

Town of Holland
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Town Office
January 8, 2024

Present: Select board Members: Trevor Gray, Andrew Bouchard
Town Clerk/Treasurer: Diane Judd
Acting Road Foreman: Bob Camber

School Board: Heather Dowland & John Castle,

Others: Corinne & Jeremie Preston, Lucy Neel, Gina Miller, Ernie Emmerson, Kenric (Ric) Gonayaw, Karla Braunesreither, Ed Brady, Debbie Brunelle (finance SU), Ed Barber (Newport Daily Express)

1. **Meeting was called to order at 6:30** by Trevor
2. **Minutes** – from 12/18/2023 were approved Andy/Trevor AIF
3. **Adoptions/Amendments to Agenda** – none
4. **New Business**

A. School Board Joint Discussion – Trevor said he appreciated the participation tonight. John handed out a timeline he had drafted which he said was just a suggestion. John would like to see a public meeting to have a discussion about the school – possibly May. He is tentatively thinking maybe this fall a vote could happen. He stated that building upkeep is currently 6% of the school budget which is roughly \$68,000. There is some revenue from the school as there is a private preschool that rents as well as the Nulhegan Abenaki Education & Cultural Center. These rents do not cover the cost of upkeep of the building. John would like to see conversations with Holland residents; giving information and getting feedback. Trevor said that it's important for the town to know what's happening at the school and who is in charge of the building. Lucy Neel spoke about what the tribe has going on at the building. Currently there is a food shelf that is open 4 times per month which is in conjunction with the Vermont Food Bank. Grants have been received to provide fresh vegetables in the summer months and USDA commodities are available for area seniors. A Flu/Covid vaccine clinic was held as well as a skin cancer screening. According to Lucy, the food shelf served 4,000 people in 2023. Area school children also visit the cultural center. Ernie said that if questions arise, these two boards need to communicate so the correct information is given to the public. As a Holland Community Center (HCC) Board member – Ernie said they have taken a step back the last few months. Town turnout has been dismal at best to most of the functions that have been held by the HCC. We are now waiting to see what becomes of the building. No building, no HCC. Ric said the high priority for the building is the heating system. Some discussion about possible programs that may be able to help with costs related to replacing/improving the heating system. Gina suggested a full building inspection. Debbie said the State has done an inspection and she can forward that to the Boards. Ric stated that under the Supervisory Union many inspections have been done but not a complete inspection. Corinne asked about whether the School Board would exist without a school. John responded that the Board would still exist even if there is no Holland School. Corinne brought up the idea of school choice as she feels that the Board has no say about what happens at the Derby School. That is something that would have to come to the School Board and ultimately be voted on, according to John. School Board exited at 7:15. As they were leaving, Andy announced that as of Town Meeting he will be stepping down from his Select Board position.

B. Road Report – Bob said the Ford is back and it was only a glow plug. He said that the newest member of the road crew, Adam Provost is doing a good job. He said there is a culvert on Valley Road that is frozen full of gravel and has the potential to cause problems. This is one of the locations that flooded in December. Bob thinks that if the land owner on the lower side of the road will allow a swail to be made, it could take care of the issue because the water would have a place to go. Trevor

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will view the site with Bob and determine exactly who owns the property. People traveling the Morgan end of the Valley Road should use caution near the road cones.

C. Draft Town Meeting warning was reviewed – The final warning will be signed at the next meeting.

D. Budget work – due to computer glitches information wasn't available for budget work. This will be done at the next meeting.

E. Certificate of Highway Mileage was reviewed and signed.

F. CD Investments – Diane presented the idea of investing funds into CD with Community National Bank. Currently 6 month CD's are paying 4.86%APY. It's estimated that we could invest \$50,000 for six months and make \$1,200 interest with no risk. Diane suggested 3 CD's at \$50,000 each. Trevor moved to invest in three \$50,000 CD's for six months, 2nd by Andy. AIF

5. Public Comment – Karla asked about planning commission surveys that Bobbi-Jo Letourneau has. Diane has requested them but has not gotten any response.

6. Unfinished Business – Due to time constraints the highway budget was not finalized. This will be done at the next meeting.

7. Select Board Updates – none.

8. Executive Session - none

9. Review of bills and signing orders –

Highway:

Payroll	12/26/2023	\$3,014.91
Payroll	01/02/2024	\$2,638.61
Payroll	01/09/2024	\$2,301.54
Payroll Tax	12/31/2023	\$3,548.05
Invoices	12/30/2023	\$10,744.14
Invoices	01/08/2024	\$3,947.16

General:

Payroll	12/26/2023	\$780.74
Payroll	01/02/2024	\$576.58
Payroll	01/09/2024	\$763.58
Payroll Tax	12/31/2023	\$1,280.38
Invoices	12/30/2023	\$2,722.24
Invoices	01/08/2024	\$3,267.39

10. Adjourned at 8:15

Due to scheduling conflicts the next regular meeting will on **Wednesday, January 31, 2024** at 6:30PM