

**New Salem Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2024**

Selectboard members present: Sue Cloutier (chair) and Rick Taupier

Also present: Marny Ashburne, Mailande DeWitt, Michael Dupont and Anan Zobra

SC called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Minutes:

SC moved to accept the minutes of January 8, 2024, RT second. Vote: 2-0.

RT moved to accept the minutes of January 22, 2024, SC second. Vote: 2-0.

SC moved to accept the minutes of February 1, 2024, RT second. Vote: 2-0.

SC moved to accept the minutes of February 20, 2024, RT second. Vote: 2-0.

There was discussion of minutes of February 5, 2024 which had not been submitted.

Public forum: Michael Dupont asked about street sweeping. It was not done last year and he said the roads look terrible. Rick will check with Tim on scheduling. Tim is trying to do catch-up work on vehicles and equipment.

Town Coordinator report: Kathy reported that she is waiting for a few annual reports and will start to put it together. She will due a draft of the SB report and give it to Sue. She put the finishing touches and posting of an RFP for an energy grant for the buildings and Swift River school which Zara had compiled. She reported on the by-law project and found that two of the by-laws voted on by the town in the last ten years had never been approved by the Attorney General's office. She is checking with Stacy on whether they were ever sent in. There is a process to re-accept all prior bylaws. She will set up categories and put the by-laws in the correct categories, following the template of other towns. She will go through other town's bylaws, as found by her intern, on what bylaws would be applicable to New Salem. She plans to get this done over the summer.

ZBA appointment: Anan Zobra was in attendance for his appointment as the alternate member of the ZBA. Anan gave a brief background of himself. SC made a motion to appoint Anan Zobra as the alternate to the ZBA, RT second. All in favor. The board signed his appointment slip so he could be sworn in.

Highway chief applications. Kathy reported she had received five to date and reported she had not gotten one from one of the current employees who said he was planning to apply. She will call him to see if he is still interested. She will send all resumes to Tim Hunting and schedule a meeting to go over the resumes with Tim and Rich and schedule those they agree to interview.

There was discussion about Aaron Thibeault's request to set up a Facebook page for the Highway Dept to give updates on what work is being done, to have better communication with townspeople. The board thought it was a great idea. Kathy

stated that there should be guidelines for any public presence and perhaps we can also post more on the website.

SB meeting schedule: we changed the schedule of meetings for the remainder of the year to avoid Monday holidays. This will mean being off schedule with warrants but Sue will come in to sign. Rich will not be available May 5-13.

Building Inspector. Kathy had contacted FRCOG about their program with for building inspectors. After discussion, the board decided it was better to have a local person to respond to complaints. We may want to have a discussion on whether we want the building inspector who looks for problem or responds as needed or requested. Sue suggested that Linda Overing may be a good person to be on the search committee.

Sue brought up having money in next year's budget for Joe Cuneo to mentor the new fire chief for a period of time, both in New Salem and Wendell She will speak to Gabe and Claire about putting \$2500 in the budget for that.

Upper Pioneer Valley Veteran's agreement: Kathy explained this in an inter-municipal agreement through Greenfield for which we pay a yearly assessment. Kathy explained some of the work they do, including have some regional office hours. SC moved to continue the membership, RT second. Vote: 2-0.

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm by RT, second by SC. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Neal