

SELECTBOARD MEETING

MINUTES

September 16, 2024

- I. OPEN MEETING—Chairman Daley called the September 16, 2024, Selectboard meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those present included Michael Daley, Alfred Buckley, Mark Bullard, Richard Thibeault, and Zachary Brown. Jennifer Lawcewicz (ENSU Superintendent), Renee Marchesseault (School Board Chair), and Scott Conroy (CSD/ENSU Facilities Director) joined in person, and no one joined via Zoom.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 3, 2024, Meeting Minutes—The September 3, 2024, meeting minutes were distributed and reviewed by board members before and at the meeting. Mark made a motion to approve the September 3, 2024, meeting minutes as written, and Al seconded. Chairman Daley asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative.
- III. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA—Zach made three additions to the agenda and no deletions to the agenda. The additions were a request from Dencie Cunningham, a letter from the Canaan Border Riders, and an update from Serge Lemay.
 - a. Dencie Cunningham Request – Dencie asked both Zach and Mike if it could be brought up to the board if her delinquent tax books could be brought back to her house. Many people still call her at her house for this information and many times cannot provide it for them. Zach said he was fine with this. Dencie and him have a good working relationship and they were able to get her books to match the computer. Mark and Al brought up their concerns as they believed the auditors flagged this practice on their audit in 2022. Zach said he read the audit and they did not. It may not be the best practice but he does not see an issue with continuing this for her. Mike agreed with Zach. No formal action was taken but the board agreed to have Dencie keep her books, as long as they were brought to Zach on a regular basis to ensure that the records stay current.
 - b. Letter from Canaan Border Riders – Dan Johnson wrote a letter to the board thanking them for working with the club. He said they truly appreciated being allowed to dispose of their garbage at the Canaan Transfer Station. No discussion was had.
 - c. Serge Lemay – Zach said Serge was in wondering if the board had come to any decision on his previous request to have the Town purchase his road. The board discussed the request. The board believed still believed they should not make a decision like this. Zach stated that although he gets their point, statutorily the board can make a decision like this on their own. He stated that Serge would like this to come to a vote sooner than later. He stated that if the board wished to put this to a Town wide vote they should make formal action to do so. Al made a motion to postpone the vote to purchase Serge Lemay’s road until Town Meeting and to relinquish the board’s ability to vote on this, for this instance only, and to give that authority back to the entire Town. Mark seconded the motion. Chairman Daley asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative.

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IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –

- a. Renee Marchesseault, Jennifer Lawcewicz, and Scott Conroy – Canaan School District – Renee, Jennifer, and Scott were all in on the bequest of the selectboard to discuss plowing of the school lots. Mark began the conversation by asking the school board to begin discussion. Renee and Jen both asked if the board could clarify why they were brought into the meeting, as it was on the bequest of the board. The board responded that they would like to discuss the lack of an agreement between the school and town regarding plowing. The board had been working for a few years to get an actual agreement between the two organizations, one which would include compensation from the school. Jen asked if the board could clarify if this was for the current year or the next year so it could be budgeted for. The board agreed to have this being for next year. The board came to the total of \$10,000.

Al stated that it should be for this year as he had come to an arrangement with the past superintendent. Renee asked if those conversations or arrangements had been made in an open meeting or if it was just informal discussion. Al stated that action had been taken by the selectboard. Zach responded that it has been discussed in an open selectboard meeting, but no formal action has ever been taken.

The board along with the aid of Richard, described the issues that the Town has with plowing the school lots. These issues include it is hard to sand and plow the lots with the Town's equipment as they are made for roads and not parking lots. Richard also stated that he has to get the school lots done early in the morning at the detriment of the others in town roads. The school representatives collectively asked if these problems arose all of a sudden. The board said these issues were always present, they were just trying to get a handle on things. The school representatives asked if the Town even wanted to continue to plow. Mike stated that they will continue to plow but if they didn't have to it would be fine with the Town. Richard stated that he has never complained about plowing the school lots but if he didn't have to it would not be the worse thing.

The board asked Scott if he had gotten any quotes for plowing. Scott responded that he had gotten two one for \$15,000 annually and one for \$20,000. It came down to about \$125/hour. The school asked how the town came up with their \$10,000 figure. The board responded that it was based on a discount from what other contractors would charge. They also stated that it was based on a figure close to \$125/hour. A discussion was had on if the school paid \$10,000 would the highway budget decrease by \$10,000. No direct answer was given. A discussion was had that it was essentially all the same money whether it was the Town or School. Al responded that although it was the school needs to be charged for it to show the true operating costs for the school.

Discussion came to a bit of an end. Renee asked if the board intended to make a formal motion regarding the school plowing so she could bring it to her board for discussion. The board agreed. Mike stated that the Town would present a letter to the school board. The school representatives left at this time. The discussion continued for a few minutes. Zach stated that in order for this to be resolved, the board needed to make a motion, as

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opposed to the continued informal discussion. The board said they would. No formal action was taken,

V. REPORT FROM HIGHWAY –

- a. Todd Hill Plowing – Joe Daley Jr. was in to deliver a new contract to the selectboard for the 2024-2025 plowing season. He stated that he was willing to plow Todd Hill again this year. He has made no changes to the contract, so the total cost will remain \$9,936.73. A short discussion was had between the two parties. The board thanked Joe for his all of his time in the past years. Al made a motion to accept the contract as written. Mark seconded the motion. Chairman Daley asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative. All board members signed the contract. Joe continued to discuss the plowing with Richard and the board. He also submitted his insurance and a non-employee work agreement.
- b. Community Forest Access Road – Richard told the board that he had to add approximately 10 yards of gravel to the access road to bring the road back up to a good quality. Richard asked if the community forest committee should be made to pay for the gravel. The board discussed this for a while and all agreed that they should pay. Richard stated the gravel will cost \$12/yard. Zach will bill the committee.
- c. Winter Sand – Zach said that he contacted the two bidders to let them know what the board decided. Richard said that Clark Jeffers is working on completing the order and has begun making sand. No further discussion was had.
- d. Repairs from Hurricane Beryl—Richard gave a comprehensive update on the conditions and repairs to the Town roads. Richard stated that all of the class iv roads have been repaired but still needed some finishing work. He has been having Jason work on ditching to learn how it is done. He will continue this week to complete the rest of the work.
- e. Grant-In-Aid – Richard and Jason have completed the GIA project for this year. The Cunninghams completed the work. Zach, Richard, and April will work on getting the reimbursements for the project.
- f. Richard said that the old truck was being serviced at North Country Ford and would be completed by the end of this week.
- g. Old Rock Rake – Richard said that two individuals have expressed interest in purchasing the old rock rake. The board discussed the propositions. They requested the two individuals to make formal bids for the next meeting. The board would sell it based off from these bids.

VI. REPORT FROM WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT –

- a. Zach and Mike both thanked April and Kaylan for covering the office on Zach's vacation. Zach said they both did a great job.

VII. SOLID WASTE –

- a. HHW Events – September 13 & 14, 2024 – The board read a letter from April detailing last week's HHW events. (Letter Attached). The board thanked April for taking this on. Mike said that he thought the board should get a thank you letter for April, for taking on more than what her job entails. All other board members agreed.
- b. Cooking Grease Disposal – Zach brought up the fact that the transfer station has been receiving cooking grease from an out-of-town business, whose owner is a resident of

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Canaan. He stated that it is considered hazardous waste, and it will cost the town significantly. The board discussed the issue. Al made a motion to write a letter to the perpetrator to cease disposal of this waste. Mark seconded the motion. Chairman Daley asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative. Zach will write a letter for board review and will send it to the perpetrator.

- c. Notice of Violation – State of Vermont – Zach distributed the NOAV that the town received from the State of Vermont. He stated that they failed their last transfer station inspection. Zach said that as soon as he received the letter he and April devised a plan to correct the errors and had Kaylan get everything in order. April send the pictures to the State for their approval. Al will discuss with Marc on Saturday to make sure that he understands the violations.
- d. MSW Container Cleaning – Dan Lynch asked that the MSW container be cleaned out. Al stated that he will take care of this for the board.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS –

- a. Abatement Hearings – September 19, 2024 at 5:30 P.M. – Information only.
- b. Orleans/Essex VNA – 2025 Town Meeting Warning Request – Zach distributed a request from the VNA requesting their 2025 town meeting appropriation would be accepted without having to do a petition. The board asked if this was normal procedure. Zach said it was not. He stated that all outside organizations requesting appropriations need to submit a petition with the signatures of 5% of the voters. The board said they wished to stick with this and would not be voting otherwise. No action was taken.
- c. Tree Maintenance and Removal Grant - \$5,000 – \$20,000 – Zach distributed a press release for a grant that would allow towns the funding to remove or maintain trees in public parks. Al to ask Terrie and Diana if this would be something they would be interested in applying for. He would help with the project but would need help applying for the grant.
- d. Ordinance Regulating Outdoor Storage of Junk and Junk Vehicles Revisions – Chairman Daley asked if any of the other board members had any issues with the revised ordinance. All board members were happy with the changes. Chairman Daley entertained a motion to accept and adopt the ordinance as revised. Mark made the said motion. Al seconded. Chairman Daley asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative. All board members signed the ordinance.
- e. Rec Park Concerns – Zach brought up a plethora of issues that have been happening at the Rec Park. The board discussed them all. Mike stated he would contact Sheriff Colby to tell him of the issues.
- f. Solar Array VT Route 102 – Norwich Solar – October 28, 2024 Meeting – Zach distributed an email and a letter regarding the proposed project. A representative from Norwich Solar and Laurent and Julie Giroux will be in at the October 28th meeting to discuss the project.
- g. Mowing Updates/Recap – A discussion was had on the mowing for the current year. The board agreed that they will need to request that the contractor mow the day before any major event in either the Rec Park or Fletcher Park next year.

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- h. Town Officer Appointments 2024 – No new appointments were made. Zach stated that the following positions were still available: zoning/planning commission (three-two-year positions.)
- i. Lister Vacancy – No action was taken, as no applications have been received so far.

IX. OLD BUSINESS –

- a. ARPA Update – No discussion.
- b. Riverbank Erosion – Information only.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Mark made a motion to enter an executive session at 7:55 P.M. He cited 1 V.S.A. § 313 (A(3)). Al seconded the motion. Chairman Daley asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative. The board entered the executive session at 7:55 P.M. Zach was invited to stay, and the recording was paused. Al made a motion to exit the executive session at 8:10 P.M. Mark seconded the motion. Chairman Daley asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative. The board exited the executive session at 8:10 P.M. No action was taken.

XI. SORT MAIL/SIGN WARRANT—The board signed and executed Warrant 19-24 for \$63,302.52.

XII. ADJOURN MEETING—Al motioned for the meeting to be adjourned, and Mark seconded. Chairman Daley asked for further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative. Chairman Daley adjourned the September 16, 2024, meeting at 8:11 p.m.

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AGENDA

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Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87591784837?pwd=bFM2bHlwTzRidFdmbWlWVFV0OHbodz09>

Meeting ID: 875 9178 4837

Passcode: 02251782

I. OPEN MEETING –

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES– September 3, 2024, Meeting Minutes –

III. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA –

IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –

a. Renee Marchesseault and Jennifer Lawcewicz – Canaan School District –

V. REPORT FROM HIGHWAY –

a. Todd Hill Plowing –

b. Community Forest Access Road –

c. Winter Sand –

d. Repairs from Hurricane Beryl –

VI. REPORT FROM WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT –

VII. SOLID WASTE –

a. HHW Events – September 13 & 14, 2024 –

b. Notice of Violation – State of Vermont –

c. MSW Container Cleaning –

VIII. NEW BUSINESS –

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b. Orleans/Essex VNA – 2025 Town Meeting Warning Request –

c. Tree Maintenance and Removal Grant – \$5,000 – \$20,000 –

d. Ordinance Regulating Outdoor Storage of Junk and Junk Vehicles Revisions –

e. Rec Park Concerns –

f. Solar Array VT Route 102 – Norwich Solar – October 21, 2024 Meeting –

g. Mowing Updates/Recap –

h. Town Officer Appointments –

i. Vacancies – Zoning and Planning 2– year Terms x3 –

i. Lister Vacancy –

IX. OLD BUSINESS –

a. ARPA Update –

b. Riverbank Erosion –

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION –

XI. SORT MAIL/SIGN WARRANT – Warrant 19– 24 –

XII. ADJOURN MEETING –

HHW Report

This event was slow. I have made a final accounting and checked my numbers against what is in the room, and it looks good. Transfer personnel collecting used oil for houses needs to be done outside of the HHW room. Also, if there is going to be used fry oil which is not hhw it needs to be stored and dealt with separately, I think I have an acceptable solution. In the garage is fine. Zac and I now need to sign and verify amounts every day and report to the state so other people cannot add when it is not an HHW day unless everything is documented. It got pretty boring Saturday, so I started working on paperwork thanks to my laptop and Kaylan on her own picked up trash everywhere. If I was unable to do the event, I think she would be fine. Final numbers after going through and sorting out true HHW is much lower than last year and we found a new company to price out with

The fry grease we are getting is from Rob McKomsky and he has always been allowed to bring it as it is biodegradable whenever he wants. I can not accept restaurant or commercial items and to log it with HHW will cost. But I have a solution which should work as not to create waves with a business owner because it is a gray line with the state. Sorry I did not make it but if you have any questions please have Zac text me

Mark and I have identified multiple people who have snuck into the transfer station and dumped but the camera system is junk and we need an upgrade. I can only search on one camera which is by the road the one that shows the container will not go back in history except for a 6 hour span of time. The quality is very poor it is hard to find cars and read plates or facial features. One that goes to a tablet or phone so hours done have to be spent searching may be an idea for budget season