

NOTICE
Town of Lowell
SELECT BOARD MEETING
THE LOWELL SELECTBOARD WILL MEET ON
Tuesday August 27, 2024, AT 7:00 P.M.
AT THE TOWN OFFICE BUILDING.

AGENDA:

- Additions & Deletions
- Gerard Pion – Resident
- Christina Adams THO
- Road Commissioner updates
- Review minutes from August 13, 2024
- Sign Orders
- Other Business

Selectboard:
Wayne Richardson-Chm
Darren Pion
Jennifer Blay

MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF LOWELL
Meeting held on August 27, 2024.

Board members present:

Wayne Richardson- Chm, Darren Pion, Jennifer Blay
Christy Pion-Clerk/Asst Treasurer/Selectboard Clerk
Marie Busch-Asst.Clerk/Asst. Treasurer
Calvin Allen-Road Commissioner

Absent:

Rebecca DiZazzo-Treasurer/Asst. Clerk

Note: All meetings are recorded on a handheld recording device.

Meeting called to order at 5:38 p.m.

Guests:

- Gerard Pion - Resident
- Christina Adams - THO

Additions and Deletions:

- None

Gerard Pion:

- Gerard Pion came in with a concern about water washing out his lower driveway and coming into his basement due to the height (or lack thereof) of the sidewalk. He had put sandbags down to stop it and someone stole them at 12:45 in the morning. Calvin said it was flush with the road and suggested paving it to raise it to stop the water. Darren asked Calvin how it would hold up and his answer was that if you do it right it will last a long time. He suggested a shim coat to 2-3” for about 100ft and the width of the sidewalk. Calvin also suggested getting a small driveway company to do it. He asked the Board if they would like to have him get some prices. Calvin and the Board agreed to fix it, but the Board would like to go assess it first. Gerard is also concerned about a hole near the manhole that has collapsed and could cause some serious accident or hurt someone.

Christina Adams:

- Christina came to announce that she is taking a class at the Vermont Local Government Institute 2024 at no cost to the Town to help with local Government and to be able to help make a difference. She thanked the Board for their support in taking the classes. She talked about the tax hardship that is coming to the NEK and that she would like to be more proactive in this, stating that we have very little representation for us in Montpelier. The classes will also include Grant Writing information. She thinks every town should have someone gathering such information for the Selectboards. She also spoke about the S5 bill. She would like to become an asset to her forever home here in Lowell to be able to help with upcoming events that will be happening to our small towns. She asked about having us go to the Town Fair Conferences as they will be beneficial to the Town Officials. Christina stated as far as THO, it has been very quiet.
- Jen Blay thanked Christina for clarifying her intentions with regard to the VLCT classes because Jen thought there were some issues left unsaid regarding Town Management. She said the Board didn't initially recommend Christina for the class when asked because she looked through the classes and didn't see any that related to her position as THO. Christina said, "It didn't have to." Jen said that Becky and Marie would be attending for their positions of Treasurer and Ass't Clerk/Ass't Treasurer, respectively. Jen reiterated that Lowell will not be going in the direction of employing a Town Manager. Christina motioned her agreement.

Road Commissioner Updates:

- Calvin presented the quotes he received from Cat, John Deere, and CR Woods for the Bucket Loader replacement. The quotes were as follows:

	JOHN DEERE	CAT	VOLVO
EQUIPMENT TOTAL	\$222,600	\$217,500	\$ 218,000
TRADE IN	80,000	65,000	80,000
NET PRICE	\$142,600	\$152,500	\$138,000

- They discussed the 7 year lease, and 7 year Warranty offered by all three companies. They discussed brands, makes and models and when they would be available. Jen asked what machine Calvin would rather have with his knowledge of them. He would like the L60 Volvo. The Board agreed Volvo has the best price. Calvin reiterated that he had told all the companies that 7 year Financing and 7 year Warranty were key. Calvin wants to increase his budget by \$20,000 and leave it there for a yearly payment. He stated such an increase would therefore not affect the Road Budget.
- Darren has concerns about also replacing the Grader and that we may have to upgrade it in the next 7 years. Wayne said that his thoughts are that the Grader is 25 years old and only has about 7000 hours on it. He also stated that we just replaced the transmission. Darren knows that it's not expensive to fix but would like to start putting money aside for an Equipment Fund to handle future repairs. Calvin explained that the Town used to do this, but it was killing his budget, so he went to the previous Selectboard and did away with the fund and Calvin pays the repairs out of his budget when needed. Darren would still like to see an account to have money for large, unexpected repairs down the road. Christina made a suggestion of talking to the Voters about the Wind Tower Fund to use for Town maintenance and to explain the realization of what is going to happen when we lose that Fund.
- Calvin asked if the Board would like to have Volvo do a demo. The Board said yes but that they would also like to see a demo on the John Deere and Cat as well. The Board will Warn to see the Demo as soon as they are scheduled.
- Calvin mentioned that they started the Grant job on Cheney Road.
- Darren asked if there were any complaints on the ATVs. Calvin said there were none.
- There was a short discussion of the RTE 58 Bridge update.

Sign Orders:

- Financials for the Treasurer were approved and signed by the Board.

Minutes from August 13, 2024

- Minutes from August 13, 2024 were approved and signed by the Board unanimously.

Other Business:

- Jen asked Calvin about a recent accident, wondering if it was at the Four Corners since she has asked the State for a Danger Assessment of that intersection. Calvin said it was on Rt58 in Irasburg.
- The Board spoke about Becky’s absence and working odd hours due to her family emergency. Jen said there was a conversation on the Town Office grounds where Becky had stopped and saw her and Wayne.
- Jen notified the Board that she may be late for some meetings due to her son’s soccer games in September and possibly 1 in October. The Board agreed to postpone meetings to 6:30 on the soccer game nights so she can be present. Any Meeting affected will be warned.

Board Warrants:

➤ General Order # 19	\$	29,374.54
➤ Payroll Order #18	\$	<u>9,399.33</u>
	\$	38,773.87

Signed for the Treasurer to draw checks totaling -

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christy M. Pion/Marie A. Busch

Next meeting date: September 10, 2024, at the Town Office Building.

Wayne Richardson – Chair

Christy M. Pion–Selectboard Clerk

Darren Pion-Select Person

Jennifer Blay-Select Person