



Northwood Board of Selectmen Minutes of April 7, 2015

Chairman Timothy Jandebeur called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Roll Call

Selectman Timothy Jandebeur, Selectman Scott Bryer, Selectman Rick Wolf, and Interim Town Administrator/Finance Administrator Sandy Garrett.

Selectman Bryer led the pledge of allegiance.

Letter of Resignation

Selectman Jandebeur stated that the reason for the meeting tonight is to accept the letter of resignation received from Jim Wilson.

Selectman Bryer stated that the letter of resignation was received from road laborer Jim Wilson on April 2. He read the letter into the record, which stated that Mr. Wilson's last day of employment with the Town of Northwood would be April 16, 2015.

Selectman Bryer made a motion, seconded by Selectman Wolf, to accept Mr. Wilson's letter of resignation, with regret.

Selectman Jandebeur stated that the town will do something for Mr. Wilson. He added that Mr. Wilson has done a wonderful job with the many weather events that have occurred over the years. He thanked him for his many years of service and added that Mr. Wilson has been an asset to the town. Selectman Wolf thanked Mr. Wilson for his many years of service and added that he did a great job this winter. Selectman Bryer thanked Mr. Wilson for his service to the town and he appreciates the great job he has done. He added that it will be a change with him leaving.

Motion carried; 3/0

Selectman Jandebeur stated that the accruals total approximately \$6,000 for Mr. Wilson.

Selectman Jandebeur indicated that the position will now be posted internally for five days. He added that the board will know if anyone has applied for this position by the next meeting and at that time the board can address it and discuss the next steps.

Citizen's Forum

There was no citizen forum.

Other Business

Bond for Posting Roads

Selectman Jandebeur stated that Ron MacElman, the town's new road agent, has suggested having a policy for bonds for the posting of roads. He stated that Mr. MacElman has contacted others towns and he has suggested an amount of \$500 for each ½ mile of roads.



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Selectman Bryer stated that the town has previously done bonds. He explained that a public hearing will be required if a fee is to be created. He suggested leaving the decision of posting the roads up to the discretion of the road agent. He stated that this is an important issue; however, he does not feel that a decision with the fees should be done tonight.

Selectman Bryer explained that the policy typically is that the road agent meets with the selectmen in February or March and then the selectmen motion to post the roads.

Ms. Garrett explained that the town's current policy is specific to logging trucks. She stated that the road agent contacted neighboring towns and their fees for logging over posted roads are the same as Northwood, \$500 per ½ mile. She added that the funds are returned only if there is no damage.

Selectman Bryer requested supporting documentation be provided to the board depicting how the suggested rate was determined.

Ms. Garrett, during the meeting, contacted the road agent who stated that the truck that needs to access the area is a cement truck. She stated that the traveled area would be about 3 miles. She noted that Bennett's Bridge Rd. is not posted; however, Bow Lake Rd. and they would need to cross Bow Lake Rd. to access Bennett's Bridge Rd.

Selectman Bryer suggested posting a bond for \$3,000. Selectman Jandebour suggested addressing this item now and then the board can work on a policy at a future meeting. **Selectman Bryer made a motion, second by Selectman Wolf, to post a bond, in the amount of \$3,000, as a onetime permit, until a policy can be discussed, and for the chair to sign the permit on behalf of the board.**

Motion carried; 3/0

NHDOT Meeting

Selectman Bryer referred to a meeting at CBNA with NHDOT and citizens. He stated that there were many issues discussed at that meeting. He stated that NHDOT made it very clear that there were no funds available in the budget for any construction now and in the foreseeable future.

Selectman Jandebour stated that a letter was received from NHDOT indicating that the light at the intersection of Routes 4 and 43 will be changed. He added that he believes that there will also be left turning *lights* added.

Selectman Jandebour stated that two other issues were discussed at this meeting. He explained that one item mentioned by NHDOT was to eliminate the passing lane coming from Rte. 4 from Rte. 152. He stated that this change may help avoid accidents. The other issue mentioned was the existing turning lane in the vicinity of the Irving station and Hannafords. He stated that there have



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been accidents in this location and adding specific turning lanes for these two businesses may help to avoid future problems.

Selectman Jandebour asked if the board had any interest in sending out letters relative to these two issues. Selectman Bryer agreed that it would be fine to submit a request to NHDOT. He added that Ms. Garrett contact NHDOT to see whom the letter should be addressed to. He suggested contacting the state representative as well. Discussion ensued regarding whom to send letters to.

Selectman Jandebour stated that the board needs to act on this in order for the project to be considered this year.

Selectman Wolf stated that he feels that this is an important issue that needs to be addressed. He mentioned some accidents that have occurred.

The board agreed for a letter to be drafted to NHDOT, and to finalize the letter at the next meeting.

Potholes

Selectman Wolf asked when the board will begin to discuss the potholes. Selectman Jandebour stated that he will contact Mr. MacElman.

Selectman Bryer stated that Mr. MacElman had previously mentioned using a hand held compactor. He stated that he would support the purchase of the machine if there is funding available in the department's budget. Selectman Jandebour stated that he believes that Mr. MacElman is working with Ms. Garrett.

Town Roads Report

Additional discussion was held regarding the Underwood Engineering report on the town's roads. Selectman Jandebour noted a few specifics within the document relative to staffing in surrounding towns, etc.

Road Agent/Laborer Position

Selectman Bryer mentioned the road agent position and the laborer position. He explained that there has always been some misconception with the two positions. He asked if the board may want to discuss combining the two positions prior to the next elections. He stated that the road agent position is a salaried position at \$6,000, and the position is really asking someone to be the foreman of the town's highway department. He noted that the town has a similar type position with the town clerk/tax collector's position. He suggested that this item be added to the agenda of an upcoming meeting to allow for additional discussion and public comment.

Selectman Jandebour agreed. He added that he believes that there are three options: continuing with how Northwood addresses this now with a road agent and a laborer position; perhaps follow



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other towns such as Candia and Strafford who have a road agent only, no equipment, no personnel, and all work is contracted out; or follow what the Town of Deerfield does, they have a position that includes the road agent and laborer with a set salary and all work is done with the hired staff.

Selectman Bryer stated that he believes that there will be some jobs that will still need to be contracted out. Selectman Jandebour agreed and noted especially the plowing.

Mowing

A discussion was held regarding mowing. Selectman Jandebour noted that there is \$7,000 in the budget for mowing. He stated that he feels that this would be a sufficient amount to hire two part-time staff to do the mowing this summer, rather than expecting the road crew to do it.

Selectman Wolf stated that in the past there have been people hired to do the mowing and they did a good job. He added that they should be considered. Selectman Bryer stated that the board can send a letter to the previous companies/employees and let them know that the board is looking into hiring for mowing again.

Further discussion was held for mowing cemeteries. Selectman Jandebour stated that the \$7,000 is not for mowing the cemeteries; that is a separate section in the budget. He suggested that some college students may be interested. This issue will be addressed at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Selectman Bryer motioned to adjourn. Selectman Wolf seconded. Motion carried; 3/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Fellows-Weaver
Board Secretary