

Regular Selectboard Meeting
Minutes of Meeting of March 24, 2025
South Hero Town Hall and via Zoom, Monday 7:00 PM

Board Present via Zoom and in person : David Carter, Steve Robinson, David Lane, Anne Zolotas

Board Not present: Graham “Skip” Brown

Others Present: Naomi King: Town Clerk, Sue Arguin: Town Administrator. Also, see sign in sheet of in person and Zoom attendees. *

1. Called to Order: The meeting was called to order by David Carter at 7:00 PM.

2. Adjustments to Agenda: None

3. Minutes:

-David Lane made a motion to accept the minutes of meeting of March 10, 2025, as written. The motion was seconded by Anne Zolotas. The motion was seconded, all in attendance voted and the motion carried.

4. Public input: None

5. New Business:

A. Road Foreman John Beaulac was present to discuss the possibility of ordering a new truck. Before he spoke about what he had learned about prices and all the details about the truck, Anne Zolotas wanted to speak about John’s expertise and his knowledge about the trucks and his strong ability to purchase one that would be not only a good truck but a good deal. Doug Patterson (not present) left a few pages of his thoughts when considering this purchase as well. John went on to say that due to tariffs happening there will soon be an increase in price but said he had spoken with a company that if we were to purchase before this Friday, we could still get the truck for the price stated. He passed around details of the trucks and the equipment needed for the selectboard to look over. One was from a company near Chimney Corners and due to the price quoted and their convenient location to get parts if needed, John was leaning towards doing business with them but was still actively looking for better quotes. There was a motion from Dave Lane to spend up to \$315,000 purchasing one new truck and Anne Zolotas seconded. All in attendance voted and the motion was carried. John did say it may take up to 9 months plus or minus to get the truck.

B. Road Foreman John Beaulac spoke about the remaining 2.3 miles of streets in South Hero that still needed paving. He said he had met with someone from Pike about the job and learned that there would be savings of \$100,000 to complete the job. John mentioned that he could get the remaining roads paved for about \$400,000. Pike quoted him \$318,000 for the paving and John thought another \$65,000 for stone and changing out some culverts. There was some discussion among the public about what exactly would be completed, particularly on Kibbe Point Road. Sandy Gregg had a few questions as well as Luke Tremble. John was able to answer and respond to their concerns and questions. John said there's a lot of prep work to do before the paving can be done so he was figuring that it may be able to happen by fall 2025. Anne Zolotas made the motion to have the remaining roads paved in South Hero and Steve Robinson seconded. All in favor and motion was carried. Kim Julow spoke about her concern about the Bugles on the fire truck that the highway department was going to use but now has no use for were gifted to her. She wanted to make sure they would convey to her and John Beaulac reassured her the bugles were hers.

C. The discussion of appointing a Town Treasurer, Kim Julow. Kim was happy that the town residents had the opportunity to vote to appoint a treasurer instead of having one elected. She said the job requires a lot of knowledge of municipal accounting and thought for the sake of the town this person be qualified. She also mentioned that down the road it would open more doors for folks to apply even if they didn't reside in South Hero. Anne Zolotas made the motion to appoint Kim Julow to be our Town Treasurer effective immediately. Steve Robinson seconded. All in favor and motion was carried.

D. Discussion with Sandy Gregg about Local Option Tax & WMH. Sandy wanted to give the Town heads up about the results of the lead-based paint testing and that it will need to be mitigated, therefore due to the fact it's a town building that the bills will be coming to the town. There was much discussion about the project from the residents in the audience. There were many concerns and questions regarding moving forward with this project without a town vote. Sandy as well as Pam Suprenault assured the residents that the WMH Foundation does not intend to ask South Hero residents to pay for the remodeling of this building. The selectboard at the end decided to wait to learn what the estimate would be to mitigate the lead base paint and the asbestos.

6. Administrative Assistant Report:

A. Martha Taylor-Varney submitted her report and please see attached.

B. Sue Arguin spoke about the feedback speed limit signs that the town purchased last year at the North & South end of town and to be able to continue with the Traffic Logix

Cloud information to be available we would need to renew our subscription this July. The cost would be \$500 per sign. After discussion and noting that we don't even use that information that Traffic Logix provides it wouldn't be necessary to continue with their service. The signs will still function and do what they were intended to do and that will slow traffic down as drivers enter the town.

7. Old and Ongoing Business:

- A. There was no liquor license to approve.
- B. There were no mobile vendor licenses applications to approve.
- C. The Selectboard Rules of Procedures document was signed by the selectboard members present. The document was approved at the March 10th, 2025, meeting.

8. Other Business and announcements:

- A. Ann Zolotas made a motion to sign orders #25-20. The motion was seconded, all in attendance voted and the motion carried.
- B. Town Clerk/Treasurer update: Spoke that beach pass prices would remain the same for residents and non-residents and would be on sale soon.
- C. Recreation Commission update: There's still catamount passes available.
- D. Road Dept. update: Anne said they are beginning to get estimates for repairs to the building.
- E. Lister Updates: None.
- F. Wastewater update: Partial closing for the Lavin property is happening this Friday at 9AM.
- G. Town Hall project update: Waiting for the 30 days past the vote.
- H. Tree Warden updates: none

10. Adjournment:

-Dave Lane made a motion to adjourn at 8:41 pm. The motion was seconded, all in attendance so voted and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, ☒

Approved by,

Susan Arguin, Town Administrator David Carter, Chair