

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

September 11, 2023

MEMORIAL BUILDING

4:30 P.M.

*The following are to be considered draft minutes only until approved by the Board at their next meeting.*

Selectmen Present: Poul Heilmann, Chairman; Jeremiah Crosby; Amy Lewis, Vice Chair was absent.

Others: Greg Tedeschi, Jen Roberts, Chief Zullo, Keith Cutting and Sue Cutting

Jeremiah provided a statement of remembrance of the attacks of September 11, 2001. Jeremiah asked that we not forget those who had their lives taken too soon and those brave souls who sacrificed their lives in an attempt to save other lives.

**Scheduled Appointments:**

Greg Tedeschi, who lives on Oak Hill Road, came to the Board to discuss a concern about the condition of his road. At some point within the last four weeks the grader cut a relief in the edge of the road onto his property which has caused road material to wash down his paved driveway into the back of his yard; it has been a substantial amount of material. Greg was made aware that someone from the highway garage had been to the house to look at the damage. Greg had also asked for a follow-up conversation with the road agent to try to fix the problem and he has had no contact after leaving several messages. That is the immediate concern Greg has.

Greg also has a long-term concern with Oak Hill. Greg feels that the road has been neglected for as long as he has been there. Currently, the situation is that there is a 6 to 8-inch berm on the low side of the entire roadway. He believes what is causing all the erosion is that the water doesn't sheet off the road anymore, it goes down the edge of the berm. The road materials are then sent into people's properties where reliefs are cut. Greg was in a number of years ago with other residents of Oak Hill to discuss this and doesn't believe anything has been done since then. Greg had many conversations with the previous road agent and believes he recognized the issue, but year after year nothing was done.

First, Greg would like some kind of immediate resolution to the problem at his property because it will rain again, and he will have to spend hours cleaning up. Long term, he would like a solution found for the road as it is getting worse every year, which in turn costs the town money. Greg estimates that every spring he picks up about 5 to 6 yards of material and puts it back into the road. Jeremiah asked Greg to remember that the highway department is still very busy trying to make repairs from all this rain. Jeremiah will bring these immediate and long-term concerns to the road agent. Poul stated the long-term fix can be worked into the budget process which comes up at the end of the year and it can be prioritized what roads need to be done and when.

Chief Zullo provided the status of the radars the police department is using. Chief Zullo found these radars were purchased in 2004. Sgt. Julian had his radar repaired last year and both are in need of repairs this year. Chief Zullo informed the board that two new radars, installation and

parts would cost \$7460. There is money available in the part-time budget because the department has been unable to find a part-time officer. Chief Zullo is requesting to use some of those funds towards the purchase of two new radars. Chief Zullo stated, longevity wise, you are looking to get 15 to 20 years on an investment like this. Poul made a motion to approve the purchase of two new radar units at the cost of \$7,460 which will fall within the budget due to savings elsewhere. The motion was seconded by Jeremiah. Poul and Jeremiah voted in favor of the motion.

**Minutes of August 28, 2023:**

The minutes of August 28<sup>th</sup> were unable to be voted on in Amy's absence.

**Unfinished Business:**

Skate Park – Repair: Jeremiah informed everyone that all that is left to do at the skate park is paint. As soon as the weather permits that will be completed. Jeremiah will talk to Tim about leveling the granite bench at some point.

**Zoning Coordinator:** Poul reminded everyone that Whit, who did an outstanding job for six-plus years as the zoning coordinator, resigned from the position effective August 31<sup>st</sup>. Since that time there has been discussion about what would happen moving forward as it is a good support to residents. Tim Bray has stepped up to fill the role on a six-month basis. Tim is currently the chair of the planning board, so he is very well aware of the requirements. Tim spent time with Whit coordinating the transfer over of the files and information. Through that discovery, it was noted there is quite a bit of process that goes on, whenever an application is received, between Tamara and now Tim. The ideal situation would be that someone who wants to do something with their property can find the information and requirements for applying on the website, this ties in with the updating of the website. The idea is to have enough information in the packet, so the responsibility lies with the applicant to thoroughly complete the application they are submitting. It doesn't defray the zoning coordinator's role as a support and being available to answer questions, but it does put more responsibility on the applicants.

**Board and Department Updates:**

- a. Agricultural Commission – no updates to report
- b. Buildings/Grounds – will hold their meeting on September 20th.
- c. Cemetery Commission – with the resignation of Brandt Denniston, Dan Hildebrand has volunteered to step in for the remainder of Brandt's term, ending in March 2024. After that, Dan will have the opportunity to run for the position for a term of either 1 year or 3 years.
- d. Conservation Committee – no updates in Amy's absence.
- e. Energy Committee – no updates in Amy's absence.
- f. Fire Department – their admin meeting is tomorrow night, September 12<sup>th</sup>.

- g. Highway Department – Tim Hayes will be at the next Board meeting to discuss some items. Poul does want to talk about the third employee and propose that, but would like to wait for a full Board so they have a consensus.
- h. Library – no updates to report.
- i. Planning Board – no updates to report.
- j. Police Department – no updates to report.
- k. Recreation Committee – no updates in Amy's absence.
- l. ZBA – Poul attended this meeting. There was a motion for rehearing by Select Shepards; the motion was denied. Prior to this, a stay was requested, and the Board agreed to the stay pending the outcome of the most recent hearing. That hearing was denied as was the motion for rehearing. The stay is most likely lifted. The Board will follow up with Christine on that and she will be back at the end of the week.  
15 Sandy Beach Road requested a 20-foot variance from the property line, this was granted.  
There was a review of Mr. Osas' application. Due to complexities in terms of how the relief he was seeking was measured, this needed to be re-noticed and will be heard again in October.
- m. Administration Update – Tamara assisted a couple this morning with a marker placement at the cemetery.

**New Business:**

Website: Poul feels one of the things that has become evident is that our website isn't very user-friendly. The website is an important communication tool and Poul feels the town has a responsibility to improve and increase the usability and the information being updated in a timely fashion. Poul will be working on refreshing the website. Poul feels there isn't a lot of convenient information. The process of keeping up information is done well with minutes and agendas, but other information that needs to be put in isn't always done timely, for any number of reasons. Poul feels a single point of contact would be important. The other aspect is that we need to be able to depend on the website in a way that we can communicate critical information to the residents. Part of this restructuring of the website would be to have easily identifiable places where people can get critical information.

Other areas in the planning and working phases is to make the need to come into the office less necessary. Our website company is doing a platform upgrade from level 7 to level 9, there is no current timeline for this. Poul is thinking the restructuring, changing of the front page of the website for more functionality, could tie into that platform change. This is all a work in progress. This is currently in the research phase. Tamara pointed out that it is now required that all websites be ADA-compliant, so that will be another change that will happen to the website.

Tamara had the idea of getting more use out of the recreation field. The field is typically used once or twice a year and that is all. She feels it would be good to have something set up for kids and adults to be able to enjoy the field. Tamara suggested installing two soccer goals on the

field. They would not be in the way of other events, and it would give another opportunity for people to get out and be active. Two full-size soccer goals that would be permanently cemented into the ground run between \$2500 and \$3000. Greg asked if this would be in the ballfield area. Tamara said it would be directly behind the skate park and basketball court, on that field. Greg's concern was the area of the ball field would not be fit for that activity. There are a lot of rocks up there and that could open the town to liability issues. Poul suggested the upkeep of the field be put on the maintenance list of buildings and grounds. There was discussion on the soccer goals, sizes, measurements, and possible movability. There is more research to be done and it is suggested the research be done for a soccer field that would meet the standards of the ages of 12 and under.

**Correspondence/Signatures:**

Sansoucey annual legal representation notice of PSNH matter

**Miscellaneous Business:**

Greg Tedeschi asked if the town had ever been approached by the snowmobile club about using the transmission line as a trail. Tamara informed him that is not town property and that private landowners would need to be contacted. Jen Roberts suggested Greg speak with Ed Shank.

Poul made a motion at 5:18 p.m. to recess tonight's meeting. The meeting will reconvene at 5 p.m. on Tuesday September 12<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting recessed at 5:18 p.m. to reconvene tomorrow, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

Jill Hastings

Deputy Administrative Assistant