

**TOWN OF NORTH HAVEN**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**August 25, 2015**  
**4:00 p.m.**

**Minutes**

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Linda Darling, Jon Emerson, Kat Alexander & Stacy Beverage

SELECTMAN ABSENT: Bill Trevaskis

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Joe Stone

AVAILABLE: TAX COLLECTOR, Janice Hopkins

ABSENT: TREASURER, Joette Adams

ALSO PRESENT: MDOT: Wayne Frankhauser, Michael Wight

General Public: David Heap, Nibs Nichols, Scott & Peggy Mayfield, Pat Curtis, Kim Alexander, Nancy Hopkins-Davisson, Amelia Campbell

1. Linda Darling called the Meeting to order at 4:00 PM
2. **Motion to approve the Minutes of August 18, 2015**  
**Made by Alexander, seconded by Beverage** **Approved 4-0-0**
3. **Public Comment** – Darling reserved public comment until after the representatives from the MDOT Bridge Program had completed their presentation and the Board had had a chance to question them.
4. **Treasurer's Report**
  - a. Approval of Bills, Warrants, Payroll Journals and Journal Entries:

Warrant # 34	in the amount of	\$16,426.23
Warrant # 34-A	in the amount of	\$13,733.92
Payroll Warrant # 31	in the amount of	\$18,026.12
Payroll Warrant # 31-A	in the amount of	\$3,230.80
5. **Correspondence:** None
6. **Reports:**
  - a. Administrator:
    - i. Clinic
      1. Joe Sorbello, PA will be on duty week beginning 8/28
      2. Sue Koen, NP will be on duty week beginning 9/4
      3. Lorraine Reiser, NP begins 10/2
    - ii. Sewer Department:
      1. No update

- iii. DEP/DMR:
  - 1. DMR has been doing property inspections, primarily investigating potential septic problems
- iv. Water Department:
  - 1. No update
- v. Bartlett's Harbor
  - 1. No update
- vi. Ferry Service
  - 1. *Ad hoc* Committee continues working on persuading the MSFS/MDOT to revise its new policy on the transportation of clinic specimens. No update.
- vii. Watson Airstrip
  - 1. Expect comments from Blake Whitman soon regarding Town's response to proposed agreement. No update.
- viii. Legal
  - 1. Town's attorney filed a reply brief on August 13 urging the Court to uphold the Zoning Board of Appeals decision on the Wolfram appeal. No update.
- ix. Town Properties
  - 1. Construction of EMS training room may start soon
- x. Floats & Docks
  - 1. J.O.Brown & Son has been commissioned to build two new floats for Pulpit Harbor. The first of the two is approaching completion.
- xi. Roads & Bridges:
  - 1. See § 7 (a) below
  - 2. Village Parking: we are working with our attorney Paul Gibbons to prepare an easement on Fred Emrich's property for some needed additional village parking. Hoping to identify a survey of an abutting property.
- xii. Transfer Station
  - 1. No update

b. Sheriff's Dept:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Incident</b>	<b>Deputy</b>
8/19	Property checks, administrative	Hansen
8/20	Information, property checks	Hansen
8/21	Property checks	Hansen
8/22	Recovered vehicle, property checks	Hansen
8/23	Erratic vehicle	Hansen

7. **Old Business:**

a. *Pulpit Harbor Bridge*

Wayne Frankhauser and Mike Wight from MDOT's bridge program were present to discuss Pulpit Harbor Bridge. Vice Chair Darling, who was conducting the meeting, asked members of the public to reserve their comments and questions until Selectmen opened a public comment section. Wight made a PowerPoint presentation on the state of the current bridge. He cited the following inspection ratings from the FHWD/MDOT 10 point scale: Superstructure, 6 (satisfactory); deck, 5 (fair); substructure, 3 (serious).

Taken together, the ratings equal a “risky bridge”. Regular inspections of the bridge have revealed voids in the piers and abutments, potential failure of the transverse beams, and a risk of failure caused by scour under the piers which are supported by only a sandy bottom. Bridge failure statistics both in Maine and nationwide support a concern with the serious problem of scour.

Having inferred from the July Public Hearing a level of community opposition to the MDOT’s proposed single span design, MDOT management has proposed abandoning the plan to replace the bridge with their single span, 75-year, design and instead to repair the existing structure to extend its life for 10 years (plus or minus).

Although the Selectmen as a body took no formal position or vote, individuals among them had many concerns about this new proposal as well as about the single-span design which may or may not still be an option. Among them:

- i. there are no guarantees that federal or state financing would be available to replace the bridge in ten years;
  - ii. there is no guarantee that financing would be available to redo the recently completed design and replace the bridge in another year; Frankhauser would offer no assurance that a year’s delay was feasible. His unnamed MDOT colleagues in Augusta were already far down the road of fund re-allocation;
  - iii. having described the existing structure’s serious vulnerabilities, the MDOT representatives could offer no assurances about the timeliness or feasibility of repair or replacement, in the event of bridge failure during the ten year period;
  - iv. although the Town can adapt to a four or five month winter bridge closure while a new bridge is being constructed, an unplanned and potentially protracted closure at another time of year, would have serious consequences for emergency medical and fire services, as well as the utility of Pulpit Harbor as a recreational destination or commercial fishing port;
  - v. individual Selectmen were highly critical of the MDOT’s failure to involve the Board formally except at the very beginning of the project when it had acceded to the Town’s demand to rebuild the bridge with two lanes rather than the originally proposed one lane; there was no communication between the MDOT and Town officials for the entire year following the July 2014 Public Hearing;
  - vi. individual Selectmen were also critical of the Department’s failure to involve them in assessing the depth and meaning of what they heard at the un-moderated July Public Hearing and to interpret the criticism heard there as widespread public rejection of the proposed design;
  - vii. the principal consequence of the MDOT’s opaque and un-public process has been to make virtually any substantive change in the design impossible now and still maintain the 2016 construction schedule;
- b. Selectmen requested a definitive clarification by their next meeting of the Department’s willingness to place the bridge firmly back into the 2015-16 reconstruction schedule.

**8. New Business:** None

**9. Other:** Stone reported that the Sheriff’s Department was assigning a new deputy to North Haven who would be taking his duties up towards the end of September.

**Motion to adjourn at 6:00 PM**  
**Made by Beverage, seconded by Alexander**

**Approved 4-0-0**