

NOTICE
Town of Lowell
SELECT BOARD MEETING
THE LOWELL SELECTBOARD WILL MEET ON
Tuesday October 15, 2019 AT 5:30 P.M.
AT THE TOWN OFFICE BUILDING.

AGENDA:

- **Sign Orders**
- **Approve minutes from October 1, 2019**
- **Other business**

SELECTBOARD:

Richard Pion- Chm.
Alden Warner
Dwight Richardson

MINUTES
SELECT BOARD MEETING
TOWN OF LOWELL
Meeting held on October 15, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

Board members present:

Richard Pion/Chair, Alden Warner, Dwight Richardson

Christy Pion/Town Clerk/Ass't Treasurer

Priscilla Matten/Treasurer/Ass't. Clerk

Calvin Allen/Road Commissioner

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Sign Orders:

- ❖ Orders were approved and signed by the Board unanimously for the Treasurer.

Approve minutes for October 1, 2019:

- ❖ Minutes from October 1, 2019 meeting were approved and signed by the Board unanimously.

Other Business:

- ❖ Priscilla brought to the Board's attention that Lowell has 2 residents with special circumstances that she was requesting the Board to consider a waiver of property tax penalty and interest. One received a broken neck and total paralysis from an accident. He is presently in a wheelchair and going through a lot of therapy to recover from this. There is some hope it may happen. The other taxpayer did not receive his tax bill from the prior owners, and taxes were apparently not taken care of at the time of sale. He had no idea when they were due but assumed the 15th because that is the date property taxes are due in his hometown. The Selectboard were all in agreement to allow the reversal of the penalty and interest for these 2 individuals.
- ❖ Priscilla asked the Board to consider the possibility of hiring a third person in the office 2 days a week. She noted it was the Board's original intention to have 3 office staff members at the time she was hired for her position, and she had asked them to wait to do this because it would be difficult to train someone at a time when she and Christy themselves were becoming familiar with their responsibilities. Priscilla and Christy have discussed this and they both realize now there is not time to learn the responsibilities of the other position because of the demands of the present jobs. She continued to say there is no backup for either job

and that is a concern for the town. She also mentioned the need for the 3rd person to cover for vacations and/or sick time. The Board asked to let them think about it, and that we would revisit this conversation at a later date.

❖ Update on land dispute: Priscilla said she called VLCT to see if they would be willing to look into the details of the land and deed in question. VLCT replied that they only have two Lawyers on staff and weren't able to get involved for that much detail and time. They suggested that we have our Town Lawyer look into it. Calvin then asked what the Board intends to do with this information. Are we going to have a lawyer look into it since VLCT won't touch it? Richard suggested calling Paul Gillies, a Lawyer in Montpelier, that has a lot of experience in this arena. Calvin suggested using someone more local, like maybe Trip Wileman, if he would be interested. There was a suggestion to talk with Trip Wileman first, since he had already done some research regarding this for Calvin, and then have the 2 lawyers converse. The Clerk and Treasurer agreed to contact Trip Wileman first and report back.

❖ Alden suggested a consideration for selling timber on Town Land, to aid the Town for covering the additional cost of the Kempton Bridge. He also asked if this needed to be brought before the voters. Richard said that he did not believe it had to be approved by town vote because it never was in the past. He also noted that town vote is needed if the sale of town property is considered.

❖ Calvin updated the Board on the sand pile. He stated that the salt has been delivered and that the sand and salt would be all mixed and put up by the end of the week.

❖ Calvin asked the Selectboard what their thoughts were on trading in the little sander for a one ton. He had spoken to Richard about it previously and wanted to get the other Board Member opinions as well. Calvin explained the reason it needs to be considered is because of the poor design of the presently owned one. The company he has been talking to admitted that model has a history of that problem. He continued by explaining that the spinner action on the present model continues to freeze and block so that it continuously needs cleaning out. Even then it does not spread on the roads appropriately. The model being considered works more based on gravity rather than the spinner process of the present one. Alden told Calvin that it wouldn't hurt to check out pricing and then go from there, the other Board members agreed. They will revisit this after Calvin gets some pricing on the sanders.

❖ Calvin updated the Board that the road work on Kempton Hill was finished and that the bridge work was underway. Calvin also stated that he had set up a meeting for the Irish Hill Culvert Project. John Schmeltzer, ANR, Lauren Bennett, Fish & Wildlife, and Chris Brunelle, ANR River Management Engineer- DEC, will be attending the meeting. The Selectboard, Road Commissioner, Clerk, and Treasurer will also be present at this meeting being held at the Lowell Town Office on October 25, 2019 at 12:30 p.m.

Board Warrants:

➤ General Order # 82	\$ 10,097.09
➤ General Order # 83	\$ 364,620.91
➤ Payroll Order # 48	\$ 6,264.55
➤ Fire Dept. Order # 49	\$ <u>2,029.29</u>

Signed by the Board for the Treasurer to draw checks totaling - \$ 383,011.84

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Next meeting date: October 29, 2019 at the Lowell Town Office Building

Richard Pion- Chm.

Christy M. Pion – Selectboard Clerk

Alden Warner

Dwight Richardson