

TOWN OF EATON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03832

EVANS MEMORIAL BUILDING

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

September 19, 2023

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen took place on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at the Evans Memorial Building. Present were Dick Fortin, Ed Reilly and Greg Grinnell. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.

The Board reviewed checks and signed the Accounts Payable manifest for \$53,195.09 for 18 items. The Payroll manifest and checks were also reviewed and signed.

Dick Fortin read the Public Notice and opened the Public Hearing regarding the acceptance of unanticipated revenue from the State of NH. Dick Fortin explained that the Town will receive approximately \$12,500 in FEMA funds for the December 25th storm event. Dick Fortin noted that funds for the debris removal and road repair categories have been received and that the Town expects an additional payment for administrative costs. Paul Hennigan questioned where these funds are being held. Dick Fortin stated that the money is currently in the General Fund and will be moved to the Road Reconstruction Capital Reserve at the Town Meeting. There being no further questions, ***Ed Reilly made a motion, seconded by Greg Grinnell, to accept the unanticipated revenues of \$12,500 from the State of NH. Motion unanimously carried.***

Dick Fortin opened the Public Hearing regarding the designation of Willis Bean Road as an emergency lane. Dick Fortin explained that the Conservation Commission has requested this designation so that the Willis Bean Road from the corner of Foss Mountain Road, over the two bridges to the Maine State line can be repaired as a result of the December and May storms. Dick Fortin displayed pictures of the road showing the washouts in several locations. Dick Fortin noted that Conservation funds will be utilized for the repairs as this is the only access to Town lands. Dick Fortin explained that emergency vehicles cannot access Town lands from either direction in the event of an emergency or forest fire. Dick Fortin explained that this a Class 6 road and that under NH RSA 231-59-a, the Board must declare it an emergency lane in order to make repairs. Dick Fortin further explained that this designation can be rescinded at any time and that it does not make the Town responsible for any future repairs or carry any additional liability to the Town.

Dave Lovequist questioned whether the funds would come from revenues generated by timber cuts on Town lands. Dick Fortin stated that funds would come from timber cuts and gave an overview of the Town lands. Dave Lovequist asked who repaired the bridges in prior years. Dick Fortin noted that the Conservation Commission paid approximately \$70,000 in 2009 to repair the bridges on Willis Bean Road.

Paul Hennigan noted that Conservation funds are Town monies and that the Town gave the Commission permission to retain funds rather than come to Town Meeting every year. Dick Fortin explained that he has researched the Commission's financials for the past 3 years and found more than 1000 volunteer hours were worked for Conservation

Commission projects, and that funds were used cautiously. Dave Lovequist questioned the projected cost for the work to be done on Willis Bean Road. Dick Fortin explained that Richard Heath will be donating his time and that William Heath will be working on weekends to make the repairs with an estimated cost of \$2000 for labor, materials and equipment.

There being no further questions, ***Ed Reilly made a motion, seconded by Greg Grinnell, to designate Willis Bean Road as an emergency lane giving emergency vehicles access and to authorize the repairs of the road due to recent storm events, and that the designation will revert back to Class 6 at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen under NH RSA 231:59-a. Motion unanimously carried.***

Dave Lovequist discussed the status of snowmobiles and grooming on Class 6 Roads. Dick Fortin noted that the abutting property owners own to the centerline of the road. Dave Lovequist stated that he would prefer the roads not be groomed to prevent increased usage by snow machines.

Road Agent Richard Heath met with the Board to discuss Highway Department operations and to give an update on the new Town truck. The Board authorized the use of \$34,376 remaining in the ARPA funds to use towards the purchase of the truck.

Ed Reilly explained that CIP members will be meeting with a few General Contractors to review the Town Garage to obtain an estimated cost for the project.

Stephanie Mathurin met with the Board and indicated that she will not be running for Moderator next year and gave an overview of the election schedule for next year. Stephanie Mathurin noted that some of the duties could be removed from the Moderator's position and delegated to a Deputy Moderator. Dick Fortin questioned whether the State Statutes support that proposal. Stephanie Mathurin reminded the Selectmen that they have been authorized to set the date of the business portion of Town Meeting and suggested holding it the night after elections in March.

Dick Fortin stated that after reviewing the budget, an increase of \$1700 would be necessary if the beach attendants are given a raise. Dick Fortin suggested tabling that decision until budgets are finalized in January.

The Board reviewed and amended the Minutes of September 5, 2023. ***Ed Reilly made a motion, seconded by Greg Grinnell, to adopt the Minutes as amended. Motion unanimously carried.***

The Board discussed and set the Joint Board Meeting for Tuesday, October 17th, at 6 pm. The Board noted that the Public Hearing on the Capital Improvements Plan will be held in early December.

Dick Fortin gave an update on the Conservation Commission and stated that the Commission is working on budgets.

Elaine Weathers and Suzanne Raiche joined the Board and received a hearty thank you from the Board for a good summer at the beach. Dick Fortin stated that the Board authorized a \$3 per hour bonus for the month of August due to the added responsibilities given to count cars and document passes. Elaine Weathers recommended making a change to the entrance to force vehicles to stop at the hut before entering the parking lot. The Board discussed the possibility of staggering Beach Attendant hours next summer and clarifying the use of the guest pass.

The Board reviewed, adopted and signed the Returned Check Policy.

The Board reviewed, adopted and signed the amended Parking Regulations During Winter Road Maintenance Ordinance.

Craig & Jacqueline Wilson submitted a Building Permit Application to rebuild a single-family residence destroyed by fire at 65 Paul Hill Road (R04-011-E). The Building Permit application was reviewed and approved as all requirements of the 2023 Zoning Ordinance have been met. The Permit was signed by the Board of Selectmen (Permit #2023028).

The Board reviewed an Engagement Letter from Devine Millimet for Bond Counsel Services. The Board tabled the signing of this Letter until next meeting so that the document could be reviewed.

State of NH submitted a Statement of Remittance for FEMA funding of the DR-4693 event in the amount of \$7,528.40 for Road Repairs.

Al Frizelle requested the Board consider removing the streetlight in front of his property. It was the consensus of the Board that the light remain for safety reasons and that the lower watt bulb should be utilized.

NH Department of Revenue Administration submitted the 2024 Education Tax Warrant in the Amount of \$191,433.

The Board reviewed information on a Cybersecurity Grant Program through the State of NH. ***Dick Fortin made a motion, seconded by Ed Reilly, to apply for grant funds for the migration to a “.Gov” website. Motion unanimously carried.***

Action Ambulance Service submitted activity reports for August. The Board requested that the Town of Freedom be contacted to schedule the Regional Ambulance meeting to review contract prices for next year.

NHDES advised the Town that it has received a Shoreland Permit Application from Iiro & Pirjo Lehtinen (R04-007).

Roberts & Greene submitted the finalized 2022 Eaton Financial Report.

The Board reviewed the final NHMA Legislative Bulletin for the year.

The Board reviewed the Ramsay property files as information was requested by Megan Ramsay. A letter will be drafted to furnish the requested information.

Greg Grinnell made a motion, seconded by Dick Fortin, to adjourn the meeting. Motion unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lianne Boelzner

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