the road crew is busy. Hard Pack is being hauled to the Town Garage by the road crew. Chase is hauling sand; Road Crew is hauling super grit. Brad has been out grading. Bids for winter sidewalk maintenance and town building shoveling are due on Oct 14.

There will be a culvert replaced on Quimby Mtn Road. The project is expected to run from Oct 12-15. The Road will be closed for the length of the project. The Road Crew will be working on Mon Oct 11. The Road Crew will take off Friday Nov 26 instead.

7. **Historic Preservation Grant:**

It was noted Sue Sellew has been able to submit the grant in time to meet the submittal deadline.

8. **Ashley Forest Updates:**

Kevin Gish reports that the easement and interlocal agreement are now in their final format. Kevin asked for available dates from the Selectboard so that a joint meeting could be held with the Strafford Selectboard to review and perhaps vote on the documents. Kevin Gish will coordinate dates with the Ashley Community Forest negotiating team and the Strafford Selectboard.

9. **Harlow Road Updates:**

Mary Gavin asked if the Board might want to re-engage with the Royalton Selectboard on this issue. Neighbors continue to be concerned. SB members agreed to ask Royalton for an update.

10. **Coronavirus:**

No discussions.

11. **Other business:**

Deb Jones reported there was no heat at the Town Office. She contacted Suburban to send a tech. It appears there is a problem when the boiler is first fired for the season.

12. **Executive Session:**

**Kevin Gish made the motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 7:45PM. The motion was seconded by Joe Ronan and carried unanimously. The Selectboard exited Executive Session at 8:02PM.**

13. **Adjourn:**

**Motion to adjourn by Kevin Gish, second by Joe Ronan. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm**

Submitted by Mary Gavin