

New Salem Select Board

Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2023

Select Board members present: Sue Cloutier (SC, chair), Zara Dowling (ZD)

SC called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

During the public comment period, Karen Laramie, Carrie Lenard and Al Ohlson, all of Cooleyville Road, discussed their concerns about the poor condition of Cooleyville Road. Carrie Lenard stated she would submit details of the complaints in writing to the Select Board, so that the board can discuss the issue in detail at its next meeting. SC and ZD noted that this issue is a high priority for the board and that the board is actively working toward a solution but that it will take time.

Stacy Senflug of S. Main St. asked the Select Board to move the agenda item called “Vote on Auction of tax title property at 11 S Main St” to the front of the agenda, which the board agreed to do. Senflug stated that her family has looked after the property in question for 30 years and would like to acquire it. She noted that because the property is very small and contains one well, it is unlikely anything can be built on it. She also stated that the property has historic value to the town and that the building on it is listed in the national register of historic places, as are other nearby buildings on the street. She suggested adding a stipulation to the auction that the buyer be required to clean up the property within six months.

ZD suggested the property could be used for town hall parking if the town hall were to be renovated. SC stated there is enough space to incorporate parking on the existing town hall lot. She stated that an engineer will be coming later this month to look through town buildings and continue the process of planning for the future.

The discussion was tabled, with the intent to take a vote at the next Select Board meeting.

ACTION: KN will ask Town Treasurer Gabe Voelker to what extent stipulations can be placed on an auction.

VOTE: ZD motioned to appoint Scott Broderick to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term ending June 30, 2026. SC seconded. Passed unanimously.

The board thanked Broderick for his willingness to serve on the ZBA.

The Town Coordinator’s report included the following:

KN sent the proposed 1794 Meetinghouse lease to town counsel and hasn’t heard back yet. The lease would cover the period through the end of 2024, by which time an

RFP could be developed for the purchase of the building. The board hopes to get the lease to the 1794 Meetinghouse this week, at which point the 1794 Meetinghouse will send it to their own counsel.

SC signed a purchase order for \$613,399 for a new pumper truck for the fire department, as approved by the town.

KN described a letter from Colonial Power opposing proposed DPU rules on electricity aggregation, which Colonial Power wants the town to sign. The Select Board determined it does not have enough information and that it is not ready to sign the letter.

ACTION: ZD will contact Bob Dean from FRCOG (who originally organized the electricity aggregation) to see if he has more information about the letter from Colonial Power.

VOTE: SC moved to designate an HP printer and Brother fax machine owned by the town as surplus. ZD seconded. Passed unanimously.

The board discussed the minutes of August 14. ZD made minor edits.

VOTE: SC moved to approve the 8/14/23 minutes as amended. ZD seconded. Passed unanimously.

The board discussed the minutes of September 5. Edits were made to clarify the financial discussion related to the highway barn floor project.

VOTE: ZD motioned to accept the minutes as amended. SC seconded. Passed unanimously.

VOTE: SC moved to close the meeting at 8:12pm. ZD seconded. Passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Maurer