

Agenda

Town of Sweden Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Town Office

1. Pledge of allegiance
2. Call to order
3. Opening Statement

Select Board Meetings are open to the public, and we welcome and encourage the public to attend. However, public participation in the meeting is at the discretion of the Board Chair. Please do not speak, unless recognized by the Chair, and please do not ask to be recognized. There will be a twenty-minute public comment section at the end of the meeting, when anyone in attendance may speak briefly.
4. Introductions of attendees and visitors
5. Review of Select Board Meeting Minutes from August 22, 2023 and Special Select Board Meeting Minutes from September 4, 2023.
6. Reports of Officers and Committees
 - Administrative Assistant to Select Board
 - Policy project assembled and ready for distribution
 - Eco Heat Maine scheduled for Thursday, September 14 at 8 am. Efficiency Maine rebate has been approved.
 - Code Enforcement Officer
 - Report for August
 - EMA Director
 - Report
 - Fire Chief
 - Report
 - Road Advisory Committee
 - Letter dated September 7, 2023
 - Road Commissioner
 - Report
 - Email from Mary Sohl dated September 7, 2023 regarding Cemetery Road
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 - Treasurer
 - Motion to sign the A/P Warrant dated September 12, 2023 and Payroll Warrant dated September 10, 2023.
7. Old Business
 - ESRB update (Jaime Popkin)
 - Motion to approve foreclosure letter
 - Letter sent to Town's attorney regarding Buker
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8. New Business
 - Suburban Propane fixed price contract

- Mary Ellen is scheduled for mandatory election training on September 21, 2023
 - Replace, close office, or cancel training?
 - Motion to appoint William E. Jones III as Election Clerk
 - Retirement party for Alberta Ridlon
 - Ponds on website
 - Jetskiis-remove discussion
 - Keyes Pond-suggest change to verbiage discussion “At the town landing, boats must ONLY be hand carried into water (no trailer entry allowed).”
 - Municipal Officer’s To Do List for September
9. Communications and Correspondence
- Email from Richard Levasseur dated August 28, 2023 regarding Keyes Pond Road
 - Email from George Conly dated September 8, 2023 regarding RAC
10. Public Comments
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11. Announcements
- Next BOS Meeting will be September 26, 2023
12. Adjourn

Rose / Chris:

Good afternoon! Just following up on my earlier email. Unfortunately, no one else as landowners on the road has stepped up to my request for financial commitment to repairing the road with added funds. I find this highly disheartening for those that complain about the condition and expect a few to absorb all costs. At this point, I have commitments for a total of \$2,500. This amount is a far stretch to meet the values quoted last year, so I ask again for some consideration from the Town.

If the Town would want to consider Troy to see what he could do to supply a competitive offering with added Town funds, it would be welcomed. I would just ask that I could also chase another competitive offering for the same total budget to get the most done with the total budget collected.

I would appreciate your earliest response so I can attempt to get some services scheduled during this construction season.

Sincerely

Richard Levasseur
603-205-1793

September 8, 2023

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To: Sweden Select Board

This letter is to make any interested parties aware of portions of a Road Advisory Committee letter that was submitted to the Board prior to their 8/8/23 meeting. Although the RAC was listed on the meeting agenda, the letter was not considered as it had not been agreed to at a public meeting, only through e mails among committee members.

The disregarded letter was intended to help increase transparency and accuracy of use of the town's road budget, with the result being an improved town road system.

A documented response to the following will be appreciated and has the potential to greatly improve the way the town's funds are spent, resulting in an improved and longer lasting town road system.

Among the items in the letter were the following recommendations:

1. The RAC be copied on all correspondence from the S. W. Cole, the soils testing firm monitoring the Haskell Hill project and possibly the Webber Pond Rd. project.
2. The RAC be copied on all oral and written correspondence related to road billings, material purchases, pricing requests, etc.
3. A budget estimate with locations of proposed 2023 edge of pavement repairs and culvert cleaning should be provided to help plan for the remaining 2023 road funds.
4. A preconstruction meeting for major projects, (Webber Pond Rd.) be held in order for the contractor to provide proposed schedule, list of subcontractors, sources on material supply, emergency contact info., etc.
5. All non-emergency road work with an estimated value greater than \$4,000 be approved by the SB after receiving an itemized scope of work and estimated cost.
6. The RAC be placed on the SB meeting agendas without having to make a request.

Also, the letter had these questions for the Select Board:

1. Where on the town website are the road work schedules posted?
2. Regarding the Bennett Rd. repairs, the RAC would like a copy of the contractor's proposal.
3. Has the proposed \$9,500, plus culvert cost for the Lee Gray Road improvements been discussed and possible less expensive options considered?
4. Are proposed subcontractors required to present insurance certificates and other paperwork to the town for approval or just to the contractor prior to start of work?
5. Does the purchase of labor, equipment rental and materials required to perform non-emergency road fall under the town's purchasing policy?
6. When the town website receives a report of a road issue, who receives the e mail and does this start the 24-hour clock of when the town becomes liable for any resulting damages?

In addition to the above and regarding winter roads:

1. Is there a gradation that winter sand is required to meet?
2. Are bids solicited for winter sand?
3. Has pricing been received for 2023/2024 road salt?

I would like to mention that the Select Board did accept some of the previous RAC cost and safety recommendations regarding the Haskell Hill repairs, such as:

1. Obtaining a temporary easement for a detour eliminating the need for a costly temporary earth retention system.
2. Relocation of aerial utilities to allow crane access and lower OSHA concerns.
3. Using the temporary bridge for the detour and not the culvert on the Pine Tree Engineering design and approved by the Army Corp and the Maine DEP.

The RAC suggestion to save over \$24,000 by not paving 250 feet of 4,000-foot gravel road servicing 4 households was not accepted.

I know that the RAC is ready to continue trying to improve the town's road system as efficiently as possible. Please confirm that is the desire of this Select Board.

If the Select Board would like to make the above agenda items or schedule a separate meeting to discuss, please let me know and I will make myself and the RAC available.

Thank you for your time.

George Conly, Resident & Tax Payer