

## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

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Tuesday, July 21, 2023, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common and Zoom

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Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Justin Campbell, and Michele Gonzales; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Visitors: Patrick Healy (School Board Chair), Lorraine Banbury (Zoning Administrator), Scott Franks (Building Maintenance), Alex Johnson (Assistant Town Clerk), Jackie Rieke, Kelsey Hunt

At 5:40 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Richard Baker

**Changes or additions to the agenda:** ZA update, Building maintenance, debris removal, trailer sale

**Public Comment:** Residents of 89 Bean Rd thanked the Board and Road Crew for their work on flood recovery.

**Minutes:** tabled

**OSC:** Scott explained that the ServPro professional approved of the work that has been done in the building. He suggested fumigating the building. Rich moved to accept that proposal. Justin seconded – all in favor.

**Trailer sale:** The Town has received an offer of \$4,000 for the old trailer. Rich moved to counter offer \$5,000 and let Scott negotiate, as long as there is no conflict of interest. Justin seconded – all in favor.

**Zoning:** Lorraine explained that anyone rebuilding in the special flood hazard area needs to get a permit. If their house was damaged more than 50%, they have to meet new standards. She needs to do an assessment of properties. She needs to go house to house. Her time will be reimbursed by FEMA. Clare Rock from CVRPC could help, and Michelle McCormick could also help. She requested that the Board waive the permit fee for repairs. She will need to come up with average contractor rates. They will also need to send their permits for state review. Rich moved to waive the permit fees. Justin seconded – all in favor. She will contact the state and find out if the money paying for this work is from FEMA and subject to the FEMA procurement standards.

**Debris:** Alex contacted Shannon Choquette regarding debris removal. Shannon stated that if we want to get reimbursed, we need to advise people to separate their debris into various categories, and we have to prove that we kept the categories separate. NEKWMD is preparing to hold an emergency hazardous waste event. The Town has received a couple of requests for removal. The Town is going to wait and see if there is a true need or if people are handling it through their insurance. For now the advice to homeowners is on the website.

**Onion River Road:** Justin explained that we have received the inspection report from VTrans. They determined that the bridge needs to be replaced. He has started the process to get a temporary bridge. Patrick asked about the time frame. It is unclear but VTrans is doing everything they can

to expedite the process.

Justin has walked the proposed right of way from Onion River Road across Twinfield Union School. The Road Crew has suggested that it would be better to hire an outside contractor to construct the right of way. Jaqueline Rieke has asked if the right of way could be permanent. Patrick Healy reported that the school is in contact with their attorney to find out what needs to be done. He suggested that the right of way will likely not be permanent, due to the number of issues with stormwater, drainage, etc. Patrick asked how long the right of way will be used. Right now the school just wants to get a culvert put in to restore the drainage that has been filled in to allow folks to drive across. He indicated that if the town would give the school the culvert and some stone, maybe the school could get someone to do the installation. The job needs to be done right away because of the mud and the damage that is being done to the school. This is an exigent situation and we should not delay. Jackie noted that there will also need to be gravel and a culvert on her property to make the area driveable, so that the residents of Onion River Road can get out. She noted that the next phase needs to be a way to get commercial vehicles to Onion River Road to facilitate repairs to power, telephone, etc. Patrick noted that if we are building a road for a longer-term solution, more work needs to be done to make a more resilient road to allow it to be plowed in the winter. Justin noted that the emergency route that is currently being used is ok for a very temporary situation but if the road is going to be longer-term, maybe there needs to be a straighter route. Patrick suggested a site visit to consider different routes in case the road does need to be used into the winter.

Patrick stated that the town should improve the emergency path that people are using now, to prevent further erosion and damage to school property, and look at creating a winter-worthy road if needed. Jaqueline has a contractor coming to the site to work on her septic system and has paid the transportation fee for his equipment. The Town has already hired the same contractor to do some flood work. Justin moved to hire the same contractor to install the culverts and spread the material. Rich seconded – all in favor. Jacqueline suggested that it might make more sense to make a permanent road instead of replacing the bridge. Bobbi explained that the Town can request permission from FEMA to build an alternative to the bridge.

Jacqueline also stated that she would hate to see a low road along the river, because so many trees would have to be cut.

There will be a site visit on Monday at 4:30 beginning on the soccer field. The Selectboard will have a meeting immediately following, back at the Old Schoolhouse Common.

**FEMA:** Patrick indicated that they are using the parking lot at Twinfield for intake for flood damages to individual properties, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

**Fire Dept:** They are having a debriefing/training Tuesday at 7 p.m. and the Board is welcome to attend.

**Bridges:** The State has inspected several town bridges. We have three structures that have been

recommended for temporary bridges and Justin has started the process for requesting them.

**SEOC:** Justin has had several contracts with the State Emergency Operations Center and has clarified that requests to the SEOC need to come from the Town and not individuals. Potable water has been delivered to the Village.

**Water:** Village water was restored late morning on Thursday but the boiled water notice is still in effect.

**Picnic Shelter:** Rich notified TimberWorks that the project needs to be delayed and the placement needs to be looked at again.

**Recreation:** Rich is applying for a small grant for restoration of the railroad bed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the July 21, 2023 Selectboard Special Meeting.  
A True Record. Attest, \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

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