

**Board of Selectmen**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, February 28, 2023**  
**Approved**



**1) Open Meeting**

Selectman Dudek called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Board members present: Michelle Dudek, Jim Delaney.

Also present includes: Town Administrator Kimberley Edelmann, Highway Supervisor Frank Bryson, Donna Crisp Duclos, Jon Champagne, Brad Hardie

**2) Poplar Street Plowing**

Mr. Hardie addressed the Board to share his thoughts regarding snow plowing and snow removal on Poplar Street.

Mr. Hardie commented that the drainage of the road was insufficient in his opinion. It drains, but the road sometimes floods several inches completely across the street.

Mr. Hardie referenced a letter of September 20, 2021. He said that in the letter, the Town stated that based on findings, the road width was 33 feet (2 rods). It also indicated where the right-of-way was located. The letter stated that special snow removal equipment was not required. Heavy equipment would clear the road when necessary. He said that ever since then, people were still pushing snow onto private properties. He understood that one property allowed for that. However, sometimes the driveway at the end of the road was getting blocked by snow.

**a. Stone Wall Damage**

Mr. Hardie said that earlier in the day, snow had been pushed up and over his stone wall, dismantling some of the wall. And with snow on the wall, he was unable to assess the full damage. He did not want Town employees offering to repair the wall. He would have the specialist who built the wall do the repairs. Mr. Hardie would then send the payment receipt to the Town for reimbursement.

Photos were taken earlier in the day by Highway Supervisor Bryson.

**b. Years of Frustration**

Mr. Hardie expressed frustration. He said he had been complaining to the Town for 8 years about the maintenance of the road and the impact on properties on the road. Mr. Hardie added that he recently spoke with the Highway Supervisor on the phone and the conversation got heated. He felt that was inappropriate.

Mr. Hardie commented about the approach being used to plow the road. It was single track at first, then after he complained, it was plowed too wide with pushed snow over his stone wall. He felt it was intentional because he complained. He said he was enraged about it. He went to the Town Offices to speak with Selectman Delaney and the Town Administrator.

Mr. Hardie said that in the nearly 10 years of owning the property, he has had to deal with frustrations. He felt that anyone who pushed snow down Poplar Street had to realize that there was no where to put the snow. That means that the Town also needed to use heavy equipment to remove the snow to keep the road safe. Currently, there was snow 10 feet off the

road pushed onto one resident's property. It had been there since the first storm. Snow kept getting pushed up and making road signs difficult to see as well road traffic. He was concerned about pedestrian safety, especially for the children.

Selectman Dudek asked if private plowers were also contributing to the snow pile problem. Mr. Hardie confirmed that he believed that to be the case, but he stressed that the Town's contractors were also doing it.

Mr. Hardie said he also helps one of his neighbors by moving snow for them, including snowblowing. He pushes the snow to the side of their building. But he worried that if emergency equipment needed to respond to a fire, the snow was a potential problem. He said if his daughter got hurt, he would lose his mind. He wanted the Town to take care of the snow and to make sure the private plowers didn't put snow wherever they wanted.

Mr. Hardie suggested trying to find a solution for snow work before someone purchased the Lion's Den property.

Mr. Hardie said he expected, as a taxpayer, to receive some sort of communication in rebuttal. Selectman Dudek said they would follow up with him. He also wanted his neighbors to be included in that.

### **c. Actions**

Selectman Delaney noted for the record that he spoke with the Highway Supervisor who in turn was going to speak with the contracted snowplow driver.

Selectman Delaney also noted that the drainage problem was addressed with a culvert. However, there were also water pipes there and to address those would cost the Water Department over \$600,000. There were no funds to address that.

Mr. Hardie commented that due to the flooding, the road surface was also deteriorating and would need to be repaved. Selectman Delaney said it would be addressed.

After Mr. Hardie left the meeting, the Select Board continued discussion about the problem with snow on Poplar Street. Selectman Delaney commented that he plowed that road for three years. It was a challenge. TA Edelmenn commented that looking at satellite image, it was clear that the road did not have a lot of room for pushing snow. It was agreed that the visibility for pedestrians was a concern. Selectman Delaney said he would go take a look at the road.

### **3) Bids for Transfer Station Septic System**

Several bids were reviewed. Selectman Dudek noted that one did not contain very much information. Another was a "no-go" as it was like a form letter and did not contain any detail. The two selectmen agreed not to consider that proposal. A review of the other proposals followed.

Solicited input from the Highway Supervisor and a former Road Agent was heard and considered. Three vendors were considered acceptable.

The two selectmen stated preferences for different vendors. Therefore, it was agreed that they would need to have a third selectman present in order to make a decision. The decision was postponed until that could happen.

### **4) NH Electric Cooperative**

The board reviewed a letter from the NHEC requesting a tax abatement for 2022. TA Edelmenn would forward that to the appropriate parties for processing and response.

### **5) Buswell Property**

Selectman Dudek noted that the Town's legal counsel, Matt Serge, wanted to visit the Town Offices in the near future to review all of the files on record regarding the Buswell Property. It was agreed that if Mr. Serge could meet on Tuesday, March 7, the selectboard should have a meeting soon after that.

## 6) Warrant Articles

With Selectman Guptill not present, it was agreed that discussion about the warrant articles would have to wait.

## 7) A1 Audits Across New Hampshire

TA Edelmann shared that news was being shared among Town Administrators that "A1 Auditors" were visiting and filming Town Halls and Town Offices around the state. One of the things she had heard is that they might question / test access to various parts of the public building. Therefore, she went to Belletetes and purchased "Employees Only" signs for a couple doors in the Town Offices leading to areas of restricted access.

Donna Duclos asked if anyone could video tape the Town Offices. TA Edelmann confirmed they could.

## 8) Welfare Office

Selectman Delaney shared that at recent meeting, it was agreed that the Welfare Officer would be given access to an area of the Andover Beacon office space for use and secure file storage.

## 9) Health Inspector / Inspection

TA Edelmann reported that a request had come in for a Health Inspection. She noted that she was not legally allowed to perform that inspection as she was neither trained nor licensed by the state. Speaking with the director in charge of training for health inspectors, she learned that the Town could use a state inspector or an inspector from another town.

TA Edelmann also learned that many Towns had health inspectors who were EMTs or firefighters as they had more skills that were applicable to the role.

TA Edelmann reported that she had reached out to Chuck Bodien, the Health Inspector for Salisbury.

## 10) Health Insurance Buy Out

TA Edelmann reminded the board that her job offer letter included an option to buy out of health insurance. However, no dollar amount was specified and there was nothing in the employee policy about buy outs.

The topic had recently been discussed on the Town Administrator's forum. Every town had a different buy out option, up to 50% of the cost of a health plan. TA Edelmann said she would share the data with the board.

## 11) Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Selectman Delaney made a **motion** to adjourn at 5:17 pm. Selectman Dudek **seconded**. The **motion passed** with both in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberley Edelmann, Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved at the  
Select Board meeting on March 22, 2023.