

Town of Stoddard
Selectmen's Meeting
Town Hall – 7 PM
Monday, March 28, 2022

MINUTES

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees include Robert Fee – Chair, Christopher Madden – Selectmen, Stephen McGerty – Selectmen, Michelle Pong – Town Administrator, Vickie Williams – Secretary and Harry Power – Compliance Officer.

Guests included Jean Slepian, Mike & Mary Angell, Trevor Anderson, Keith Hyatt, Karen Bell, Joe Traniello, Margo Santoro, Antonio Liceaga, Buzz McLaughlin, Ted Crisman, Diane Latimer, Jason Kavorik, Gail DeMassi, Bob Maden, Nicoletti & Noreen & Ray Durand.

Appointments:

Harry Power – Compliance Officer

109 – 16 – Steven Lacroix – Solar array of 20 panels. Pd \$50.00

115 – 27 – Carol & Mitchell Boudreau – stripping and installing new roof – condition added to have dumpster on site. Pd \$50.00

All Signed and Approved by the Selectmen.

Have 3 new home permits coming up in a couple of weeks.

To Be Signed/Approved

1. A/R and/or P/R Manifests.
2. Budget Hearing Minutes of 3/14/2022
3. Meeting Minutes of 3/14/2022
4. Non-Public Minutes of 3/14/2022

All Signed And Approved by the Selectmen.

Public Comment (Agenda Items Only)

Jean Slepian – Upset how was treated at the transfer station. Believes it could have been handled differently Should have put up a notice all dump stickers were going to be checked or in the minutes somewhere previously. The person checking the stickers was rude and belligerent, felt like a criminal. He said he was just doing what he was told to do. You need to show compassion and understanding in this. I will say Dave the regular attendant is very nice and helpful.

Steve – Heard you didn't have a dump sticker. Stopped by your house twice on Sunday. Don't know who Waste Management sent to check stickers but a lot of people were upset. It is posted on the fence you need a dump sticker. We have to enforce Town rules, and stop select enforcing.

Michelle – I am sorry, I did tell Waste Management to check the stickers. I called Waste Management to check after complaints at the Budget Hearing on the cost of the Towns costs for the Waste Management. I did tell them one of the problems was stickers not being checked or enforced. They had an extra person to send that weekend they wanted to know if they wanted the Town Policy enforced. Michelle said Yes enforce Town Policy. You can blame me for telling them to enforce our Town rules and policies. I did not feel the need for a notice. We will be discussing the Town Policy. Sorry people were treated rudely or with disrespect.

Diane Latimer – Can't you put out a sign when dump stickers are to be pick up, like when it is done with the dog licenses?

Chris – The part about notifying people, Any one who goes to the Transfer Station can see the sign right there. It is posted you need a sticker. Shame on us for not enforcing it from the beginning. We are paying way to much in tax dollars for Waste Management at over a quarter million dollars.

Why is that?

People are using our station who neither pay taxes, from other towns, contractors. Someone may have to be hired to check stickers and make sure people comply or start charging to dump trash.

Ted Crisman – part of the problem is people bring in more than ½ ton I have seen it. There is no requirement for a demolition permit.

Michelle – No there are no demolition permits required. Can demolish and take the load to the dump last year someone demolished a whole trailer and took it to the dump. Can look into requiring a demolition permit.

Tracy Dunn – The state of N Shore Rd. Why was there no kind of preparation or upkeep on the road with only one way in or out?

Antonio Liceaga – Drove home got stuck on the road with my wife and 4 kids. Preparation is everything on dirt roads and seems like none was done.

Gail Massey – Not just mud season either, was not maintained during the winter, and was not sanded. Safety and liability issues.

Bob Maden – Heavy and cold winter with heavy frost. Town knew about this degradation of the road is ongoing, came to the board myself asking for extra money given to the town for these things. Must be looked at in the long term. Gets graded 2/3 times a year and just pushes the dirt. Town has to think about capital improvement on N Shore Rd. Need to recognize the change to Granite Lake by the number of residents becoming year long residents, more traffic.

Bob read a letter from Don Healy sent to the Selectmen – My dismay and frustration on the condition of N Shore Rd. which has been worse than 3rd world countries. For the last several years during mud season the road is block and can not pass other vehicle, creates life saving and liability issues. In March people afraid to leave their homes. Could not work or get groceries. Impeded ambulance/emergency services. Road needs to be rebuilt.

Mike Angell – Live on Mill Rd, could not get an oil delivery truck up there.

Bob – Mill Road is a Private Class VI road, by law the Town does not plow or maintain these roads. They are the responsibility of those who live on that road.

Buzz McLaughlin – Road Agent for Aten Rd. – You need a long term plan to be put into effect to maintain N Shore Rd. At a minimum clean ditches shape the road. Aten Rd stores extra rock for mud season.

Old Business:

Protection Road – Winship Attorney contacted Michelle would like to set up a meeting at 6PM before the next Selectmen meeting. Going with our Town Attorney. Conflict of interest with the specialist attorney. Michelle will set up the meeting for 6PM on Monday, April 11, 2022 before Selectmen meeting. Both Attorneys have all information gathered so far.

Audit – Still in process

Exemption Request from Historical Society – one is for taxes and one for the fee on the Town Hall Rental.

Bob motioned to sign the Exemption of Taxes from the Historical Society. Stephen Seconded. Motion Carried.

Bob motioned to waive the fee for the Town Hall. Chris Seconded. Motion Carried.

New Business:

Transfer Station Policy & Enforcement

Michelle – Some questions to start, Do we want to enforce the policies or start new ones? Are there exemptions of these policies – if so must be stated? Should the Town hire someone to check the stickers? Dump for taxpayers and Renters. Right now 2 stickers for each household. So someone with 5 small pieces of property do they get 10 stickers? People are using the Stoddard Transfer Station from 30 miles around the area.

Bob – I have been in Town 26 years People give their stickers to family, relatives and friends. Bigger issue is straw dumping – asking residents to dump trash for them because their Town charges for dumping. I have heard people say its my sticker I can do what I want with it.

Ted Crisman – I dump in the City of Keene they have a gatekeeper, my license plate is attached to the approval to dump there. Renters are put on a list and checked.

Sticker must be affixed to vehicle right hand lower corner.

Landlord responsible for trash removal when renting.

Attach a license number to dump sticker.

Consider a Demolition Permit

Karen Bell – If attaching license #'s to the stickers prefer this is done from my office. Find out if a dump sticker can be put into the mailing of the registrations.

Michelle – What about a 4 tire a year punch card per registered vehicle? No other person allowed in general areas or buildings? Can we make this allowable by the Selectmen. Yes for the selling of Girl Scout Cookies or Petitions etc. a pass can be allowed by the Selectmen.

A lot of fall out this weekend giving out dump stickers, from the Store, many residents upset they were not given one also. Being turned away.

Work on written policy of getting dump stickers – through registration? Work with Karen and Pat. Where to store them, who has access and data base entry to date?

Stickers handed out not sure to who?

Yes your taxes that you pay a portion goes to maintain and keep the free dump.

Bob – Stephen what prompted you to go to the Treasurers Office and grab stickers, they are a controlled document? You did not tell anybody else on the Board you were going to do this? You did not do it for everyone? Moved it down to the fire station from the store? Nobody knew about this but you. So you stepped on the rest of the Board, went into the locked Treasurers office which you have no business being in. Was not very appropriate Mr McGerty.

Stephen – I believe that is the Selectmens office

Bob – No that is the Treasurers office that is where the checkbook is kept. What prompted the massive emergency to take them without contacting the rest of the Board?

Stephen – 11 dump stickers were handed out. 1 that did not have the correct information. Big tado over dump stickers not even numbered. Pat turns around a dump sticker is not accounted for. How do you account for something not numbered? How many of these dump stickers go out? I contacted Pat on Monday, I tried earlier that weekend, she did not return my call. Told her who the dump stickers were given to. Could not account for 1 of them. People were so upset by what was going on I though maybe I could do something about it. Nobody turned around asked Pat to work Saturday or Sunday to hand out stickers, so yes I took it upon myself. Are taxes went out 2 months late and were more worried about dump stickers?

Chris – Michelle's office is the Selectmen's office by the way. You were in the Treasurers office.

Stephen – Why does Pat answer the phone?

Chris – Pat is also the Administrative Assistant. What you did Stephen was violate the privacy of someone else. It is a slap in the face as Bob said. One elected official to go through another elected officials things. In the real world if I did that I would not have a job.

Stephen – So if I have to sent out emails on weekends to you Chris, or you Bob?

Chris – This is not about emails, you violated privacy of another elected official.

Stephen – It is not, its my office, its your office, its Bobs office.

Chris – You were in the Treasurers office. You violated the privacy of that office.

Ted Crisman – Seems we should move on seems more of a housekeeping issue than a public issue with the Board and should be discussed amongst yourselves.

North Shore Road – this is an overview of all discussed

Bob – Would you like to speak on this Dave?

Dave – Will answer any questions anyone has.

Ted Crisman – Why is Dave answering questions? You are the managers. There have been plenty of questions from townfolks seems better the Board answers the questions.

Michelle – Let me try to answer a few questions. Why did the Selectmen not take action earlier? The road agent sets the budget. The road agent is the one responsible for the maintenance I delegation of maintenance of all Town roads. The Selectmen have told the road agent to prepare for mud season. Why has it gotten to this point? It has gotten to this point because in 2011 & 2007 there was a study on with a bunch of recommendations on how to control the watershed. It is my understanding these remedies were shot down at Town Meeting or by Granite Lake Village. Part of this was to pave part of the road, add different pipes and culverts. In defense of the road agent if these plans were created and it was not funded or turned down then the agent is limited in preparation of the road. The road agent had been asked by the Selectmen through the Town Administrator to do something, it was not ignored by the Selectmen.

Bob – So I went of to view the road on Sunday. I noted 2 observations. 1. The old Notre Dame Camp has a pipe coming out of an old well or something and going directly into the culvert and overflowing the culvert right over the road. The 2nd observation at the end of Old Rt 9 and N Shore Rd. once again another pipe coming out of a cellar and directly into the wetlands. The wetlands are flooded and seeps onto the road. Why are people dumping their excess water in there and will probably have that investigated.

Bob Maden – In the 2011 report Michelle referred to 1 thing was done the culvert by the Town of Stoddard. I came to this body with 2 items when money was allotted by the county. Would love to have a conversation with the Board, Road Agent, Engineer on what needs to be done. The infrastructure has to be filled in on N Shore Rd.

I look to the Select Board there is not enough money in Daves budget to fix the road with the work that has to be done. What is the budget for N Shore Rd every year? The budget set by Dave is for all Town roads in Stoddard.

Ted Crisman – Road needs to be improved at its base the road needs more more for base work, ditch work, and culverts. Can we get someone to develop a plan to get the work done?

Bob – I worked 15 years for County trails. The road does need improvement. It will not be cheap, have to dig down, lay stone, put in fabric or pipe, Work does need to be done but have to be careful. NHDES would have to be involved also with all the wetlands and Granite Lake.

Buzz Aten Rd Manager – Need to set up a plan overtime so that it can be affordable.

Tracy Dunn – Dave makes the budget he has enough money to do what he wants on the road, so why has he not done more? That road has been bad a long time. You collect plenty of money from our taxes. It is not okay he does not know the amount of money he spends a year on the road. He should also know what is needed to prepare. The Town has to own this that they have not taken care of it.

Jason Kovarik – Isn't it time the fox gets out of the hen house, the road agent also being the contractor who is in charge of the Town roads?

Can we set aside money for the maintenance of N Shore Rd. and what monies are available for N Shore Rd?

Bob – We should have the level of detail on the reports, but in my time here nothing has been done for detail of single roads, the budget is for all roads. We have to do something with N Shore Rd and earmark money for it.

We usually have another option but this year Nelson closed the other road. So we only had one way to get in and out, the Town knew this why was more attention not paid to the situation?

Michelle – We have heard the problem, we have placed blame. We need to get on the the budget for this year so we can start implementing things.

Bob – We will want a separate warrant article for N Shore Rd to budget for the repair of the road.

Believe better records should be kept so know what is being spent on each road individually in Town, that the Town is responsible for.

Budget/Warrant

1. Veterans tax credit – based on budget want to raise from \$250.00 dollars to \$500.00 dollars. Will cost the tax payers \$12,000.00 additional dollars.

Chris motioned to recommend this article with additional amount. Stephen Seconded. Motion Carried.

2. Pursuant to RSA 72:28-c the Town of Stoddard shall adopt to Optional Tax Credit for Combat Service in the amount of \$500.00

Chris motioned to recommend the warrant article for Combat Service. Stephen Seconded. Motion Carried.

3. Article 24 – Town to amend the optional adjusted elderly exemptions from property tax. To raise the married combined net income to \$67,000.00.

Stephen motioned to recommend the increase in the net income total for Elderly exemption. Chris Seconded. Motion Carried.

Ray Durand – Wants a line that the elderly exemption should at least be equal to the Veterans exemption.

Michelle – With the Veterans exemption you are talking about tax credits. With Elderly exemption it is tax dollars saved. You can not compare the 2 one is taxes the other tax credits. It is illegal by law.

Ray Durand – How many people were given an elderly exemption last year

Michelle – 3 or 4 people. What this is doing is raising the combined income of a couple. If you want to adjust anything, you can do this at Town meeting, you can make a motion to amend the number on asset holdings. We are talking about the net income increase only for this.

Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items Only)

Noreen Durand – My husband was the one who want the 10 stickers for the 5 properties we own. He was told he has this attitude that he has to fight everyone for everything. That upsets me a lot. Dump stickers were out of control. Thought Steve McGerty was trying to calm the situation. Maybe he did go about it in the wrong way but he was trying to help.

Chris motioned to adjourn the public meeting at 9:15PM. Stephen Seconded. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15PM

Submitted Vickie Williams – Secretary

Robert Fee _____

Christopher Madden _____

Stephen McGerty _____