

GREENWOOD SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

Sept. 19, 2023

5:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82977364340?pwd=cFJjSVY1N0Y4eEI3VnoyK0kvNitCdz09>

Meeting ID: 829 7736 4340

Passcode: 462799

Item 1: Call Meeting to Order - Chair Chapman called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.
Roll Call: Chair Amy Chapman, Selectman Norman A. Milliard, Selectman Robert Oickle, Town Manager, Kim Sparks, Road Foreman, Richie Diaz, and Fire Chief, Ken Cole.

Attendees: Chuck Dutterer, Brian Letourneau, Shannon Letourneau, David Gaudreau, Tom Wentworth, and Jane McCartney

Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance

Item 3: Review and approve:

Expenditure Warrant # 11 - \$ 166,959.37 Covering period Sept. 6 – Sept. 11, 2023
Includes Voucher # 283, payable to Pine Tree Waste for \$21,913.69
Includes Voucher # 293, Payable to MSAD 44, for \$ 104,976.00

Expenditure Warrant # 12 - \$ 25,171.78, Covering period Sept. 12,– Sept. 19, 2023

The Board reviewed Warrant # 11 and Warrant # 12.

Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Oickle seconded to approve Warrant # 11 and Warrant # 12. Vote: 3-0. Warrants are approved.

Item 4: Review and approve minutes of September 5, 2023

The Board reviewed the minutes of September 5, 2023

Selectman Oickle motioned and Selectman Milliard seconded to approve the minutes as read. Vote: 3-0. Minutes are approved.

Item 5: Comments from the Public - None

A. Selectmen contacted outside of meeting – No contact.

Item 6: Updates on Henry Brooks, Ambrose Brooks, Art Henley as Joelle has been on vacation.

Henry Brooks has been ill and unable to schedule an inspection with Joelle. Joelle will try to get something scheduled this week. Brief update submitted from Joelle.

Tony Merrill made several trips to the G & W Transfer Station this weekend. Joelle hasn't heard anything from them and will attempt to contact them to schedule an inspection at the end of September.

Brian Dunham stated he was present representing Mt. Abram's and that Mt. Abram's has a right of way across the Henley property to access their two snow making ponds. Brian explained that there are numerous times in the last 15 years that the right of way is full of junk vehicles. Brian also invited our Codes Officer, Joelle to go walk the Mt. Abram's property around the snow making ponds to see all of the tires and other articles of junk that has been littered on the property. Brian stated that he suspects it is all overflow from the Henley/Merrill junkyard. Kim stated that she would ask Joelle to reach out to Brian and schedule a walk of Mt. Abram's property around their snow making ponds.

The Selectmen asked if Kim could invite Joelle to their next meeting. Kim said that she would gladly invite Joelle but we would have to add her to the end of the agenda as she works until 5pm in Newry. The Board agreed that would be fine.

Item 7: Discuss issues with new pavement on the Greenwood Road

Chair Chapman stated that we have an area of concern with the northern section that was paved. Kim stated that this newest area is near the Ryerson's at 616 Greenwood Road. Road Foreman Richie Diaz stated that this area just popped up and he is concerned that this will continue month after month. Richie stated that the south end had all be ground up and will be compacted and will have hot mix put down Thursday and Friday. Richie stated that if anyone is going that way to please drive carefully because it is all pretty rough. Richie stated that they will be grinding a section near the Ryerson's for about 100 feet on Thursday as well. Chair Chapman asked if the whole distance that they did was 2.5 miles and they are redoing basically one mile. Richie stated that he will be walking the road to see if he can find anymore cracking. Selectman Oickle stated if this cracking just showed up over the weekend, we all should be concerned that there will be more. Selectman Oickle stated that one of the workers notified Richie that there was an issue with the mix and this is clearly an issue.

Ken Cole stated that there was a section of road done in the Town of Norway this summer with cold mix and it looks nothing like our section. Ken explained that section in Norway has no cracking, no sinking, no holes, and no shrinking. Chair Chapman asked how long ago did they (Norway) do it. Ken stated that he didn't know but it is very fresh and there is a lot of truck traffic on it. Richie stated that he would contact Norway to see when their project was done and find out who did it. Chair Chapman asked him to see what kind of truck traffic it is getting. Ken stated that he has been very careful on the pavement in front of his house but there are chicken pox marks all over the pavement in front of his house. Ken stated that he walked down the new section of pavement and found tire marks from a wheel barrow that left indents. Ken stated that the Fire Department responded to a vehicle accident on this section and the driver claims

that his tire dropped off of the edge and sucked him into the pole. Ken stated that when he was walking down the road, he saw dog prints in the pavement along with barefoot human tracks in the pavement. Chair Chapman stated that they can talk about truck traffic but if it is not curing at all, she doesn't get it, as they claimed last week the mix was fine. Selectman Oickle stated that Richie had a conversation with one of the workers that said there was a problem with the mix. Richie stated that was correct and they said the mix was incorrect for the shim coat and he is concerned because that is the base and it is so important that that is correct. Selectman Oickle stated that we didn't hear that from him (Ron Simbari) when he met with us. Chair Chapman stated that we heard from that guy (Ron Simbari) that they tested the mix and it was fine. Richie suggested that we get a second opinion from another asphalt company. Chair Chapman stated that we will not pay the bill until this is resolved. Chair Chapman stated that it keeps going thru her head that this bill is a \$1,000.00 for every man, woman, and child that lives in this Town and this is a lot of money. Ken stated that there are many taxpayers who are not happy and do not want to pay for an inferior paving job. Ken stated that it is either an inferior product, an inferior application, or the wrong product for the application. Ken stated that they are replacing it with hot top asphalt. Chair Chapman agreed and stated that he (Ron Simbari) is conceding that it was the wrong product for that application because of the truck traffic they say they didn't know about at the time. Ken stated that they should have done an impact survey. Richie stated that is not on us (Greenwood). Selectman Oickle stated that you can't even walk on it without having an impact. Ken stated that he has worked with cold mix in the past and it would harden up in a couple of days not in a couple of months. Chair Chapman stated that we have had a lot of wet weather. Ken stated that he is concerned for our guys when they start plowing on it. Chair Chapman stated they could peel it right up. Ken stated that it seems like the recipe was just not right. Ken stated that he used to be a plant operator/manager for Pike Industries. Chair Chapman stated that it is possible to mix it wrong. Richie stated absolutely and they admitted that in the beginning. Ken stated that there is a scientific formula just like baking cookies – if you don't put the right ingredients in – it won't harden. Selectman Oickle stated that we would normally have someone watch the workers but there was no one available. Kim stated that was the case and that we have used All States for several years without any issues. Ken asked if it was Spenser who is doing the work of All States. Richie stated that it was Spenser. Ken stated that Spenser is a subcontractor who is getting paid to put the product down, getting paid to pull the product up, and getting paid to put it down again. Ken stated he was upset that they are getting paid three times. Kim stated that no one has been paid yet from Greenwood. Ken stated he understands that the weather has been terrible and they have a very short window to get things done. Ken stated that everyone knows you can't pave in the rain and it is his bad that he wasn't quick enough to get his camera out or his cellphone to take pictures and he couldn't believe it, the road was wet – both sides and here they are paving in the rain. Ken stated he wished he had a photo with a time and date stamp on it because everyone is going to say they were not paving in the rain. Ken asked if they were trying to squeeze it in. Chair Chapman stated that they were already a year late in doing it.

Selectman Oickle stated that it would make sense to tell them this is a mess and that we are not comfortable with the product and have concerns. Chair Chapman stated that they are not comfortable with any of it. Selectman Oickle stated that we need to have them come back and redo all of the road. Chair Chapman stated that she thinks it is worth a try. Selectman Oickle stated if not, we need to get an independent to evaluate the product to prove that it was wrong and then they are obligated to make it right.

Selectman Oickle stated that if they did put the wrong stuff down then they will have no leg to stand on. Selectman Oickle stated that he isn't sure if they have insurance to cover this kind of stuff but that is their issue. Chair Chapman stated that he (Ron Simbari) said that they have had very few issues. Ken stated that they do have insurance. Richie stated that he and Kim were discussing having the Town Attorney get involved to help us move forward. Chair Chapman just tell them to satisfy us they have to redo the whole job and if they balk at that or say that we have to pay for part of it, so this is a lot to think about and maybe they would then have to pay our legal fees. Chair Chapman stated that Towns talk with other Towns and it is not in their best interest to leave a dissatisfied customer. Richie stated especially with social media these days. Ken asked if they want the I-Team from a local TV channel to come here. Ken stated that this is not a threat. Chair Chapman stated that it could be leverage. Ken stated that he agrees with the Board to not pay a penny until the customer, the taxpayers, and the Board are satisfied with the product - the finished product. Selectman Oickle stated let's see what they will do as we have a product that we are not happy with and what are they going to do about it. Chair Chapman stated that there are people who are driving on the road and walking on the road that are not happy with it. Chair Chapman asked that Richie let Kim know how it goes when he walks it and she will let them know. Ken stated that more issues pop up daily. Ken stated that he drives that section of road daily as does the Highway Department and they see new areas popping up every day with it shrinking, sinking, or coming apart.

Richie stated that today he took a very detailed video of a section after an inch of rain and he took a shovel and picked it up and it was all dry under there – just sand. He stated that he tossed the asphalt and it just disintegrated like sand. Chair Chapman asked if we were a month out from the paving. Kim stated that it was done the first of August. Ken stated that there were a lot of red flags thrown at the very beginning and they just kept on paving. Chuck Dutter, Greenwood Road resident stated that the road started to cave in heading north and then heading back south it was their (Spenser Paving) trucks that were causing it to cave in. Ken stated it was their (Spenser Paving) trucks that were driving on it and just squishing it out and shouldn't they have said something was wrong here. Chair Chapman stated you think they would have noticed that. Ken stated that they have three payments they are looking at to put it down, pull it up, and then put it back down. Chair Chapman stated that we will have Richie take a look at the road and we will tell them we are not happy with any of it. Chair Chapman stated that if it is a bad mix, we could be plowing snow in 6 weeks so keep us updated.

Item 8: Introduce Andrew Baker who is interested in joining the Planning Board - Tabled until next meeting as Andrew was not able to attend tonight's meeting.

Item 9: Review and Sign Tax Abatements/Supplement

Abatements:

- A. Jacob Bracy, R06-012, missing Homestead Exemption, \$ 350.63
- B. Neil Donovan, R17-003, missing Homestead Exemption, \$ 350.63
- C. John Kwoka, R20-042, missing Homestead Exemption, \$ 350.63
- D. Courtney St. Amant, R02-024, missing Homestead Exemption, \$ 350.63
- E. Ransom Cole, U15-018, missing Homestead Exemption, \$ 350.63
- F. Megan Hartzell, R01-003-002, missing Homestead Exemption, \$ 350.63
- G. Ethan Marshall, U01-025, missing Homestead Exemption, \$ 350.63
- H. Gary Williamson, U20-001, missing Homestead Exemption, \$ 350.63
- I. Kyle Sanders, R02-025-A, missing Homestead Exemption, \$ 350.63
- J. Thomas Keaveny, R06-010, missing Homestead Exemption, \$ 350.63
- K. Matthew Mitchell, R20-010, missing Homestead Exemption, \$ 350.63
- L. Derek Hodgkins, R02-016, missing Homestead Exemption, \$ 350.63
- M. James DePasquale, R08-031-A, remove mobile home, \$ 240.39

Supplemental:

- A. Margaret DePasquale, R08-31-B, added mobile home, garage, well, septic and homesite assessment, \$ 535.33

Kim explained that a folder of Homestead Exemption applications was missed and not entered into the tax collection system. The Board reviewed and signed all of the abatements – A. – L as noted above. Kim stated that James DePasquale contacted the office and said that we had assessed him for a mobile home that belongs to Margaret DePasquale. Kim stated that Margaret called the office and explained that the mobile home was hers and was on her property. Kim explained that Paul has prepared an abatement for James DePasquale to remove the mobile home value and put that value on Margaret DePasquale property. Kim explained that there is an additional value added to Margaret DePasquale that includes the value of the well and septic system.

The Board reviewed and signed the Abatement for Item M. and the Supplemental for Item. A. as listed above.

Item 10: Review and sign Quit Claim Deed

- A. The Estate of Thomas Warden Jr. – Map R06-034-002

Kim explained that the heirs of Thomas Warden Jr. had paid all of the back property taxes to prepare for selling the property.

The Board reviewed and signed the Quit Claim Deed. Kim will send it for recording at the Registry of Deeds.

Item 11: Comments from the Public - None

Item 12: Meetings and Events

Sept. 23rd – Cummings Cemetery Dedication, 11am Cummings Cemetery
Sept. 26th – Building Committee Meeting, 5pm GTO
Oct. 2nd – Planning Board Meeting, 5:30pm GTO
Oct. 3rd – Selectmen’s Meeting, 5pm GTO
Oct. 9th – Closed - Indigenous Peoples’ Day
Oct. 16th – Planning Board Meeting, 5:30pm GTO
Oct. 24th – Selectmen’s Meeting, 5pm GTO
Nov. 6th – Planning Board Meeting, 5:30pm GTO
Nov. 7th – Election Day 8am to 8pm GTO
Nov. 10th – Closed - Veterans’ Day observed
Nov. 14th – Selectmen’s Meeting, 5pm GTO
Nov. 23rd & Nov. 24th – Closed - Thanksgiving
Nov. 28th – Selectmen’s Meeting, 5pm GTO
Dec. 4th – Planning Board Meeting, 5:30pm GTO
Dec. 5th – Conservation Committee Meeting, 10am GTO
Dec. 12th – Selectmen’s Meeting, 5pm GTO
Dec. 25th – Closed - Christmas

Item 13: Adjourn - Having no further business, Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Oickle seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:05pm. Vote 3-0. Meeting is adjourned.