

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

PRESENT: Becky Doyle, Chairman, David Lage, Tim Johnson, Joanne Meshna

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Office.

Director of Emergency Management and Fire Chief: Emergency Management Director Hicks explained as of Thursday the Town went from severe drought to extreme drought. He distributed a document from DES on restricting residential lawn watering during state or federally declared droughts. This includes private wells. Further he stated he felt the problem is more severe in the village districts. The State is recommending a ban on outside watering. As the Health Officer and Emergency Management Director, Director Hicks recommended following the State guidelines. A document from DES entitled "2016 Drought Guidance for Homeowners on Private Wells" has been put on the website. Director Hicks stated in 6 to 8 weeks when we have freezing temperatures, any rain water or snow fall will run off into the streams and lakes and will not help the wells.

Director Hicks stated there are funds available for low income people who qualify to help with wells. There is no funding left for this year but he suggested applying anyway.

Selectman Lage stated he was against the ban. He put in his well and likes to water his lawn. He asked who was going to enforce the ban. Selectman Johnson noted the ban might slow the process of draining wells but would not help those that have run dry. Fire Chief Lund stated the Fire Department would not bring water to homeowners. There is an outside spigot at the Fire Department but the water is not potable water. She was not sure where the well was and how deep it is. Selectman Lage suggested Director Hicks contact the Superintendent of Schools as their water is a public water supply that has been tested and monitored. The Fire Department is restricting permits for burning; camp fires permits are still being issued.

It was agreed the best thing to do was to get the word out to homeowners to be cautious with water. Selectman Johnson was not in favor of banning water but agreed water should be conserved. Selectman Doyle was not in favor of a full out ban on water. She added the problems are real but the results from a ban on outside watering at this time would be negligible.

Deputy Emergency Management Director: Director Hicks recommended hiring Maribeth Conrad as Deputy Director of Emergency Management. She is a certified CERT team member and has passed basic ICS courses. She has taken two basic incident command courses. She has good computer skills and administrative skills. She is excited and willing to do the job.

Director Hicks explained the position of Deputy Director. She would be able to fill in when he is not available. More than one person is needed during an event. Maribeth was involved in the animal shelter program that was once in New Ipswich.

Selectman Johnson made a motion to appoint Maribeth Conrad as Deputy Emergency Management Director. Selectman Lage seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Eversource: Eversource will be performing low level aerial patrols of transmission rights-of-way on Thursday, September 22 and Friday, September 23, 2016.

Private road agreement: The Board approved a private road agreement for Redfield Homes, 18 Valley Road, lot 4/29-1K.

Stearns Burton Lecture Committee: Selectman Doyle made a motion to appoint Mary Fortier and Kitty Waitt as members of the Committee. Selectman Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Works Department: Director of Public Works Goewey submitted a potential candidate for the highway laborer position and would like to start a background check on him. The Board agreed to the background check.

With regard to the paving contract, \$403,950.26 has been spent so far for reclaiming and putting the base coat down on the roads. Director Goewey recommended putting the top coat on all the roads except Thayer Road and to finish Thayer in 2017. The total cost to do this is \$277,032.00 which would put the total cost of this year's paving at \$680,982.26.

Minutes: Selectman Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 30 meeting and two nonpublic session meetings of the same day, and the minutes of the September 6, 2016 meeting. Selectman Lage seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

USA Properties, Inc.: An e-mail from Bruce Simpson, president of USA Properties, Inc. was received by the Board. Mr. Simpson provided the history on the agreement Selectman Lage found between the Town and Peter Holden with regard to Stowell Road. Mr. Simpson concluded only about 220 feet of Stowell Road is considered a Class VI road. The Board will visit the site on Friday, September 23 at 12:00 noon.

Café fryer: A new fryer has been installed at the café at Memorial Field. Selectman Lage stated he is waiting for feedback from the State Fire Marshal's office before approving.

7:00 p.m.: Ten minute recess.

7:10 p.m.: The Board worked on the draft of the Safety Manual.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Meshna, Town Administrator

Board of Selectmen September 20, 2016 minutes approved by:

Rebecca M. Doyle, Chairman

David S. Lage

Timothy Johnson II