

# New Salem Select Board

## Meeting Minutes

### April 1, 2024

Select Board members present: Sue Cloutier (chair), Zara Dowling, Rick Taupier

SC called the meeting to order at 7pm.

**No one commented during the public comment period.**

**Town Coordinator Kathy Neal presented the following report:**

- The bylaws that were found are in the computer by year. She will organize so they are arranged by topic. Town bylaws will be re-submitted to the Attorney General's office, since some are no longer on file with the AG's office, and two may never have been submitted.
- 4 highway department supervisor interviews have been scheduled for Wednesday, April 3.

**ACTION:** KN will post job openings for one or two highway laborer positions.

**Mary Ellen Kennedy from the Municipal Light Plant asked the Select Board to approve the purchase of two fiber-optic lines from Shutesbury.** These two fibers will be the town's main internet connection for the next ten years, at which time the agreement will need to be renegotiated.

**VOTE:** RT moved to approve the agreement. SC seconded. No discussion. Passed unanimously.

**The Select Board discussed the pouring permit application submitted by New Salem Cider.**

**VOTE:** SC moved to support the application. ZD seconded.

Discussion: RT asked whether the town receives revenue from pouring permit applications KN said it does not, except for the \$25 application fee.

Passed unanimously.

**RT discussed the need to hire for the Highway Department Supervisor and Highway Department Laborer positions.** He explained that Highway Department Laborer Cody Hamlett was recently fired by Interim Supervisor Tim Hunting for refusing to come in for plowing and not providing a viable excuse. Hunting reminded Hamlett that his job description required mandatory overtime and that he could've come in for part of the time.

RT noted that in addition to this vacancy, it is possible that Highway Department Laborer Aaron Thibeault could be hired for the open Supervisor position, which would mean there could potentially be two open Laborer positions to hire for. He suggested that depending on who gets hired as Supervisor, other qualifications may be sought for the Laborers, such as mechanical expertise.

**ACTION:** KN will research competitive salaries for Building Inspector positions. She will check with Warwick and Wendell. She will post the description without a salary. She will also send information about building inspection fees to Select Board members.

**The Select Board discussed its annual report** (attached). Some edits were added by ZD, particularly highlighting some items related to the Police Department.

SC adjourned the meeting at 7:52.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrew Maurer  
Select Board Clerk