

# Selectboard Minutes

## June 24, 2024

Selectboard Present: Jessica Pollack (chair), Andy Coyne (vice-chair), Greg Meulemans, Len Beman and Kate Ullman

Public Present: Mike Tuller (Town Administrator), Senator Nader Hashim, Tim Jones (Green Mountain Power), Paul Fraser

Andy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### *1. Late additions*

No late additions but a change in the items, Green Mountain Power will be moved to after the Senator.

### *2. Minutes*

Kate made a motion to approve the minutes from June 10, 2024, seconded by Greg. All in favor. 4 in favor, 1 abstained.

### *3. Senator Nader Hashim*

Senator Hashim wanted to come here to talk about flooding and FEMA. He has brought copies of bills that have passed on flood relief.

There are grants available for disaster relief, he will leave more information.

Mike expressed the town's concern of water running off from other towns that we have no control over.

Senator Hashim said that Act 121 puts more responsibility on the state on where towns can build, especially on the river corridors.

The conversation switched to education. Senator Hashim is on the education committee. The bill of Boards of Collaborative Education allows private contracts so unions could share employees.

Andy asked about the tax increase that will take effect the next fiscal year.

A lot of the increases to education is the cost of health insurance.

Andy asked about the heating oil tax. He asked if it would start in 2026?

It was turned into a two-phase situation. The first phase is to study the affordable heat act. They will look at cost, the effect on businesses and the effect it would have on the grid. Senator Hashim said they need to look at the studies first before making any decisions.

Karen asked about affordable housing. Senator Hashim said they did pass a lot of housing bills in the last year. Senator Harrison is on the economic committee. They passed a bill allowing downtown areas. He said he would follow up and get more information.

### *4. Green Mountain Power (GMP)*

Tim Jones from Green Mountain Power joined the meeting. GMP has been rebuilding with a focus on the southern part of the state. Cable and conduit, there is a one-piece conductor that is

buried. They have a project on Turkey Mountain Road, they are doing overhead and underground. They would get the problem areas out of the brook by burying the cables/conduits and then it would tie into the existing line. They would like to get it done by the end of the summer. GMP would let residents on the road know ahead of time and work closely with our highway department. GMP would schedule a time that would work for the customers. They would run some cables through the culverts if possible. If a culvert needed to be replaced, GMP would supply the labor if the town supplies the materials. Greg said we support this but wants to talk to Keith before he makes a motion to support it. Greg asked about Pikes Falls Rd. It is on their radar but will not be done this summer.

#### *5. FEMA update*

Mike met with the river engineer and Marc Pickering from VTRANS for the Ball Mountain Brook Project. They found an area to bring the crusher truck in and out. They want to crush the rock to 1.5 inch in diameter. They would cap the amount removed to 15000 cubic yards. They would need to jackhammer the larger rocks but would use some them on the sides of the river. The 2021 Storm still needs to be finalized. They wanted us to do mitigation on West Jamaica Road. It is holding up all of the funding from 2021.

Mike is working with USDA looking at flooding coming from the mountain areas.

Mike is meeting with Everett (the engineer) on Thursday to go over the three properties that are to be bought out.

Mike will look into what the Senator said about flood grant money.

Kate said there is a meeting tomorrow for the grant for tree planting to help with flooding.

M&T Loan: They asked for a closing date. Jessica proposed Thursday of this week, she is waiting to hear back. There may be an emergency meeting on Thursday.

#### *6. Approval of new Road name*

With 911, if you have more than 2 or 3 addresses on a driveway it should become a road. This is Domenic's property. He recommended Good Morning Lane as the name. 911 is okay with it, it just needs approval from the Selectboard.

Greg made a motion to approve the name of the road off Howe Farm Rd. to be named "Good Morning Lane", seconded by Kate. All in favor.

#### *7. Approve Time sheets*

Kate made a motion to review and approve the times sheets for the town office, listers, highway and transfer station, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

#### *8. Pay orders*

Kate made a motion to review and approve the pay orders, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

#### *9. Public concerns*

Paul asked about the multiple offenses for the traffic ordinance, does it go to noon to noon or 9 to 9? He said that if you are going to be fining people, you should have it built into the

ordinance. Jessica said it is daily, so it would depend on when the violation was observed. They hope they do not have to utilize the fines.

Karen Ameden wanted to talk about the Rawsonville School Committee. They have four new members that she would like the board to approve: Kara Parks, Wayne Parks, Kevin Polhemus and Jim Harlow. They are looking at grants. They are looking into putting in a ramp for ADA compliance. They are looking at the chimney and painting and working on the trail to the back. The Rawson reunion will be August 10, 2024.

Greg made a motion to accept the four new members, Kara Parks, Wayne Parks, Kevin Polhemus and Jim Harlow to the Rawsonville School Committee, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

Another thing they talked about was putting a little more definition on Rawsonville. Possibly putting up signs.

Mike wants to thank the road crew, Keith and Tom came out to take out the new dumpster for the transfer station. They went out of their way to help with this. And Ernie came in two separate days to help with this.

Greg made a motion to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. Seconded by Kate.

Respectfully submitted, Sara Wiswall