



**Norridgewock Select Board
Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2021
6:00 PM
Conference Room, Norridgewock Town Office**

APPROVED
01/05/2022

MEMBERS PRESENT

Matthew Everett, Chair
Charlotte Curtis
Ronald Frederick
Lindsey Lynch

STAFF PRESENT

Richard LaBelle, Town Manager
Sharon Dodge, Deputy Town Clerk
David Jones, Fire Chief
Peter Lyman, Bookkeeper
Todd Pineo, Deputy Fire Chief

MEMBERS ABSENT

James Lyman, Vice Chair

Also present for all or part of the meeting were Tim Curtis (via Zoom), Bob Hopkins, Kathryn Hopkins, Dan Meade, Wendy Meade, Mike Obert, and Mike Shute.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mr. Everett.

2. Pledge to the Flag

3. Review/Approve Minutes of December 1, 2021

Ms. Lynch made a MOTION to approve the minutes of December 1, 2021. Seconded by Ms. Curtis. MOTION PASSED.

4. Member Reports

Mr. Everett commented regarding the holiday stroll and tree lighting. He noted that it was a very positive event for the community and was enjoyed by many. He has only heard positive feedback on the event and thanked the volunteers for organizing the event.

5. Town Manager's Report

See Attached.

6. Discussion/Action on December 15, 2021 General Warrant #24

Ms. Lynch made a MOTION to approve and sign General Warrant #24 in the amount of \$244,004.63. Seconded by Mr. Frederick. MOTION PASSED.

7. Discussion/Action on December 15, 2021 Airport Warrant #12

Mr. Frederick made a MOTION to approve and sign Airport Warrant #12 in the amount of \$47,351.50. Seconded by Ms. Lynch. MOTION PASSED.

8. Discussion/Action on December 15, 2021 Sewer Commitment

Mr. Frederick made a MOTION to approve and sign the December 15, 2021 Sewer Commitment in the amount of \$24,384.30. Seconded by Ms. Lynch. MOTION PASSED.

9. Public Comment

None.

10. Discussion/Action on Proposed Moratorium Ordinance Regarding Commercial Solar Facilities

Planning Board Vice Chair Mike Shute provided an overview of the proposed moratorium, which was unanimously supported by the members of the Planning Board at their most recent meeting.

Ms. Lynch inquired about the opportunity to implement safeguards such as screening for the protection of neighborhoods. Ms. Curtis noted that presently there is not an ordinance that specifically regulates commercial solar development. Mr. Frederick inquired as to the impact of such a moratorium on current applications and whether or not there are any pending applications. Mr. LaBelle noted that the two current applications would not be impacted, but that if construction was not substantively underway before the permit expiration in April 2022, that those projects would then be impacted. There are no pending applications for solar development.

Upper Main Street resident Bob Hopkins expressed concern over the moratorium being a form of zoning and restricting what property owners are able to do with their land. Wilder Hill Road resident Todd Pineo noted that he sees a distinct difference between zoning and regulation, where zoning could prohibit development, while an ordinance is intended to set standards and guidelines for development.

The consensus of the Board is to proceed with presenting the moratorium to voters at Town Meeting 2022. The draft will be forwarded to municipal counsel for review.

11. Discussion/Action on Upper Main Street Speed Table Removal

Mr. Everett opened the item stating that he believes the role of the Board is to speak for the people, not over the people. The issue concerning the removal of the Upper Main Street speed table was addressed by voters a year ago and the Board should not work to undermine that vote. Mr. Everett suggests that those interested in seeking the removal of the speed table should initiate a petition.

Winding Hill Road resident and Road Committee member Mike Obert stated that the table was installed because of a small group of people and that the Board's decision to install the speed table was against the recommendation of the Road Committee, Town Manager/Road Commissioner, and municipal engineer. Mr. Obert believes that the Board should respect the recommendation of the Road Committee, as it does for most other advisory boards. Mr. Obert inquires as to the reason that the Road Committee's recommendations are subject to more advanced scrutiny than other committees.

Ms. Lynch noted that if speed tables were the solution to high speeds, speed tables would exist on nearly every road in town and that she doesn't believe that speed tables are the appropriate solution. Mr. Frederick noted that a written criteria for speed table placement and installation should be developed to create an objective analysis for future speed table installation. There was discussion about whether or not existing speed tables would be grandfathered; no decision was made.

Upper Main Street resident Kathryn Hopkins stated that the original speed table recommendation and design for Upper Main Street was for there to be two, but due to budget constraints at the time, the design was set aside and one speed table was installed approximately in the middle.

The Board took no action on this item.

12. Discussion/Action on Father Rasle Road Closure

Mr. LaBelle provided an overview of the current status of the Father Rasle Road erosion concern and the current lane closure status. Mr. Everett noted that there may be concerns related to school bus transportation and that the bus would have to travel on both sides of the closure.

Fire Chief David Jones noted that a full road closure may have significant implications for emergency responders, especially if the responder is not familiar with the area or aware of the closure.

Father Rasle Road resident Dan Meade expressed concern over the necessity of full closure and thought it may suffice to continue with the restriction to one lane.

Mr. Frederick made a MOTION to continue the one-lane closure of Father Rasle Road in the vicinity of Twin Oaks Drive until further notice, subject to future review by the Board. Seconded by Ms. Lynch. MOTION PASSED.

13. Discussion/Action on Fire Department Grant Acceptance

Mr. LaBelle provided a brief update on the status of several fire department grant applications and thanked Chief Jones and Deputy Chief Pineo for their time invested in seeking grants. The Town is pleased to announce that the Department was successful in being awarded a grant from the Stephen & Tabitha King Foundation in the amount of

\$40,000 for the purchase of extrication equipment. The Board congratulates the Fire Officers and thanks them for their continued service.

Mr. Frederick made a MOTION to accept a grant in the amount of \$40,000 from the Stephen & Tabitha King Foundation for the purchase of extrication equipment. Seconded by Ms. Lynch. MOTION PASSED.

Deputy Chief Pineo discussed the process of identifying the proper equipment, which included on-site trial of equipment, which several Board members were able to attend and observe. Deputy Chief Pineo discussed the value in purchasing quality equipment from trusted vendors; he requests a waiver of the Purchasing Policy in order to complete the grant purchase.

Ms. Lynch made a MOTION to waive the requirements of the Purchasing Policy and to authorize the expense of up to \$40,000 for extrication equipment to be purchased from Bergeron Protective Clothing (Epsom, NH). Seconded by Ms. Curtis. MOTION PASSED.

14. Discussion/Action on 2022 Budget

Mr. Frederick made a MOTION to recommend a budget of \$233,499.00 for the Fire Department's 2022 budget. Seconded by Ms. Lynch. MOTION PASSED.

Ms. Lynch made a MOTION to recommend a budget of \$5,850.00 for the Cemetery Department's 2022 budget. Seconded by Ms. Curtis. MOTION PASSED.

Ms. Lynch made a MOTION to warrant an article to establish a Cemetery Reserve Account and to appropriate interest earned from the Cemetery Trust to that account. Seconded by Mr. Frederick. MOTION PASSED.

Mr. Frederick made a MOTION to recommend a budget of \$42,660.00 for the Library Department's 2022 budget. Seconded by Ms. Curtis. MOTION PASSED.

Mr. Frederick made a MOTION to recommend a budget of \$18,100.00 for the Elected Officials Department's 2022 budget. Seconded by Ms. Curtis. MOTION PASSED.

Ms. Curtis made a MOTION to recommend a budget of \$18,100.00 for the Tax Assessing Department's 2022 budget. Seconded by Ms. Lynch. MOTION PASSED.

Ms. Curtis made a MOTION to recommend a budget of \$5,600.00 for the General Assistance Department's 2022 budget. Seconded by Ms. Lynch. MOTION PASSED.

Ms. Lynch stated her position that the Parks budget should be at least \$6,900.00, so that an additional \$1,000 could be provided to support the Holiday Stroll.

Mr. Frederick made a MOTION to recommend a budget of \$5,900.00 for the Parks Department's 2022 budget. Seconded by Ms. Curtis. MOTION PASSED.

Ms. Lynch made a MOTION to recommend a budget of \$10,250.00 for the Code Enforcement Department's 2022 budget. Seconded by Mr. Frederick.

Mr. Everett asked if the motion could be withdrawn, as he feels there may need to be a fundamental adjustment to the Code Department. Ms. Lynch and Mr. Frederick were amicable to this request. MOTION WITHDRAWN.

Ms. Lynch made a MOTION to recommend a budget of \$2,000.00 for the Planning Board's 2022 budget. Seconded by Ms. Curtis. MOTION PASSED.

Ms. Lynch made a MOTION to recommend a budget of \$7,000.00 for the Social Services Department 2022 budget. Seconded by Ms. Curtis. MOTION PASSED.

Mr. Frederick made a MOTION to recommend a budget of \$560,000.00 for the Roads 2022 budget. Seconded by Ms. Lynch. MOTION PASSED.

Ms. Lynch made a MOTION to recommend a budget of \$45,000.00 for the Summer Grounds Department 2022 budget. Seconded by Ms. Curtis. MOTION PASSED.

Mr. Frederick made a MOTION to recommend a budget of \$30,334.00 for the Unclassified Department 2022 budget. Seconded by Ms. Lynch. MOTION PASSED.

15. Other Business

None.

16. Adjournment

Mr. Frederick made a MOTION to adjourn at 7:58 PM. Seconded by Ms. Lynch. MOTION PASSED.