

SELECTMEN'S MEETING-- December 30, 2024

Present: Chris Ellms, Dick Bielefield, Margo Connors
Jennifer Gaudette

Guests: Judy & Larry Sawyer, Fred & Claire Von Karls, Gus Demaggio,
Kathy Jablonski, Road Agent Doug Glover, chief Mike Ho-Sing-Loy

Correspondence was read and acted upon.

MR. ELLMS made a motion to approve the minutes, of December 16, 2024 seconded by MR. BIELEFIELD. The motion passed unanimously.

The Town of Sugar Hill was awarded \$19,046.00 from Grafton County through their ARPA Grant program. The funds will go toward the Sugar Hill Fire Department purchase of air packs. The Select Board is appreciative to the County for the grant.

The board received a copy of an appeal of an administrative order filed with NHDES by Jennifer and Jeff Sabados for their property.

The Sugar Hill Conservation Commission is updating the town Energy Policy.

The Town received the approval for construction and approval for operation for Clark Houx, Map 223, Lot 16 349 Hadley Road.

The board was updated on a Worker Compensation accident. No loss time wages.

The HL Turner Group has provided the proposal for professional construction engineering services for Crane Hill Bridge over Gale River, Bridge #22/128. The town Engineer is reviewing. Will confirm that this is the 80/20 State Bridge Fund split and not the 100% that will start when the actual construction takes place.

The board was notified that the hourly legal rate for town attorney has increased.

MARGO CONNORS said that the Grafton County middle mile would allow for additional broadband options. The Fidium Fiber update shows construction started on Fiber to the Home on December 9, 2024, with a completion date of May 2025. There will be 3 phases/crews working on the project.

Harrison Publishing will print this year's town report although we may need to look for another printer in the future.

FRED VON KARLS provided several sign options that he and Margo will review. All agreed a sign at both ends of town would be the best option.

ROAD AGENT DOUG GLOVER met with the board to review his 2025 budget. Not all expenses for 2024 are in. The monies carried over in the non-lapsing account will be used in 2025 for shimming and putting a top coat on roads that were done this year. Doug felt that he was finally seeing headway in getting the roads caught up. The Road Committee has an extensive report that the board will review in January on how best to maintain the roads for future travel. Maintenance on equipment and vehicles up as the equipment ages. Any metal products like cutting edges have shown a sharp increase. Doug discussed the new boiler that requires the wood be dry and that it needs to be loaded twice a day.

Currently Doug is doing that but it was suggested he ask Jim Keefe if he would be interested in doing that when he is doing his daily building checks. The board discussed the boiler versus the furnace and Doug estimated they use approximately 12 cords of wood. He purchases the wood in log length and the crew cuts and splits. Jennifer mentioned that Doug has wanted an extension on the building so that they have a bay to work in when the large trucks are in the stalls during the winter months. Doug will reach out and get an estimate on extending the length of the garage on the back side. They would be able to do the earthwork to save money on a project. Margo asked Doug about the roads considering Eversource truck traffic and they will be shut down with any thawing.

Doug discussed with the board the replacement of the 2017 One Ton truck and replacing it with a F550 that could have a wing and allow it to do more plowing and cover the dirt roads. Also, could fill in if there was a problem with one of the big trucks. Doug is getting prices and Chevrolet has offered the best price to date. It will then need a body built, plow setup and the wing. Doug has the funds in his CRF to make the purchase and the Select Board gave him permission to pursue the additional costs.

CHIEF HO-SING-LOY and ROAD AGENT DOUG GLOVER discussed with the board the most recent NCC Traffic Pop Up Traffic Report. The report shows that 4-14% of the traffic is going over 40MPH in the 30 zone. This year the Police Department made 439 traffic stops. The board discussed ways to slow the traffic down on Route 117. Chief Ho-Sing-Loy will purchase a new speed trailer that will also have a board to show a message. Could be used for events in town, fire scene, flooding etc. In addition, they will purchase a new radar equipment. These will come from the ARPA funds that the town has and must be expended. All in attendance felt moving the existing signs and getting signs that will have additional colors would be beneficial. The Chief has funds in the Police Special Detail fund that can be used for the additional speed signs. The board continued to discuss ways to slow people down near the sidewalk in front of Crapo and will try the flower buckets and Doug will get the crosswalk painted to make people more aware. It was also mentioned one of the recommendations was a fence around the edge of the parking lot and in front of the museum which would push people down to use the sidewalk. It was explained that the State does not allow you to put anything in the roadway. Doug also recommended that the side entrance driveway to the Crapo building be widened which would allow an additional 10 parking spaces. Currently there are days when no parking is available. Doug will get a cost for material.

With no more business before the Board, MR. ELLMS made a motion to adjourn, seconded by MS. CONNORS, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM. The next regular scheduled meeting is Monday January 6, 2025 at 5:00 pm at the Crapo Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Jennifer Gaudette
Town Administrator