

REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING-THURSDAY APRIL 4, 2024 AT 5:30PM

Present: Steve Barrup, Jerry Waterman, Richard Gosselin, Norman Patenaude, Mark Gray, Mike Baraw, Chris Donovan, Bob Best, Joanne Guyette-Worth, Richard Wells, Jay Knight, Ellen Fox, Denise Daigle

Steve called the meeting to order at 5:30PM and introduced those present. Rick read the ground rules for the meeting.

Jerry made a motion to approve the minutes of 3/7 and 3/26 meetings, seconded by Rick and passed on a voice vote.

Appearances by local citizens/visitor – there were none.

Chris Donovan was here for the Annual meeting with the 4-wheeler club. He presented the board with the paper work to discuss and sign. Steve made a motion to have Jerry sign the paper work, seconded by Rick and passed on a voice vote.

Richard Wells of the Sheriff's department was here to discuss speeding/enforcement/tickets issued in the Town. Rick stated that the board has concerns with speeding and would like to see more enforcement with more tickets being issued as opposed to warnings. Rick stated that the board has had complaints with regard to Vance Hill, Lake Road, among other areas in town. They would like to see more enforcement in these areas. Richard Wells explained the sheriff's position and stated the sheriff's department is aware of the boards concern and will try to accomplish this. Rick explained the sheriff's report.

Road Commissioner's Report – The paving bids for 2024 were opened. Three bids were submitted: Pike industries, Gray's paving, Hutchins. Jerry made a motion to, based on Mike's recommendation, to award the 2024 paving contract to Gray's at a cost not to exceed \$188,595.00 which includes paving cost for Watermelon Lane, seconded by Rick. Some discussion followed. This passed on a voice vote. The loader purchase was discussed. Steve made a motion, based on Mike's recommendation to purchase a John Deere loader at a price not to exceed \$179,000.00 and authorize Mike to sign all necessary paperwork, seconded by Rick. There was some discussion. This passed on a voice vote.

Water/Sewer/Solar/Recycling Report – Mike is having issues with the chemical feed pump. He stated that he is hoping he has found and corrected the problem. All is good with the sewer. Steve contacted all earth renewable regarding one of our trackers not working properly and they will take care of this.

The ARPA Committee had recommendations to present to the board for potential uses of funds. Joanne stated that the committee would like to recommend to the board allocating an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00 to pave a portion of Watermelon Lane to just past the recycling center along with the parking area. Jerry made a motion to, upon the ARPA committee's recommendation; allocate ARPA funds for an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00 for paving of a portion of Watermelon Lane just past the recycling center along with the parking area, seconded by Steve. There was some discussion. This passed on a voice vote. Joanne mentioned that the committee would like to know the board's feeling on pursuing Welcome signs for the Town of Newport (Center). The board would like the committee to pursue this.

Steve made a motion to sign the utility easement deed for NEK Broadband, seconded by Rick. This passed on a voice vote and the board signed the deed. The board voted to re-appoint Dave Ghelli and Wendy Matthews to be the town's representatives for NEK Broadband.

Steve made a motion to adopt the LEMP for 2024, seconded by Jerry and passed on a voice vote.

The board signed the listers certificate of no appeal pending for the year 2023.

Lawn Care Bids were opened – one bid was received by the town. Steve made a motion to award the 2024 lawn care bids for all town properties to Knight property management, seconded by Rick. Some discussion followed. This passed on a voice vote.

Steve made a motion to approve the warrants, bank statement and journal entries, seconded by Jerry and passed on a voice vote.

The board reviewed the 2023 audit.

Unfinished/new business – Mike discussed the highway permit that Rural Edge asked Mike to sign on behalf of the town. This permit involves driveways on Route 105 only. The board stated that Jerry would review and sign this once the proper language is inserted in this permit and Jerry is satisfied with the language.

Voted to adjourn at 7:20PM.