



**Norridgewock Select Board
Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2023
6:00 PM
Conference Room, Norridgewock Town Office**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Matthew Everett, Chair
Lindsey Lynch, Vice Chair
Kelsea Bickford
Ronnie Blodgett
Dylan Wentworth

STAFF PRESENT

Richard LaBelle, Town Manager
Peter Lyman, Bookkeeper
Todd Pineo, Deputy Fire Chief
David Savage, Fire Chief & CEO

Also present for all or parts of the meeting were Ruth Keister and Becky Ketchum (via Zoom).

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 September 6, 2023

Ms. Lynch made a MOTION to approve the minutes of September 6, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Wentworth. MOTION PASSED.

4. Member Reports

None.

5. Town Manager's Report

See Attached.

6. Discussion/Action on September 20, 2023 General Warrant

Ms. Lynch made a MOTION to approve and sign General Warrant 2023-17 in the amount of \$446,277.25. Seconded by Mr. Wentworth. MOTION PASSED.

7. Discussion/Action on September 20, 2023 Airport Warrant

Ms. Lynch made a MOTION to approve and sign Airport Warrant 2023-9 in the amount of \$32,770.99. Seconded by Mr. Wentworth. MOTION PASSED.

8. Discussion/Action on September 20, 2023 Sewer Commitment

Ms. Lynch made a MOTION to approve and sign the September 20, 2023 Sewer Commitment in the amount of \$27,782.87. Seconded by Mr. Wentworth. MOTION PASSED.

9. Public Comment (Limited to 2 minutes)

Deputy Fire Chief Todd Pineo spoke briefly regarding a program that may create a retirement-style incentive for paid call-force and volunteer firefighters. The program is currently unfunded.

10. Discussion/Action on Fire Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Equipment Purchase

Ms. Lynch made a MOTION to authorize the purchase of SCBA Equipment from Bergeron Protective Clothing in an amount of up to \$205,407.36, including a local share of up to \$10,271. Seconded by Mr. Wentworth. MOTION PASSED.

11. Discussion/Action on Park Development Projects

Mr. LaBelle spoke regarding two potential locations for the trail maintenance building at Ashley J. Wing Family Memorial Park. Both sites are located in the back right corner, as seen from the road, one further back than the other. The further back location appears most ideal, providing a greater setback, but will require the removal of six trees. Mr. LaBelle also notes an opportunity for additional trees to be planted along the property line and on the edge of the access to the trail.

There was a discussion about securing a contractor to construct the building and ensuring compliance with the Board's Purchasing Policy.

Ms. Lynch made a MOTION to locate the trail maintenance building in the further back location, authorize the removal of six additional trees, and add additional buffer vegetation where appropriate. Seconded by Mr. Blodgett. MOTION PASSED, 4-0-1 (Everett, Lynch, Blodgett, Wentworth in favor; none opposed; Bickford abstained).

12. Discussion/Action on Oosoola Park Dock System Purchase

Ms. Bickford made a MOTION to accept the proposal from Maine-ly Docks (Oakland, ME) as presented in an amount of \$33,164.10, plus weighted pads for docks, placement of pads, and/or connection of weight to dock sections. Seconded by Ms. Lynch. MOTION PASSED.

13. Discussion/Action on Public Works Equipment Opportunities

Mr. Everett opened the conversation about opportunities and more economical solutions for Public Works, that would support a more efficient approach to road maintenance. He believes that roadside mowing, for example, could provide potential savings and/or a breakeven that could do the same or better job on the Town's schedule. Mr. Everett notes other major benefits including reducing risk exposure related to chainsaw use (brush cutting, etc.).

Mr. Wentworth stated that he believes purchasing a piece of equipment for the Town is a good idea, but that costs can escalate with equipment, fuel, and maintenance. There may be long-term cost savings, but labor and maintenance are a major issue.

Ms. Bickford inquired how other municipalities handle tasks like roadside mowing and that she would like to learn more about their experiences. She believes there is an opportunity for cost-savings if the Town owns this type of equipment.

Mr. Blodgett stated he believes that if an equipment purchase is made, it should be a piece of equipment that has more than one purpose. Mr. Everett echoes the same sentiment and states that seeking the perspective of other towns may help provide insight into the best piece of equipment. Mr. Blodgett also suggests that a perspective vendor may be a productive member of this conversation.

14. Other Business

Mr. Blodgett noted that Kaitlyn Cole has graduated from boot camp and has returned home. Ms. Bickford stated that she was very encouraged to receive the letter from the Select Board.

Ms. Lynch made a MOTION to sign and send a letter of thanks to Highlands Federal Credit Union in recognition of their grant towards purchasing air bags and struts for the Fire Department. Seconded by Mr. Wentworth. MOTION PASSED.

Ms. Lynch made a MOTION to approve the On Premises Event License for the Somerset Humane Society, should the event location be changed to Norridgewock. Seconded by Ms. Bickford. MOTION PASSED.

15. Executive Session to Discuss Labor Negotiations pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D), contract negotiations between the Town and AFSCME Council 93 for the Local 2011-13

Ms. Lynch made a MOTION to enter executive session at 7:19 PM, pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D). Seconded by Mr. Wentworth. MOTION PASSED.

Ms. Lynch made a MOTION to exit executive session at 8:09 PM. Seconded by Mr. Wentworth. MOTION PASSED.

16. Adjournment

Ms. Lynch made a MOTION to adjourn at 8:03 PM. Seconded by Mr. Wentworth. MOTION PASSED.