

TOWN OF NORTH HAVEN
Board of Selectmen
December 13, 2016
4:00 p.m.

Minutes

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Jon Emerson (Chair), Linda Darling, Kat Alexander & Jonathan Demmons
SELECTMAN ABSENT: Stacy Beverage
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Joe Stone
AVAILABLE: TAX COLLECTOR, Janice Hopkins
AVAILABLE: TREASURER, Joette Adams

1. Jon Emerson called the Meeting to order at 4:00 PM
2. **Motion to approve the Minutes of December 6, 2016**
Made by Demmons, seconded by Darling **Approved 3-0-0¹**
3. **Public Comment** – None
4. **Treasurer’s Report**

a. Approval of Bills, Warrants, Payroll Journals and Journal Entries:

Warrant # 50	in the amount of	\$8,160.45
Warrant # 50-A	in the amount of	\$9,865.38
Payroll Warrant # 45	in the amount of	\$21,912.14
Payroll Warrant # 45-A	in the amount of	\$3,770.88
Water Warrant # 24	in the amount of	\$1,952.71
Sewer Warrant # 23	in the amount of	\$7,101.89

Motion to approve Bills, Warrants, Payroll Journals and Journal Entries
Made by Alexander, seconded by Demmons **Approved 4-0-0**

5. **Correspondence:** None
6. **Reports:**
 - a. Administrator:
 - i. Clinic
 1. No update
 - ii. Sewer Department:
 1. No response to legal ultimatum from the owner of 179 Main St. re: removal of yard drain from sanitary sewer.
 2. See below § 7 (a)
 3. Tree work at WWTF has been completed. The red pines between the Town House and the WWTF are gone, as is a spruce whose trunk turned out to be virtually hollow from top to bottom.

¹ Alexander arrived after the vote

4. Dept. hired Elliott and Rex to try to locate the wye connection for the sewer lateral serving 43 Pulpit Harbor Rd. They were unable to find it. We have reached out to the Ted Berry Co. either to do camera work, or to recommend a contractor, as the next step to try to locate it.
- iii. Water Department:
 1. No update
- iv. Bartlett's Harbor
 1. No update.
- v. Ferry Service:
 1. At least three TWIC cards are now in hand. Clinic is planning to test the lockbox with a high-low thermometer before shipping actual specimens
 2. *Burgess* has returned to service
 3. No response yet to letter sent to Anders & Dubois re reinstating 2:15 boat
- vi. Transfer Station
 1. No update
- vii. Floats & Docks
 1. Stone reported that with contact and technical information provided by Phil DesLauriers he had spoken to an engineer at Redzone about upgrading the equipment located on the VH side of the Thorofare which serves six customers on the NH side, including the Town's float camera, about the need to improve reliability.
- viii. Roads & Bridges:
 1. New snow fencing has been ordered from Lowes
- ix. Town Properties
 1. Stone has reminded Mara to remove concrete curbs from basketball court. He has not yet complied. As one of prime backers of an enlarged recreation area on the site, he has also been reminded of the timetable for Budget Committee consideration, as well as for Town Meeting.
 2. Goodell Electric has installed separately activated lights for both Fitness Center entrance and basketball court
- x. Legal
 1. Wolfram's attorney has filed a counter-brief to Town's attorney's brief. No update
- xi. Code Enforcement
 1. Stone reported frustration in trying to persuade some property owners to complete the steps required to validate their land use and plumbing permits. With a more professional licensed plumbing inspector on the job for the last several years and in anticipation of a new land use ordinance tailored much more finely to the history, needs, character and customs of the community, town officials are trying to improve consistency in enforcement and wider, uncoerced compliance. The Town historically has turned only reluctantly to formal legal action but there have to be limits to its tolerance for non-compliance.
- xii. Sheriff's Dept:
 1. Stone reported that he has left numerous messages with Lauren Stuart at the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety to discuss applying for a grant to purchase an intoxilyzer, but has not been able to speak with her.

Date	Incident	Deputy
12/9	Property checks	Pinkham
12/10	Detail	Walker
12/11	Property checks	Joslyn

7. Old Business:

a. *Sewer Department:*

**Motion to accept bid i/a/o \$338,000 from Apex Construction, subject to DEP approval, for proposed renovations to Waste Water Treatment Facility
Made by Demmons, seconded by Darling Approved 4-0-0**

8. New Business: None

9. Other:

- a. Neither Alexander nor Darling will be available for Board meeting on 12/27.

Motion to adjourn at 5:10 PM

Made by Darling, seconded by Alexander

Approved 4-0-0

COPY

December 7, 2016

Rick Dubois
Director, Multimodal Operations
Maine Department of Transportation
16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0016

John Anders
Rockland Manager
Maine State Ferry Service
P.O. Box 645
Rockland, ME 04841

Dear Rick and John:

I am writing at the request of the North Haven Board of Selectmen to continue urging the Maine State Ferry Service to restore the 2:15 departure time from North Haven.

We conducted a survey of island residents. All but five of the hundred and four residents who participated expressed their preference for restoring the 2:15 departure time. (Five respondents checked off the “No Preference” box; ***not one checked off the “2:05” box.***)

We remain unpersuaded by the arguments that the MSFS has offered to justify the schedule change. If the intent was to reduce the number of times when either the departing North Haven boat or the arriving Vinalhaven boat is delayed to avoid passing the other in the channel in Rockland, anecdotal evidence argues that the schedule change did not accomplish its goal. North Haven passengers regularly observe and report the *Captain E. Frank Thompson* waiting outside the channel for the 2:05 North Haven boat to depart.

For non-islanders whose daily lives are not rigidly circumscribed by a schedule which grants only three travel options a day, it may be difficult to understand the significance of the ten minutes lost from a North Haven resident’s mainland “day”. For most of us, routine mainland trips encompass errands, shopping and medical appointments. The time between the 8:45 arrival of our 7:30 boat and the 2:00 lineup for the departure of what was once our 2:15 boat represented a very useable and convenient stretch of time. Those five and a quarter hours gave us the opportunity to manage, for instance, medical appointments in Brunswick or Augusta and occasionally, even in Portland, with the odd errand or two thrown in. Every minute counted and now there are ten fewer minutes. For most of us, these day trips are a hectic but carefully planned

race from appointment to appointment, errand to errand. The pacing matters because a mainland day premised on the assumption of making the 2:05 boat becomes an eleven plus hour day if the resident misses that middle boat. Was that forty-five minute appointment with the orthodontist in Brunswick worth the eleven plus hours it actually took to keep it?

We believe that there is an underlying issue of equity in the change from 2:15 to 2:05, a change which we have vigorously argued against. The inequity lies in the disproportionate impact of a schedule change on the residents of North Haven compared with the minor (if any!) inconvenience an even smaller schedule change would have on the residents of Vinalhaven. With six boats a day, Vinalhaven residents have at least twice as many options as North Haven residents do for arranging their mainland trips.

We have repeatedly suggested two simple schedule adjustments. Either would accomplish the stated goals more reliably than what has been accomplished with North Haven's 2:05 departure from Rockland. A 2:20 departure from Rockland would satisfy North Haven residents. Alternatively, adjusting the Vinalhaven schedule from a 1:00 PM island departure to a 12:55 departure would also prevent the congestion in the channel under most weather and tide conditions, placing it in the pen before the North Haven ferry departs at 2:15.

Furthermore, restoring North Haven's 2:15 departure (or substituting a 2:20 departure), gives the crew adequate time to disembark and judiciously embark the maximum number of vehicles possible during the peak season. There seemed to be occasions during the 2016 summer season when, without an impatient captain trying to leave at 2:05, the crew, whose parking skills are phenomenal, would have been able to accommodate one or two more vehicles.

Sincerely,

Joe Stone, Town Administrator

Cc: David B. Bernhardt, Commissioner
Sen. David Miramant
Rep. Walter Kumiega
Eve Murray, Chair, Ferry Service Advisory Board
Lisa Shields, Ferry Service Advisory Board
Doug Stone, Ferry Service Advisory Board