



Regular Selectboard Meeting

June 27, 2022

Unapproved Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomasina Magoon, Diane O’Classen, and Jeff Cathcart

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Cecile Todd, Mike Goodspeed, Dave Sabatini, Barb Walsh, Madine Reed, Marci Hayes, Jim Hayes, Susanne George, Rip Mason, and Diana Mason.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER	Called to order by Jeff Cathcart	7pm
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CHANGES TO AGENDA	Thomasina would like to discuss Hathaway Culvert and roadside erosion on Flora White. Cathcart stated this does not require a change to the agenda as it is discussed under Roads. Diane O’Classen would like to add under other business; budget question and agenda item for two meetings out, regarding timesheets. Susanne would like to discuss excess road account money. Jeff Cathcart stated that there is a letter from Dick Conrad from the Board of Adjustment. Jeff Cathcart would like to talk briefly about some grants that he is looking at as well.	4 min
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MEETING MINUTES	Thomasina stated the first she heard of the break in for the garage was on the agenda. She is concerned with the lack of communication among the board members, she feels she should have known about the break in as well as the purchase of the camera. Thomasina stated moving forward she would like for there to be better communication among the board. She voiced concern that Jeff Cathcart purchased a camera for the break in outside of a meeting. Thomasina stated that cameras added to buildings must be managed by the board and thus the purchase should have been decided by the board, not a single member. Marci clarified that she made the decision to purchase the camera, as	6 min
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**MOTION FOR
PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Constable, not Jeff Cathcart as board member. The money for the camera will be coming out of the Constables line item. Marci stated that she asked Jeff, not as a Selectboard member, but as a neighbor with a security camera to suggest the camera he uses as a good one for a purchase. Marci stated that she agrees with Thomasina, the camera installation and management should be discussed among the board as it will be on a Town building. Diane Motioned to accept the minutes from 5-23-2022, Thomasina 2nd. Diane O'Classen motions to accept the previous meeting minutes, Jeff Cathcart 2nd.

NEW BUSINESS

2022-2023
Property Tax Rate

Susanne George stated the board needs to set the tax rate, she would like to print the bills on the 13th and 14th of June. If there is money in the accounts it will affect the tax rate. Currently there is \$98,000.00 in the road account. Susanne would like to know from the selectboard where they would like that money to go. Susanne stated that Vickee suggests keeping \$30,000.00 in the Road Account as this is what has been done in the past. Jeff Cathcart stated he would like to take the money and put it into the paving account fund. Rip Mason would like to see the potholes filled. Rip thanked the board for the work and dedication for an often thankless job, he encouraged them to use the money allocated on improving the pavement and potholes. Rip feels that the roads are an embarrassment for the Town. Jeff Cathcart stated Town Hill work will be a .5 million dollar job. Jeff Cathcart stated that currently the Federal Service is accepting large grant applications, Jeff is hoping to use the access grant money for Town Hill. Jeff Cathcart stated that the Town just received \$15,000.00 he intends to use the money for the problem areas such as taking up the paved section below Carlisle Hill and returning it to gravel, per State recommendation for that area. Rip Mason stated that he does not want to see the road go back to gravel, he feels that is a step back, we should be moving in the direction of paved roads. Rip appreciated the grading done a few weeks ago on Goshen Ripton Road, the gravel is good, he is

1hr
4min



concerned with the paved roads and that the roads are depreciating property values. Thomasina stated the reason she joined the board was to make a difference, this is why she would like to manage what the board should do regarding road projects as the board is the Commissioner. Thomasina wants to make sure the people are seeing things done on the roads. Madine Reed inquired if the \$15,000.00 can be used with the leftover money of \$98,000 to get a big project done. Jeff Cathcart stated the money needs to be transferred before July 1st, and a big project would not get done by then. Dave Sabatini stated that turning the road into gravel (North of the Town Garage on Carlisle Hill Rd) is not a step backwards, it is a necessary step to improve the road, it can provide a better base for if and when paving occurs. Rip stated that he is willing to pay more in taxes to have better roads and feels that others in the community would agree as well. Diane O'Classen makes a motion to put 50% of the \$98,000.00 into the paving fund and 50% into a road money market. Bill Mathis thanked Jeff for his work on obtaining grants. Bill suggested that the PILT money perhaps could go to fix the issue above the Town Garage. Thomasina clarified that she would like to take a look at the funds in August and reconsider putting the money transferred out back into the Road Account to be used for the roads. Susanne stated that this money needs to be out of the account by July 1st. Thomasina inquired if the money placed in the Money Market could be withdrawn at any time, Susanne said yes. Susanne mentioned a purchase of the safe. Diane and Jeff Cathcart both have found safes that could be used for the Treasurer in the Town Office. Marci stated that the file cabinets could be replaced with a fireproof file cabinet that could be used for the selectboard, treasurer, and zoning administrator. Currently the file cabinets house documents needed and are not fireproof. This would be a good upgrade for the office without the concern of impacting the historical interior space with a large safe. Thomasina stated that she spoke with Garret Baxter from VLCT and he gave reference to a court decision where a judge ordered the Town Clerk to give the treasurer access to the vault. There is a supreme court precedent and a Town must provide a place for the Treasurer to conduct



**MOTION FOR
TRANSFER OF
MONEY**

his/her business. Thomasina thinks that Susanne should be able to utilize the vault. Bill Mathis stated that they should stay on the agenda and continue with the road budget. Madine inquired why road money is thought of to be spent on a safe when the money has been voted on by the people to be allocated for the roads. Jim stated that historically the Town has transferred between road and town accounts. The board at the last meeting transferred \$30,000 from the Road Account to the Town Account. Madine said that this is not something she believes is permissible or legal, if the Town is out of money it needs to borrow money, not take it from the Road Account, furthermore road money should not be spent on anything other than on roads. Marci said this would be a good question for VLCT. Thomasina will call them tomorrow. Diane O'Classen motions again for ½ of the \$98,000.00 to go in a Road money market account and ½ in Paving fund, Jeff Cathcart 2nd.

Susanne inquired about setting the tax rate. Barb Walsh stated the form 411 is needed to set the tax. Barb tried twice and the computers are an issue in the Town Office therefore the Listers have not gotten to completing the 411. Barb called McKinnon and he came down and was unable to fix the issue. The problem seems to be with NEMRC. Thomasina would like to add onto the agenda at a future meeting, computer issues. Marci inquired with Susanne when the tax rate needs to be set, Susanne stated it must be done by the 11th. Thomasina stated this perhaps should be a warned special meeting as the next regular meeting is on the 11th, she would rather not wait until that day to do the tax rate. Thomasina would like the Listers to let Marci know when the 411 is done so that she may warn a special meeting for setting the tax rate.

Curb Cut Access for
Ron Richards

Jeff Cathcart stated that material is being stocked on Ron Richards property for work being done on Raymond property. It was felt to have a curb cut access. Marci stated that a curb cut would need to have certain conditions met which include the degree at which the access meets the public road, pitch, and usually a culvert installation. Marci stated that this is not a curb cut in a traditional sense but a



place to stockpile material. Jeff Cathcart approves the curb cut for Ron Richards property and it is to be a temporary use for material until work is completed then the area is to be brought back to the condition it was prior to work, this will include removing any material and seeding and mulching. This is not a permanent curb cut but a temporary use.

MOTION FOR BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEMBER

Board of Adjustment sent a letter in which recommends the selectboard to appoint Annina Seiler, an interested person, to Board of Adjustment, Jeff Cathcart makes a motion to appoint Annina, Thomasina 2nd.

Special Events Permit Application from Blueberry Hill Inn

Thomasina has been doing some research and stated that no other towns charge a fee for events, she does not agree with Goshen charging a fee for local business doing an event. Marci stated other Towns have a different tax rate for Business. Towns often have a residential tax and a commercial or business tax, according to the Listers Goshen does not differentiate between the two, perhaps this is one of the reasons for a fee associated with the ordinance. Dave Sabatini stated that Blueberry Hill Inn should do what they need to do and not be treated with leniency. Dave Sabatini further made a complaint that Blueberry Hill Inn is running a small Campground, he inquired if there has been a change of use of permit or a permit for a campground obtained with the Town. Businesses should adhere to standards and ordinances the same as other people and other businesses. Jeff Cathcart stated that the planning commission is currently working on their Town Bylaws. Marci stated that irregardless, whatever a law or ordinance is now, is what must be adhered to. Furthermore she stated that Camp Thorpe requests Special Events Permits, additionally she said that she receives requests for permits often and has not had anyone else complain about the fee, or have difficulty reading and understanding the ordinance or application. Jeff motions to approve the Goshen Gallop event permit and requests that Blueberry Hill Inn apply for individual permits per each wedding that will have above 75 people. Thomasina inquired who would handle the complaint regarding the campground. Marci stated that it is a zoning

MOTION FOR SPECIAL EVENTS PERMIT FOR GOSHEN GALLOP



issue and she as Zoning Administrator will contact Blueberry Hill regarding this matter.

OLD BUSINESS

9 min

Garbage Collection Jim recommends that the Town consider putting the garbage responsibility back to the individual. He feels that the cost of the truck and trailer registration, tipping fee, insurance, registration, gas, oil, grease, labor, maintenance and material can be removed from the taxes, thus would save the Town money. This would also allow more freedom to the homeowner to bring trash where they wish or hire someone to come and pick up trash. Marci will call other haulers to see who would be available to come to Goshen to pick up trash as well as the dump site in Brandon to see if Goshen residents can use the Brandon location. She also likes what Cecile mentioned last meeting about the Town of Leicester paying a hauler to be on site in Town, then people can bring the trash down and pay that person directly. Thomasina offered to help Marci with any information gathering or letter writing that may need to occur. Jim inquired if Susanne could get the figures up of what it is currently costing the Town to do garbage.

ROADS Jim said he will get Dido up to bring gravel for the roads. Jeff Cathcart can spread tomorrow if the gravel arrives. Jim said that the tandem trucks will unload at the Town garage, then they load with the loader and will spread it on the roads that need it. Jim said that the truckers do not usually spread directly on the roads as the tandem trucks are large and take down wires and are top heavy with the box up. Thomasina would like to know how far 7 loads of gravel go, Jim said 7 tandem truck loads would spread approximately 200ft of road. Jim stated that the roads need gravel. When a road surface has lost gravel the grading will bring up rocks when there is not enough gravel. Jim said he can spread gravel for Hathaway, White Rocks, and Flora White Roads. Thomasina inquired about projects around town that should be addressed. Jim said that Flora White Culvert should be extended and widened with guardrails put up on the west



side of the road, currently there are only guardrails on the East side of the road. There is a culvert on Goshen Ripton Road that could be replaced. Jim stated that he thinks the bridge at Hathaway needs a poured wing wall to hold the bank back; this could be put out to bid. Thomasina stated that putting these projects or pictures of them being done on the website would let people know that work is being done. Jeff Cathcart reported that \$6700 was received to do work on the roads. Thomasina would like to have grant tracking info on the website as well, perhaps what grant, if awarded, and for how much. Jeff Cathcart stated that the twin culverts received FEMA in the past and is considered a hazardous mitigation area, a program that would include a grant would work for the Dutton Twin Culvert area. Jeff applied for this, the application was accepted and is currently under review. Army Corp of Engineer will most likely be involved with this project.

Thomasina inquired again about why other towns are able to use the material from Wilks and Goshen keeps spending more money on bags of cold patch rather than purchasing the material in bulk from wilks. Jeff Cathcart stated that it is the binding agent that makes the difference. Jim stated that the loose material from wilks needs to be heated up to adhere, whereas the bags of cold patch are ready to go in the hole as is. Thomasina inquired if the Town can rent a heater or purchase a truck that is suited for keeping the mix hot. Jim said Taylor Rental does not rent the heaters. Dave Sabatini inquired about doing the brush around the bridges. Jim said to go ahead and do the brush around the 3 bridges, Capen Hill Bridge, George Walsh's Bridge, and the Bridge across the Town Hall. Dave would like to know about doing the cold patch. Marci said she can have that done. Marci will call Ripton Town Clerk Tomorrow to try to contact Mel about Roadside Mowing.

**CITIZENS
CONCERNS**



ANY OTHER BUSINESS Diane O'Classen would like to go over employee timesheets, as she has contacted several towns about time sheets, what Goshen is doing is too much, people have complained already about them, she would like this on the agenda for the meeting after the next meeting (2nd meeting in July). 8 min

Diane O'Classen has questions about the Listers salary, she stated that they are again over budget, this time by \$1500.25 Diane would like to know why they are over. Additionally Diane stated that the Auditors are down to less than \$200 left for this fiscal year. Thomasina stated that the time sheets have been reviewed and accepted at the last meeting, she is wondering why this is now an issue. Diane stated that no other Town does a time sheet with time in and time out as Goshen does. Diane contacted Brandon, Leicester, and Ripton. Ripton receives invoices. Diane would like to continue this topic at the meeting when this is on the agenda.

Cecile inquired what is left to be done with South Hill. Marci said that reminding the State to fix the error with the GPS and the State mapping system. Jeff Cathcart said the rest is the State, the Town has made it official, the Town has done its part.

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION IF NEEDED**

MOTION TO ADJOURN Jeff Cathcart motion to adjourn, Diane O'Classen 8:58pm

Respectfully submitted by Marci Hayes