

TOWN OF EASTON
Select Board Meeting – Draft Minutes
August 5, 2024

Select Board

Select Board Secretary

Zhenye “Zak” Mei (Chair) – Present (remote)
Bob Thibault – Present
Toni Woodruff – Present

Kathy Ryan – Present

“These minutes of the Town of Easton Select Board have been recorded by the secretary. Though believed accurate and correct, they are subject to additions, deletions, and corrections by the Select Board at the next meeting when the Board votes its final approval of the minutes. These minutes are made available at this time to conform to the requirements of New Hampshire RSA 91 – A: 2.”

Meeting officially called to order at 6:05 pm by Bob Thibault.

Public in Attendance: Roy Stever (remote), Ned Cutler

Minutes:

- The July 15, 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed. Bob Thibault made a motion to approve and accept the minutes as written. Toni Woodruff seconded. Bob T – yes, Toni W – yes, Zak M – yes. Passed.

Vouchers and Checks: All vouchers were accounted for, accepted, and signed.

Treasurer’s Report: The August 5, 2024 report was read by Bob Thibault.

- Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank - Checking Account: \$ 10,093.67
- Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank - Money Market Account: \$ 2,129.71
- PDIP (Public Depository Investment Pool) Account \$ 271,713.08
- ZBA Escrow (logging) Account \$ 5.00
- Total Balance: \$ 283,941.46
- Toni Woodruff moved and Bob Thibault seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report as read. Bob T - yes, Toni W – yes, Zak M – yes. Passed. Two members of the Board signed the report.

Public:

Ned Cutler

- Requested the SB approve Jason Arquitt as Fire Warden, replacing himself who will become a Deputy Warden. Bob Thibault so moved and Toni Woodruff seconded. Toni W – yes, Bob T – yes, Zak M – yes. Passed. SB signed documentation to be forwarded to the Forest Service.
- Ned Cutler noted the receipt of PB permit applications by Eversource.
- SB discussed receipt of an SEC letter notifying the Town of a 9/23/24 hearing on the Eversource project oversite requested by Easton and Bethlehem.
- SB discussed ADU application for Paine Rd resident, noting the 5-year waiting period 602.2 (9).

Old Business:

Building/Renovation Application/Active Permits

- McLaughlin shed permit signed by SB following ZBA variance approval.
- N. Peak shed – application on hold; waiting on accurate layout due to wetland setbacks.
- Paine Rd addition (Wyman) – waiting on plans.
- McNary solar permit – waiting on A. Clark.
- Porch permit – waiting on A. Clark
- Moses permit – forwarded to ECC and A. Clark.
- ZBA fee waiver discussed. Zak Mei asked if there is a formula for deciding welfare cases. Bob Thibault noted that there is a form to fill out for tax relief and that in the past welfare requests have been granted on case-by-case basis.

ARPA Funding

- SB reviewed quotes from Jim McMahan for large study culvert study and proposal; \$15,000-24,000 (Oct 2023)
- Presby quote received; \$8,000 to enlarge one of the culverts.
- Zak Mei to verify that the grant can be used for engineering study. Funds must be obligated this year but do not have to be expended.
- Bob Thibault proposed that grant money be used for the culvert study with any leftover funds going towards culvert replacement, supplemented by Town funding as needed.
- Roy Stever described culvert insufficiency at his access road.

Road Maintenance

- Estimates received from Presby following up on the road ride (June 5) with the SB. (From Thad Presby July 29 email.)

Dirt section of Paine. 4 loads of gravel delivered and spread – **3K**

North Paine. Patch asphalt as best as possible with 12 tons of mix (same as we have done before) and also do some selective ditching with an excavator to improve water drainage off the road **10K**

South Paine. There was only one culvert that I (Thad) recommend replacing and that is ½ way between Harwood and 301. It is currently a 15” metal pipe and I suggest going back in with an 18” plastic. All others are modern plastic and seem to be all set. Then there is quite a bit of ditching and cleaning out of culverts that needs to be done. **8K**

Ginger Bread Road / Vista/ Mt View and Beaver Meadow. Two loads of gravel on corner of Mt. View and clean up piles at end. Grade rake and roll all roads and clean up a few small piles at intersections. Beaver Meadow clean up small piles and some wood debris. Grade, rake, and roll as required **4.5K**

Valley View. 3 loads of gravel grade, rake and roll as required and pick up piles at end of road. **4K**

Ruskin Road. Improve approximately 1000’ of the road with crushed gravel, grade, rake and compact. Clean out ditches and try to fix as best we can. **15.5K** (this might need another look)

- Following discussion, the SB decided to;
 - omit the work on Ruskin Rd at this time (more study needed)
 - reduce the expense on North Paine by half (6 tons of asphalt with excavating and ditching)

-defer replacing the S. Paine culvert at this time (could the replacement be part of the ARPA grant plan?) but ditch and cleanout the culvert
- approve the rest of the work detailed by Thad in the July 29 email.

- Bob Thibault made a motion to approve the scope of work as discussed. Toni Woodruff seconded. During discussion of the motion, Roy Stever noted that the N. Paine patching has been done too close to or during freezing conditions. Zak Mei to look at what has been done in the past and costs. Zak M – yes, Bob T– yes, Toni W – yes. Passed.
- Roy Stever requested a copy of the email from Thad Presby. Bob T to follow up.

Town Hall Painting vs Siding

- Waiting on estimate. Bob Thibault to follow up with Ryan Boisvert and ask about warranty for painting over siding.

Ruskin Plow Easement

- Agreement for 50X75' easement for snow plow turn around noted on subdivision plan.
- Bob Thibault suggested that when the easement is finalized in the deed, a note of appreciation should be sent by the Town to the Ruskins.

Trump Estate

- \$50,501 owed to the Town by the estate. Waiting on settlement.

Short-Term Rental

- New application received from Tamarak with check. Lacking NH rooms and meals tax number. Forwarded to A. Clark.

New Business

Mutual Aid District

- Fire Department Mutual Aid District proposal presented to SB by Zak Mei. Focus on training regarding hazardous materials.
- Bob Thibault moved to sign agreement in favor of district formation, seconded by Toni Woodruff. Toni W – yes, Bob T – yes, Zak M – yes. Passed.

ECC Checking

- SB agreed to ask Darrel Gearhart, Treasurer, to open a checking account for the Easton Conservation Commission and to transfer the amount specified in the warrant into the account.

Correspondence

Highway Block Grant

- Notification received of \$9,281.61 for road maintenance, construction, and reconstruction, \$5,000 to be applied this year.

Toni Woodruff made a motion to close the meeting at 7:28 pm. Zak Mei seconded. Toni W – yes, Bob T – yes, Zak M – yes. Passed.

Next Select Board Meeting – Monday, August 19, 2024, 6 pm

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Ryan, Secretary