

**TOWN OF NEWFIELDS SELECT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2022**

**Select Board Present:** *Hoby Harmon, Jacquelyn Silvani & Michael Sununu*  
**Others Include:** *Mary Belanger, Jeff Buxton, Jeff Couture, Chris Griffith, Michael Kessler, Chief Young and Jim Ziolkowski-Elm Services*

**Call to order at 7:00 pm.**

The Select Board reviewed and approved the following items:

Checks Dated	09/30/22:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 20,556.44
Checks Dated	09/30/22:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 9,303.57
Checks Dated	09/30/22:	Payroll Manifest	\$ 61,010.75

Chief Young notified the Board that the Town Prosecutor, Michael Dicroce, will be retiring at the end of the year. The person who was expected to fill the position will no longer be available. Chief Young requested the Board’s permission to advertise for the position now so that someone is in place by the first of the year.

Jacqui thanked Chief Young and the Officers for their assistance with the Fall Festival. She added that the helmet giveaway was a great success. The helmets were purchased earlier in the year through a grant.

Jeff Couture presented some history regarding trash on Joseph Daley’s conservation easement and requested the Board sign a letter drafted by the Conservation Commission requiring the trash be removed from the property. Michael motioned, seconded by Jacqui, to sign the letter. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The Girards came before the Board to discuss an issue that they have been dealing with since purchasing their home in 2020. At the time of the purchase, they were told SELT would need access to the conservation land via their property about once a year. When they moved in, SELT was in the process of completing a bridge on the conservation land and needed to access the Girard’s property many times a week. The Girards believed these visits would end upon the completion of the bridge. They did not. The following year, SELT continued to access their property, as well as snow mobiles and people who impersonated SELT representatives. The Girards have children, dogs and horses and are concerned with the number of vehicles and people coming and going unannounced on their property. They asked for a 24hr courtesy notification and was told by a SELT representative that SELT does not need to give a notice. The Girards said that the SELT representatives that they have spoken with over the years have been rude and disrespectful. Hopeful to find a solution, the Girards offered to give SELT a portion of their property which would provide an alternate access road, in return, they asked for 24hr notice. SELT again refused to give 24hr notice. The Girards expressed that while they like

what SELT does for the community and stands for, they do not like how they have been treated by them and no longer wish to deal with SELT.

Upon research, the Girards discovered an alternative road off Bald Hill Road that SELT can utilize instead of their property. They are asking the Board to consider this alternative and are willing to contribute funds to gravel the road. They will pay for the same distance as their driveway that the SELT currently uses and have other individuals who will contribute the additional funding. In exchange for paying for the road, SELT would be required to give up their rights to the Girard's access road. The Girards expressed that they will continue to allow the Conservation Commission to utilize it. The Girards feel Bald Hill access road will be a safer route for the timber trucks versus Piscassic Road and said that according to SELT's attorney, SELT needs permission from the Board to use of logging trucks on the Bald Hill access road.

Since the deed for the property allows a road to be construction for the purpose of forestry, Jeff Couture, Chris Griffith, and Jeff Buxton do not believe there are any restrictions preventing the road. Michael agreed that Bald Hill Road would be safer and will speak with the Road Agent to weigh in on the issue. Michael asked if there was anything else the Town needs to address other than approving the road for logging trucks. The Girards said no. Michael added that if anything else is needed from the Town, the Board will have a meeting and a public hearing to address it.

The Board received correspondence from a resident offering to donate their ice-skating rink to the Town. Michael had previously spoken with the Sellers about this subject. The Town could get the rink started and have others maintain it. The Board will need to address insurance for it. Michael will research further.

Michael motioned, seconded by Hoby, to accept and sign the cemetery deed request for Lot 69 D&E to Mark Goodrich. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Michael motioned, seconded by Jacqui, to approve the Town Hall Rental Agreement for the Annual Deertrees HOA meeting scheduled for 10/24/22 at 7:00pm. All were in favor and motion carried.

The Board discussed the three trash bids: Casella, ELM Services, and Waste Management. The Board immediately discounted Casella as their bids were much higher. Considering 600 tons a year and scaling it up by 3% a year, the bids were as follows:

Casella: \$381k

Elm Services: \$295k under per tonnage and \$246k under the fixed fee structure

Waste Management: \$308k under per tonnage and \$347k under the fixed fee structure and \$293k under their automated tonnage. Automation would include a 96-gallon container for each household and would only take what would fit in the container.

Michael motioned, seconded by Hoby, to request ELM Services provide a contract language with a fixed fee option for residential solid waste collection. Jim, from ELM Services, said that

he would collect the trash and recycling on the same day, possibly Mondays. All were in favor and the motion carried. Jim will provide the Board with a contract.

The Board discussed the refurbishing of the Town Hall steps. Michael addressed Jacqui's concerns of whether the walkway is in compliance. Michael believes the ramp and walkway to the handicapped parking are ADA compliant. A request for bids for the repair of the steps will be sent out.

Michael also commended Nancy Gitschier and Leroy Legg for de-weeding the Town Hall's brick walkway.

Michael updated the Board on the Hazell situation. Attorney Durbin reached out to Michael at the request of Hazell's lawyer, to request a postponement of the Sherriff's auction so that Mr. Hazell can list the property by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Michael's concern is that Mr. Hazell could have listed the property well before now. Michael is not inclined to delay this any longer. Under a Sherriff's auction, Mr. Hazzell will have up to a year to buy the property back from the purchaser. If Mr. Hazell would agree to turn the property rights over to the Town and have the Town list & sell it for him, the Town would reconcile with Mr. Hazell and receive the money owed to the Town. Michael will extend this offer to Mr. Hazell. If he declines, the Sherriff's auction will continue.

The Board discussed the inspection of the Vernon Family Farm. The Vernons are expected to come before the Planning Board in October. Michael provided a copy of the Building Inspector's report to Fire Chief Buxton and Police Chief Young to review for any fire & safety concerns. Chief Buxton said that first, the Planning Board needs to decide whether the Vernons activities are within the Town ordinances. If, and when, they need an inspection, the Fire Marshall will be willing to perform it.

Hoby advised the Board that he found some inaccuracies during his review of the September 13th letter from BCM Environmental & Land Law, LLC that the Board should be cognizant of in the future.

Jacqui asked Fire Chief Buxton how the new on-call pay is working for the Fire Department. He replied that it is working well so far but not a cure all.

Michael motioned, seconded by Jacqui, to approve the 9/14/22 Select Board Meeting Minutes as amended. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The Select Board decided on the following dates for upcoming meetings:

October 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>  
November 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>

At 8:15pm, Michael motioned, seconded by Jacqui, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kisha Therrien