

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting January 10, 2019
(approved 1/23/19)

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm. Present at the meeting: Selectmen Vern Worthen, Chris Tibbetts and Norman Redlevske; Tax Collector and Treasurer Yolanda Violette; Secretary Fran Varney; Fred LaPlante, Donnie and Julia Howard, Dennis Obert, Bill True, Ray Charles, Debi Crandall, Michaela Charles, Maryellen Charles, Steve Hakala, Teresa Hakala, Dan Charles, Gary Cromwell, Emily Turk, Ephraim Romero.

Minutes from December 29, 2018 were tabled.

Thank you notes from residents and letters of appreciation from Hospice Volunteers of Waterville and Sexual Assault and Crisis Support were received and read by the Selectmen.

Citizens' questions and concerns:

Twelve residents addressed their concerns about the plowing of winter roads both to the winter road contractor Vern Worthen and to the other two selectmen, including:

- the awarding of the winter road contract to one of the selectmen by the other two selectmen, why it wasn't put back out to bid when there were no other bidders;
- whether the equipment owned by the contractor meets the contractual requirements, such as lights, wing, and whether the contractor owns a grader;
- whether the contractor starts to plow once two inches accumulate, if the contractor did not plow when two inches accumulate - why not, whether the contractor waits too long into the storm to start plowing;
- what the salt-sand mix is, and how to improve it, more salt would cost more but would make the job easier;
- whether the roads were sanded too little or too much, sand needed more than just in the middle of the road;
- specific concerns about Clement Road (although after it was plowed on day two, the quality of the job was very good) and True Road;
- whether all drivers are covered by the contractor's insurance;
- closing the transfer station when road conditions are too bad;
- plowing at intersections could be improved;
- what is the plan going forward to improve the situation.

Contractor Vern Worthen answered that

- storm and weather conditions also enter into his plowing decisions, not just the two inch measurement: when freezing rain is predicted to follow a snowfall of a few inches, plowing usually results in icier roads, under some weather conditions, sanding will just turn to mud;
- more salt is being used this year than last year, but the voters can raise more for winter roads to include more salt;
- equipment issues delayed the plowing a few times during storms;
- he does have access to Donnie's grader;
- he is purchasing more equipment which will improve the situation.

The Selectmen answered

- they talked to possible contractors weeks before the bid date to try to interest known contractors in bidding;
- that the basic equipment requirements were met;
- the grader is available for Vern to use;
- the truck without a wing needs one;
- they will buy more salt if needed;
- the winter salt is not the same salt they used in the summer to keep dust down;
- they want this contract to work for the town and they will work to improve the situation.

One discussion about salt:

Donnie believes that the salt that the town bought is good quality.

Donnie and Vern both said that you can double the salt and it still might not be enough for a given situation.

When asked, Donnie indicated that his decision not to bid might have been different if the Town used more salt. Fred had the impression last April that Donnie had said he was tired of plowing.

Communication:

Townpeople called Vern, the town office and the town constable with concerns about plowing. One phone call was about damage to one mailbox on Rome Road. Emily stated that she felt many people didn't come to the meeting because they didn't think it would do any good.

Other business:

- Tree growth applications from Joel Hooper and Blynn Currier were approved.
- Veteran exemption requests from Steve Whitney and Russell Jones were approved.
- Waterville Humane Society contract was signed; they plan to be open the whole year.
- Minutes from December 13, 2018 were approved 2-0-1.
- Five extra turkey pies will be distributed to GA clients.
- Daren Turner's short form forest harvest report was signed. Payment for another load of pulp was received in the amount of \$332.15.
- Town is waiting to hear from the Mills family to review the town forest boundary line agreement.
- Warrant approved 3-0
- Yolanda is reviewing Warren and Kincaid's 2018 bill for the next meeting.
- Next meeting with Selectmen and Budget Committee will be Wednesday the 23rd instead of Thursday the 24th.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Varney, Secretary