

NOTICE
Town of Lowell
SELECT BOARD MEETING
THE LOWELL SELECTBOARD WILL MEET ON
Tuesday December 19, 2023, AT 5:30 P.M.
AT THE TOWN OFFICE BUILDING.

AGENDA:

- **ADDITIONS & DELETIONS**
- **1st BUDGET DISCUSSION**
- **SIGN ORDERS**
- **REVIEW MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 5, 2023**
- **ROAD COMMISSIONER UPDATES**
- **OTHER BUSINESS**

SELECTBOARD:
Darren Pion-Chm.
Wayne Richardson
Jennifer Blay

MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF LOWELL
Meeting held on December 19, 2023.

Board members present:

Darren Pion, Chm., Wayne Richardson, Jennifer Blay

Christy Pion- Clerk/Asst. Treasurer/Selectboard Clerk

Calvin Allen-Road Commissioner

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Guests:

- Marie Busch-Town Assistant

Additions and Deletions:

- A new appropriation request was brought to the Boards attention for the upcoming Town meeting. The request came from a cause in Jeffersonville called “Northern Chapter: Great Dane Rescue Of New England.” After reading and discussing the letter of request the Board decided that they would not be adding this request to the appropriations article.
- Albert Pion contacted Darren to ask if the Town was looking for someone to man the recycling on Saturday mornings. After a short discussion the Board decided to table the conversation until the next Board meeting. Christy was asked to still post the job as is required.

1st Budget Discussion:

- Becky presented the Board with her 2024 proposed budget as she has it so far. It is not set in stone until she has all the end of year figures. She also shared the town’s profit & loss statement to date. The Board and the Treasurer discussed how they would like the budget to look when it is completed.
- Becky also discussed the MVP health insurance with the Board. She had made a suggestion that the town pay 100% of the cost rather than the 80% we have been contributing. The reason for this is that the Board had stated last year that we would not be getting a raise this coming year after last year’s raise. The Board would like to discuss this again at the next budget meeting so as to have time to think about it and see what the numbers will look like if we go that route.

Sign Orders:

- The Board reviewed the financials for the Treasurer. They were approved and signed.

Minutes from December 5, 2023:

- Minutes from December 5, 2023 were approved and signed by the Board.

Road Commissioner Updates:

- Calvin would like to change the town screen to a multi-deck that would help decrease the time it takes to get the sand pile ready for winter. He is currently looking for a grant that would help pay for this change.
- Calvin spoke to Jason Sevigny, VTrans, about the Stewart Rd. Jason told Calvin that if he could bring the road back up to code for a class 3 road for summer use, that he wouldn't have to plow it in the winter just like the Hazen Notch portion of road that doesn't get plowed in the winter. The Board asked to have a letter drafted and sent to the State e911 office to tell them of the Towns decision.

Other Business:

- The Treasurer and the Board discussed possible uses for the remaining ARPA money. The money will need to have a place before the end of 2024. They also discussed other funds and what the current balances were.
- The Board decided to put \$5000.00 dollars into the Culvert and bridge fund.
- Jenn summarized the meeting that was held last week in Westfield for the group Selectboard about the Bike race happening in the spring. The Coordinator of the race is requesting a letter of support from each town involved. The Board has not decided whether or not they want to support this. They have tabled it until next meeting on January 2nd.
- Marie addressed the Board about her trial hiring that was at the six week mark and would like to know what their thoughts were. The Board asked both the Clerk and Treasurer what they thought on the situation. They both stated that Marie was doing a great job. She is a fast learner and has made it possible to get things caught up. She fits in very well with all the staff and has become a great asset to our town. Christy stated that if the Board decides to keep Marie that she would like to officially appoint her as an assistant Clerk and Becky would like to officially make her an Assistant Treasurer. The Board unanimously agreed to keep her on. As discussed at the second interview she will be getting a pay increase due to the fact she will be getting new titles and Becky will be lowering her hours to 18 hours per week giving us the possibility to give Marie the pay increase to \$20 per hour.

Board Warrants:

➤ General Order # 38	\$	142,370.81
➤ General Order # 39	\$	7,770.68
➤ Payroll Order # 26	\$	9,561.76

\$ 159,703.25

Signed by the Board for the Treasurer to draw checks totaling -
Meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by and Christy M. Pion

Next meeting date: January 2, 2024 at the Town Office Building.

Darren Pion-Chair

Christy M. Pion-Selectboard Clerk

Wayne Richardson-Select Person

Jennifer Blay-Select Person