



**Norridgewock Select Board
Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2023
6:00 PM
Conference Room, Norridgewock Town Office**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Matthew Everett, Chair
Kelsea Bickford
Ronnie Blodgett

STAFF PRESENT

Richard LaBelle, Town Manager
Peter Lyman, Bookkeeper

MEMBERS ABSENT

Lindsey Lynch, Vice Chair
Dylan Wentworth

Also present for all or parts of the meeting were Jim Lyman and Mike Obert.

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 20, 2023

Ms. Bickford made a MOTION to approve the minutes of September 20, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Blodgett. MOTION PASSED.

4. Member Reports

Ms. Bickford commented that she recently visited Ashley J. Wing Family Memorial Park, and a large branch of the big tree was down. She wanted to make sure that the proper individuals were aware.

5. Town Manager's Report

See Attached.

6. Discussion/Action on October 4, 2023 General Warrant

Mr. Bickford made a MOTION to approve and sign General Warrant 2023-18 in the amount of \$49,946.05. Seconded by Ms. Bickford. MOTION PASSED.

7. Public Comment

Peter Lyman noted that he recently visited the Waste Management Transfer Station and there appears to be good progress with site development.

8. Discussion on Purchasing Policy

Ms. Bickford believes there should be clarification to the existing policy, especially in Section 4(D), related to the Board's ability to waive a formal bid process. Mr. LaBelle will draft proposed language that requires a vote of the Board and the inclusion of an explanation when electing to bypass the policy. The proposal would require that the waiver be voted separately from expense approval.

Ward Hill Road resident Jim Lyman suggested that the Board consider approximate project costs (price per square foot of building, etc.) and use that as a baseline to determine the fairness of price proposals.

9. Discussion/Action on Trail Maintenance Building Reconsideration

Ms. Bickford took the opportunity to recognize the volunteers associated with the Norridgewock Sportsmen Association and the rail trail development.

Ms. Bickford inquired as to the formal status of the trail maintenance building. The building proposal has been authorized, but there has been no determination of the contractor selection process.

Jim Lyman stated that he understands that the funding is from TIF; however, he still has concerns about costs and using tax dollars. There are multiple building/storage needs for the Town, and suggests looking at options for a consolidated, centralized location.

Mr. Everett respects Mr. Lyman's suggestion but notes that real estate in a centralized location is difficult, as are the needs for the relevant space. He further states that a building at the Martin Stream Road location creates value in other ways, which include property surveillance, asset protection, space enhancement, etc.

There is no action taken.

10. Discussion/Action on Trail Maintenance Building Request for Proposals

The Board discusses the options for moving forward considering the contractor selection process. Mr. LaBelle will gather information related to average costs, specifications, etc., to be reviewed at the next regular meeting so that the members can determine how to proceed.

There is no action taken.

11. Discussion/Action on Walker Road Crack Remediation Proposal

Mr. LaBelle explained the proposal offered by Pike Industries regarding the cracking on Walker Road. They have analyzed a number of material samples and also reviewed material slips and cannot isolate a cause for the unusual cracking. Pike recommends crack sealing the road this fall and then again in Spring 2024, then overlay the road. Pike would be responsible for the cost of all crack sealing, and the Town would be responsible for the overlay/shim (0.5"). Pike will cover any escalation in price, should there be any between now and the spring.

Jim Lyman stated that he hoped the contractor would provide a full warranty on the project. There have already been significant expenses associated with this road project, and taxpayers find it discouraging.

Mr. Blodgett inquired as to what the estimated cost of the repair was being shouldered by the contractor. He also inquired about any guarantee related to this remediation proposal. Mr. LaBelle stated that he did not believe any; however, he would follow up with the contractor. There was a discussion regarding whether or not it was necessary to sign the contract at this time or if the Town can wait until spring to determine the effectiveness of the crack sealing. Mr. LaBelle will contact the contractor to determine timing as well as their willingness to hold the price.

Ms. Bickford made a MOTION to table this item. Seconded by Mr. Blodgett. MOTION PASSED.

12. Discussion on Downtown Traffic Ordinance

Mr. LaBelle provided sample information from other communities regarding traffic ordinances and expressed concern over the long-term safety with traffic downtown. He requested the Select Board members review the materials and provide feedback on sections they like and deem relevant for future consideration and implementation.

13. Other Business

None.

14. Discussion/Action on Agreement between the Town of Norridgewock and Council 93, AFSCME, for the General Unit Local 2011-13, January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2026

Ms. Bickford made a MOTION sign the Agreement between the Town of Norridgewock and Council 93, AFSCME, for the General Unit Local 2011-13, January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Blodgett. MOTION PASSED.

15. Executive Session to pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A), to discuss Town Manager performance

Mr. Blodgett made a MOTION to enter executive session at 7:14 PM. Seconded by Ms. Bickford. MOTION PASSED.

Ms. Bickford made a MOTION to exit executive session at 7:48 PM. Seconded by Mr. Blodgett. MOTION PASSED.

16. Discussion/Action on Town Manager Performance

Mr. Blodgett made a MOTION to table this item until the next regular meeting so there can be full Board participation. Seconded by Ms. Bickford. MOTION PASSED.

17. Adjournment

Mr. Blodgett made a MOTION to adjourn at 7:49 PM. Seconded by Ms. Bickford. MOTION PASSED.