

NOTICE
Town of Lowell
SELECT BOARD MEETING
THE LOWELL SELECTBOARD WILL MEET ON
Tuesday October 22, 2024, AT 5:30 P.M.
AT THE TOWN OFFICE BUILDING.

AGENDA:

- Additions & Deletions
- Sign Orders
- Review minutes from October 8, 2024
- Clarification of job duties
- Road Commissioner updates
- Other Business

Selectboard:
Wayne Richardson-Chm
Darren Pion
Jennifer Blay

MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF LOWELL
Meeting held on October 22, 2024.

Board members present:

Wayne Richardson- Chm, Darren Pion, Jennifer Blay
Christy M. Pion -Town Clerk/Selectboard Clerk/Ass't Treasurer
Rebecca DiZazzo-Treasurer/Ass't Clerk
Marie Busch-Asst.Clerk/Asst. Treasurer

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

Meeting called to order at 5:35 p.m.

GUEST:

- Audra Pitts- Newport Daily Express
- Brenda Wesolow-Resident
- Dotty Spoerl-Resident/Auditor
- Will Herrera-Justice of the peace
- Gordon Spencer-Zoning Administrator/Justice of the peace/Auditor
- Jeremy Pion-Resident
- Jason Blay-School Board Director

Additions and Deletions:

- Clarification of Job duties was tabled for another meeting do to the Clerk not having had a chance to gather the information.

Other Business:

- Wayne Started off the meeting with other business as we had a few extra guests at the meeting. Wayne asked who wanted to go first.
- Brenda Wesolow was first up. She joined the meeting to inquire whether the Zoning Board needed more members. She had seen the Ad for it on the website but wasn't sure if it was still valid and as she is interested in being on the Zoning Board if they are looking for new members. The Board is going to check with the Zoning Board as they don't know if they are still looking for members. Christy, Town Clerk, stated that she would talk to Sam Thurston and get back to her and the Board

with the answers. Wayne also stated that if we do add another member there will be 4 and really there should be 5, there should never be an even number.

- Jeremy Pion joined the meeting to address the Board with a dog matter that keeps reoccurring. The dog belongs to his neighbor Theresa Pepin. He has had the ACO get the dog several times and has spoken to the neighbor several times as well. Theresa said that he keeps getting off his chain, but Jeremy stated that the collar never has any evidence of ever being hooked. He stated that the owner doesn't seem to be doing anything to prevent the dog from leaving its yard. He also stated the dog has done damage to his personal property, like scratches on his saddlebags on his new Harley, scratches on the gas tank of his other Harley and paw prints on the side of his corvette. Jeremy says it's a great dog, its just the owner. Darren and Wayne said they would have Ashley the ACO, and the owner of the dog Theresa Pepin come in to see if they can resolve this issue. Jeremy stated that he had the dog in his vehicle ready to bring it in when Ashley came and got it again tonight. Darren said he would get a hold of Ashley to get the rest of the details. Christy Reminded the Board that they would need to address the owner as well since the complaint is ongoing and not resolved. Jeremy said he isn't looking to get anything out of this, he just wants the dog to stay home.
- Gordon Spencer and Will Herrera joined the meeting with some minor questions. Gordon started off by asking who had graded the roads, Darren answered he did. Gordon complimented Darren and said he had done a good job. Gordon asked what the Board had planned for this winter to take care of the roads. Wayne answered that we have someone starting fulltime in December and 3 part time guys who would work and rotate on the days they are needed as well as Mike Dingee and himself who will plow as they have in the past. Brenda Weslow asked if Chris Pion had come back, and the Board answered no. Chad Falconer, Mark Higley, And Brian Richardson are all on Board to help make sure the roads get done and they are still waiting to hear from the 3 part time guys who they hope are on board and will respond soon. Darren stated that if something happens and they are short a person, he will fill in as well. Gordon jokingly said, "I was just making sure I didn't want to have to shovel the hill!!" Will spoke up and said that he was wondering if Green hill was going to get graded as just before Mark St.Onge's house there are a lot of potholes and is very rough in quite a few spots. Darren said he would have graded it already but everyone that he had talked to said it wasn't bad, and he hadn't traveled it with his own pickup but would drive up there on his way home and check it out. Darren stated that he would go do it after he assesses it. Will said there is a section as long as this table that is nothing but potholes on both sides of the road. Darren also stated that in the past people have complained about berms being on the side of the road and people don't understand that they cannot be fixed this time of year because they will create mud. He also stated that he didn't grade Kempton hill and that they are really low on chloride and its really not to bad. He had done the Carter road Sunday and the Valley road Sunday night, and he didn't like how it came out, so he redid some of it Monday morning. Wayne stated that he had drove every road on Saturday and cut any trees that needed to be done that would conflict during the winter.
- Audra, NDE, asked if the plow routes would still be the same or would they change them. Wayne stated that they may change a little bit but would be similar to what it was. Wayne stated that he plans to set up a schedule for each driver.
- Gordon asked when the Audit will be posted for the November 18th date. Christy answered that she will be posting it on November 6th.
- Darren updated the other members on where St. Onge is with the bridge project. He stated that the concrete has been poured and they have to let it cure for 15 days before they can do anything else.
- Wayne stated that the 1st bridge payment will be a substantial amount. Darren stated that Stacey is willing to send the bill in smaller segments to not have it be such a big blow to the Town.
- Wayne asked if anyone had any other questions.
- Jason Blay joined the meeting to ask the Board about the school sanding situation. Wayne answered that the town has always done it with the big plow truck and that he has always done around the building with his own truck. Jason asked who is liable if incidents happen while sanding, who is responsible, school or town? The Board is unsure. They will have someone check with VLCT and Jason said that he would check with central office to see what the school insurance covers.
- Jenn asked when Marie & Becky were planning to make the switching of roles official. They both stated November 1st.
- Darren and the other Board members thanked Audra, NDE, for her great write up of the meeting from October 8, 2024.
- The Board suggested getting a dictation recorder for future meetings. Audra made a suggestion of AI Voice and application that she uses for the meeting she audits and writes about. The Clerk is going to look into it and try it at the next Board meeting.

- Jenn updated the other Board members on the Solar project. Now that we have received their letters and plans we and the Zoning Board have 45 days to respond. Christy will contact the Zoning members and invite them to the next meeting.
- Discussion of THO reappointments took place and will be discussed more at a future meeting as they have until November 30th before anything has to be decided.
- Jenn made the suggestion that we should discuss the next agenda at the end of the meeting so that we know what is going to be discussed. Christy stated that we can do that, and she can send them any new items added before the next meeting.
- The Board asked to get a report of what is left in the budgets, which will be discussed at the next meeting.

Sign Orders:

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

Minutes from October 8, 2024:

- Minutes from October 8, 2024, were approved and signed by the Board unanimously.

Road Commissioner Updates:

- Darren asked Wayne who was going to change the brakes in the CV. Wayne said to call Pion's Welding and Repair and have Brandon Pion do the job.
- Wayne and Darren updated the other members that they had a meeting over at the Town Garage to discuss the buying of Calvin's tools. An itemized list was made, and everything was priced individually. The total came to \$5,500 dollars which a check was issued to Calvin's wife Juanita today.
- Becky gave Wayne timesheets for the new hires.
- Darren updated Jenn on the upcoming meeting with Vtrans on November 12, 2024 at 9:00 am.
- Wayne talked about the sidewalk issue and that he had Shawn Warner who is going to dig out the spot by the manhole put a piece in to cover it and bevel it so its not a tripping hazard. Jenn asked about the Post Office Bridge, both Darren and Wayne stated that they can't rent a grinder, so when FWW comes to look at the route 58 bridge project they will have them look at that as well.
- Wayne asked Darren about the rock in the notch and Darren stated that the grader was not affected by it.
- Jenn was asked by the school if Wayne was the person they should call for winter school closer. Wayne said yes.
- Jenn asked if they hire a road foreman if the person would discuss with the Board on what the plans are for the roads. The other Board members stated yes they are hoping that this will be the plan going forward. Darren stated that it shouldn't be any different than when Calvin was alive , that he always included the Board in his decisions.

Board Warrants:

➤	General Order # 23	\$	32,132.31
➤	Payroll Order # 22	\$	<u>4,378.01</u>
		\$	36,510.32

Signed for the Treasurer to draw checks totaling -

*** Note: Full discussion details of the minutes are available in the Clerks office.***

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christy M. Pion

Next meeting date: November 4, 2024, at the Town Office Building.

Wayne Richardson – Chair

Christy M. Pion–Selectboard Clerk

Darren Pion-Select Person

Jennifer Blay-Select Person