Town of Stoddard

**SELECTMEN’S MEETING**

Monday, November 27, 2023

**MINUTES**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:02 PM

ATTENDEES INCLUDE – Chris Madden – Chair, Robert Fee – Selectmen, Terri LaRoche – Selectmen, Michelle Pong – Town Administrator and Harry Power – Compliance Officer

GUESTS INCLUDE – Joe Traniello, Ray & Noreen Durand and Mr. & Mrs. Robert Collins

APPOINTMENTS;

Robert Collins: lives at 592 Kings Highway – received letter from Town about blocking and chaining a Class VI Public Road. Former owner put the chain across Log Cabin Road. They did not put the chain there, they have no problem with that. There was previous discussion about the snowmobiles, atv’s and jeeps trying to cross the pond. The Town won a Supreme Court order stating Log Cabin Road was a Class VI road and could not be block to the public. Mr. Collins stated that he thought the chain was legal, as they can chain a Class VI road. Yes, it can be chained but their must be signs posted on both sides 500 ft from the chain warning there is a chain across the road and notify the town you are chaining the road. The Collins have concerns about hunters, they found a bait pile on their property on September 19, they notified Fish & Game. They did put up a sign stating – “Hunter’s If you do not know the rules or follow the rules you are not allowed to hunt here. We consider this trespassing and you will be prosecuted. People told them they did not have the right to put up no hunting signs, they seem they were entitled to go on our land. Owner felt intimidated by some of the hunters. He was told by the board to report any of those things to Fish & Game and they would handle those situations.

Bob did notify the owners that some rules were changing on January 1, 2024 – No game camera on the property unless they have written permission from the owner of the land. If the land is posted as no hunting all tree stands must come down. Ground blinds and tree stands must be put up in July and come down after deer season is done. In order to have a ground blind or tree stand must have written permission from the owner. Make sure you check the new laws with Fish & Game.

He did have the Jeep in the road that day. But it was off the road they did have to slow and drive around it to get through, was not blocking the whole road. Bob went to check the situation out because there had been a couple of complaints the road was blocked. As long as there is no lock on the chain it is fine.

On April 27th a moose was dropped by there house, they notified Fish & Game. 2 weeks ago met a Forester from Andorra Forest. Fish and game dropped it further in the woods. They could have issued a dumping fine if they knew the person. Someone left all the inards on the side of the road.

They propose some type of signage at the beginning of King’s Highway to notify it is not a through way to Washington. Put signage on beginning of Kings Road and were it turns the corner and split. Will get 4 signs two for King’s Highway and Shedd Hill Road. Keeping notes of people coming up and turning around. 1st instance was in the spring at night. Moved to the area was following his GPS and his father had to pull him out.

July 1st are kids were out playing and drove up our driveway. Was driving their van at there dog to move there dog out of the way.

Sedan drove up the unmaintained section, backed down and sat in there driveway for 10 minutes, he also blamed his GPS.

Snowmobilers in the driveway, drove passed their cars and jeep and drove around their yard. Then apologized did not realize it was their actual driveway. Bob can put up signs with better direction for the snowmobile trail.

Talk to people in the neighborhood and are confused what can be used up there. You can use an ATV to and from your property.

How does the Association own part of the road? They maintain the road. King’s Highway is part of the subdivision. In 1999 the Town took over the Class V road to the development and then turns to Class VI roads in the development. The Association maintains the road they have the right to let people use ATV’s if they want.

On the 5th 3 bikes came down from Washington speeding and used it as a jump. They then put the jeep there so they could not jump the bikes.

Glad the issue was cleared up, they were not blocking or doing anything illegal in this situation.

Harry Power:

Sent a certified letter to Joseph Cheverier that he would be there on December 8, 2023 to take pictures of the property.

2 violations on the Shoreland one on Penny Lane – have done excavation and started wall. Michelle will send out a letter stating they should cease and desist any building. Building Permit included at $100.00 and told they can not start to till they have ZBA and Shoreland approval.

 1 on Turtle Rock Road – Michelle has already sent a letter stating the work done must be removed.

Aten Road – Barn building permit denied. We sent back the check and can not have the barn and you have 2 non-compliant ADU’s on the property. They are still renting out the property and have giving out a prize in a drawing at a silent auction, for a stay there. He went to talk to them and explained that their septic system is overloaded. In 2021 they said they spoke to Harry about water in the Treehouse, Harry states they did not. Michelle to send letter to cease and desist the rentals and marketing of both ADU’s, and occupancy of these units till they are up to code.

Whiney Road – both cold storage units – both have been framed upstairs. Putting shop upstairs.

Rice received notice from State. Told to draw up plan for removal.

Peters also received notice from State. They are working with the State.

Jalbert – put in the steps. Stairs installed over a year ago. Conservation Committee came not form an opinion, they don’t know what it looked like. Was sent a cease and desist letter, they had 30 days to start the process of removal.

Church – putting up an 8 x 12 shed, to replace existing

**Bob Motioned to Waive the Building Permit fee. Chris Seconded. Motion Carried.**

TO BE SIGNED/APPROVED:

1. A/R and/or P/R Manifest
2. Minutes of 11\13\2023
3. Pollock Agreement
4. Pistol Permits (2)
5. Notice to Cut Wood or Timber
6. Non-Public Minutes

**All above Signed and Approved. The minutes of 11/13/2023 not approved till next meeting with admendments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Does the Town Clerk accept debit/credit cards. Yes.

Steve Rockwell – Been at food bank for 3 years. Food comes Wed & Thurs. We do the pick up on Saturdays. We are having problem with storage. This is in the old Firehouse 2. There is 20 x 20 room in disrepair there we would like to use this area. The room does need some work, they want to put the refrigerators.

$850.00 for concrete, $950.00 dollars for mini split heat/air. Lowes will donate the paint. Have people willing to donate their time for the work. Will cost $2,000.00 dollars to fix up that room.

Have $5,000.00 for old fire building on maintenance.

Steve will work on getting estimates. Will it need to be insulated? Steve will check in with Michelle as details develop. Want long lasting updates.

Waiting on an Energy Audit for all Town buildings.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Pollock Agreement – Mr. Pollock came to the Town with the cash needed to buy the encroachment.

**Bob Motioned to accept the payment from Mr. Pollock for the encroachment ($5,750.00). Chris Seconded. Motion Carried.**

1. Civic Plus Rollout update – Got in touch with Katie from Civic Plus scheduling an evening meeting on zoom to go over it all – meet on the 11th or 18th. Terri LaRoche will join the committee for the Civic Plus Rollout. Angel and Nick Healy for the public. Joyce Healy from the public, also the Health Officer. Ask Gerry Bailey?
2. Schedule Police Discussion with other Towns – Marlow, Nelson, Sullivan, Gilsum, Antrim, Windsor and Washington. Brief discussion with Nelson Police - Can we share officer with Nelson $200,000.00, we would pay $100,000.00. Bob to get more information on this issue with Nelson Selectmen and share the information with the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Revenue Review – we have a preliminary tax rate. On the MS434.

 Yield Tax to $5,000.00, last year was $8,800.00. Leave Yield Tax at $5,000.00

Interest & Penalties last year - $23,965.00 , would like to make this $15,000.00

Motor Vehicle Permit fees last year was $300,000.00 Keep it at this amount

Building permits - $12,000.00 – suggest $10,000.00 keep it at this amount

Other Permits & Fees - $16,500.00 – keep at $12,000.00

Meals & Rooms – Given by State

Highway Block Grant – Given by State

 Land reimbursement – Given by State

 Income from Depts - $1,679.00 left at $1,000.00

Unassigned Fund Balance - 33.4%. Amount that is already voted from fund at Town $74,943.00 added $40,000 when trying to hire Police Officers and $4,000.00 voted twice for Master Plan.

Preliminary Tax Rate right now is –

Muncipal down to 3.54

County down to 3.56

Local education up to 8.45

State education up to 1.89

Total Tax Rate – up by $1.11 – so tax rate will be 17.44

**MUNICIPAL TAX RATE WENT DOWN – THE SCHOOL TAXES WENT UP.**

If you wanted to use the extra money to pay off debt, it would have to go to a town vote.

**Terri Motioned to give back $250,000.00 dollars back to bring the Tax Rate to 16.98. Bob Seconded. Motion Carried.**

MISC CORRESPONDENCE:

Response from Gunn re: non-compliant use of ADU’s and request for barn permit.

TOWN ADMINISTRATORS NOTES:

 Just a reminder January 8th meeting will be the 250th kick off

**Chris Motioned to Adjourn the meeting at 9:16 PM. Bob Seconded. Motion Carried.**

Submitted

Vickie Williams – Secretary

Christopher Madden \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Robert Fee \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Terri LaRoche \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_