

**TOWN OF WALPOLE
MEETING OF THE SELECTBOARD
JANUARY 7, 2021**

Selectboard Present: Peggy Pschirrer (Chair); Cheryl Mayberry; Steven Dalessio

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Pschirrer, Chair of the Walpole Selectboard, called this meeting via Zoom to order at 6:30 PM. She announced that Ms. Cheryl Mayberry and Mr. Steven Dalessio, the other two Selectboard members are also present. The Selectboard members are in three separate locations. Also attending this meeting is Mrs. Sarah Downing, Manager of Administration, in the Walpole Town Hall and Mrs. Regina Borden, Recording Secretary, by telephone at a separate location. This meeting was being recorded via Zoom by the Town.

Public comments are to be emailed to Mrs. Downing at the Walpole Town Hall or by calling 603-756-3672. She will display the agenda. That will be followed by documents as they are being discussed.

Mrs. Pschirrer called for a voice roll call of the Selectboard present: Cheryl Mayberry was present; Steven Dalessio was present and Peggy Pschirrer was present. This meeting will be in accordance with Virtual Meetings, Emergency Order #12, which has been effective since March 2020.

SNOW REMOVAL AND DAMAGE TO PRIVATE PROPERTY:

Re: Snow Stakes and Lawn Damage: Eric Merklein, Helen and Joe Washer, Melanie Zwolinski and Cathy Robinson were in attendance. Mr. Mike Rau, Road Agent of the Highway Department, and Mr. Jim Maclean, who has worked for the Highway Department for 27 years, were also present.

Mrs. Pschirrer reported the Selectboard had received and read all their emails plus had looked at the pictures. Mr. Merklein stated they are grateful for all the dedicated work the road crew does. They often plow us out at 3:00am. He is present along with some neighbors because they are having problems with snow plows coming onto their properties and doing damage. He spent about \$1,500 back a few years; not because the snow plowing was taking out grass but it is carving ditches at the property line that is also causing erosion. Erosion not only cuts onto his property but also goes under the road itself. He paid for rocks and stone that stopped it 100%. Last year the poles were there all summer. This year every single pole was crushed over by the snow plows. The poles are six feet tall with reflectors on them. This year the rocks were plowed back along his land. Now he has to put back the poles and rock; this year he had to pay for more poles. Almost every day he drives down toward town and along the roadside it is pristine. The plows stay just off the white line. When one comes back toward his and his neighbor's homes, they are plowed under. Every year he has to put up the poles. Last year they stayed away from the reflectors. Along Colonial Drive, the plow drivers stay right on the edge of the road. He knows the snow has to be plowed back. He has lived here about 30 years but had no problems until about five years ago. Mrs. Pschirrer asked how far off the road does he put his reflectors. She drove around town and saw a lot of reflectors. In most cases they were 12-to-14 feet off the road. If you put them right at the edge of the road, you are likely to have them hit. There is a right-of-way. Mr. Merklein replied the poles are as far back as his mail box. You can see the red reflectors. Last year the poles were in exactly the same spot and the plow guys did a super job of not hitting them.

Melanie Zwolinski put their markers with reflectors similar to how Mr. Merklein did his. After the last couple of years with their lawn torn up, they decided to put up these stakes. She does know that Highway Departments have access to the right-of-ways. After the first snow storm some markers were bumped, she straightened them out and got them back in the ground. After the next storm (kind of watery) most of

them were gone with the exception of about one-and-a-half of them that were at the far end of the property. She picked up everything and was able to straighten some of them out enough to go back into the ground. This time she used the plow line as her guide. After the third storm they went out to shovel and saw the plow coming. This time the driver was completely lined up, saw her and moved over. She waved as she wanted him to stop to talk to her about the markers but he laughed and just kept going. She appreciated Mrs. Downing sending the policies and procedures including the section on “Damage to Private Properties”. She will continue to straighten out the poles and put them where she is told to do so. However, this is about good relationship between the community and the town. She did not appreciate being what she considered “laughed” at. Per the policy, “The Town has the right-of-way and anything in its way is considered a nuisance and may be removed by the Town or if damaged will not be replaced.” She finds this language to be unfortunate. For something to be considered a nuisance or damaged it won’t be replaced almost gives somebody the decision to take it out if they want to. They are usually home and approachable. If somebody had asked them to move them, they would have done so. Instead they ran over them. This does not make for good relationships and she thinks it would be good if it was addressed. She is sure the Highway Department crew has to make these decisions all the time. This does not feel good to her. She loves this Town and living here. It would be better to have a way of communication.

Mrs. Pschirrer and Mrs. Downing did some research today because they wanted to be sure Ms. Zwolinski received all the policies & procedures. The Clarion website has all the Town Snow Ordinances. Some of these documents have been in place for many years. Some have been updated. It is not something new. The right-of-ways conform to State laws. It is best if property owners put markers, etc. back from the edge of their properties to stay out of the right-of-ways. Mrs. Pschirrer lives on Main Street, close to the road, and knows exactly what happens to her front yard every year.

Mr. Dalessio toured their area including the intersection of Old Drewsville Road and Old North Main. Every road in Town will have a different right-of-way depending on the width. We have to come to a resolution with this intersection and how the Town plows it. Something different has to be done; whether it is plowed in a different direction or done with a different truck. It needs to be looked at carefully. This has gone on for a number of years. The RSA talks about damages as the result of negligence. We also have to deal with mailboxes as Federal standards and Town regulations vary in distances off the road.

Mrs. Pschirrer pointed out that the intersection was put in by the State. Mr. Merklein explained there was to be a round-about but there were problems with that. Mr. Sawyer and Mr. Jack Pratt worked with the State to come up with the current configuration. Mr. Merklein said coming up his road from the cemetery, which is how the road is plowed, is a straight line. They only put that material there to prevent erosion. They are trying to protect the Town and their property.

Mrs. Helen and Mr. Joe Washer stated this is their third winter at this property. They do the yard work themselves. Last winter the whole front yard was torn up. This year they planted 5-or-6 stakes with reflectors. Old Drewsville Road does not have white lines. During the first big snow storm, they lost all their stakes. There was a ton of snow; they could understand this storm. The next storm was a couple of inches; they lost three stakes because they put them there for markings for the plow drivers. There should be enough room on the Old Drewsville Road to push the snow. They would like to know what they can do to save the lawn so they do not have to fix the lawn and plants they want to maintain. They want to keep their lawn and Walpole looking nice. They want to make it easier for the plow drivers to do their job without doing damage; he understands there is a right-of-way.

Mrs. Pschirrer noted that Susan and Richard Brady had joined the meeting. Mrs. Brady advised that they live on Dearborn Circle and they were just present to observe the meeting.

Ms. Mayberry pointed out that there is also some foot traffic in this area as well. Are the plow drivers plowing wider for them walking in the roadway? They would have to plow over the white line to get snow off the road. She would like Mr. Rau to address how the plowing occurs in that area.

Mr. Rau replied that in the first snow storm the Town had 22-inches of snow in nine hours. They started at 2:00am. It was difficult to see. There were no snowbanks to guide them. Therefore, they were hugging the center of the road more than in other storms. It was a tremendous amount of snow. Their trucks had a hard time pushing it back. They push back in anticipation of the next storm because nobody knows what is ahead of them. They try to go at least two-feet off the road. The area we are discussing tonight has narrow roads; maybe 20-feet wide in spots. Most roads are about 22-feet; some more than that. Most of the terrain is above the edge of the road so everybody's lawn is above-grade. They do not try to run things over but try to do the best they can. They do have a lot of foot traffic. It gives people a chance to step off the road. It also allows for rain to get off the roads and into the ditches. Right-of-ways are important for them. On North Road, a three-rod road, they have 14-feet from the edge of the road. They are willing to work with everybody to come up with a better solution. We have had more rain and ice in the last few years so we have not seen huge snow piles. In the last 8 years, the grader has not been out to push the snow further back. The Highway Department gives pedestrians the option to get off the road and walk in the right-of-way when they can. Mr. Rau does not believe this area gets more damage than other areas, but it is a narrow area. They like to keep their properties looking very nice. Mr. Dalessio asked about a smaller truck. Mr. Rau explained they use a one-ton truck by Mrs. Pschirrer's property, yet there has been yard damage.

Mrs. Pschirrer summarized that they will not resolve these complaints at this meeting. Mr. Rau told them how the Highway Department plows. Mr. Dalessio suggested some alternate ways. She recommended the Selectboard work with Mr. Rau, independently, to come up with other solutions and they will let the property owners present tonight know about those decisions.

Mr. Washer asked if he should replace his reflectors at this point. Mr. Rau replied if Mr. Washer puts them two-feet out, that should be safe. Ms. Zwolinski asked where should she measure from; the edge of the asphalt or the white line. Mr. Rau said from the edge of the asphalt back two-feet. Their goal is to keep a straight line but not weave in-and-out. The white line is actually a "fog" line. Mr. Merklein had no problems for 26 years. If they can figure out how to stop the erosion, he will not have to buy rock and stone.

Mr. Jim Maclean advised that traffic volume has increased over the last 30 years. Where the people present at this meeting live, the roads have "crept" in. People do not want their lawns touched. Winter sand grows grass. He can name ten roads in Town that are narrower than they used to be. When the Town goes to reclaim them, people get upset because they think the Town is taking the new owner's property. This whole situation can be solved with a little bit of grader work. However, people hate to see the grader come through because they think the Town is taking some of their property. Mr. Merklein asked how they stop erosion where his side driveway is. Mr. Maclean said they could use some stronger material. Mr. Rau said they have the right to work in the right-of-way. Three years ago he came in with the backhoe and worked by the lower section stone wall. That worked well. If Mr. Merklein allows them to do the same thing to the top part, he can give him a guarantee it will work. Mr. Merklein said if they could fill that in, he would be grateful.

Mr. Dalessio mentioned Mr. Jim Maclean is the most senior person in the Highway Department and he has plowed every road in Town. He has worked 27 years for the Town. Mr. Maclean just wants

everyone to know the Highway Department crew is not their enemy; they will work with the Town's people. Mr. Maclean said Mr. Rau is the perfect fit as Road Agent. Mrs. Pschirrer summarized the Selectboard will be meeting with Mr. Rau, Mr. Maclean and try to resolve the complaints in this area. They appreciate everyone coming in this evening. Ms. Mayberry pointed out that they do have confidence in the Highway Department. Tonight, they saw the benefit of real communication. Most people do not understand the challenges they have when they do their jobs. Anything we can do to improve communication is great. Mr. Maclean stated the Selectboard has been very supportive. They want to be liked.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

Mr. Dalessio moved to accept the Accounts Payable Check Register in the total amount of \$850,089.96 for checks issued January 08, 2021. This includes a monthly payment in the amount of \$607,559.42 to the Fall Mountain Regional School District. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. Mrs. Pschirrer asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. On a voice roll call vote with Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the motion was approved.

PAYROLL:

Mr. Dalessio moved to accept the Payroll Check Register for the week ending January 2, 2021, in the amount of \$35,473.09 for checks dated January 8, 2021, and for the 941 Payroll Tax Transfer in the amount of \$8,012.77. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. Mrs. Pschirrer asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. On a voice roll call vote with Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the motion was approved.

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES:

SELECTBOARD MINUTES – December 29, 2020: Mr. Dalessio moved to accept the Minutes of the Selectboard meeting of December 29, 2020, as submitted. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. Mrs. Pschirrer asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. On a voice roll call vote with Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the Minutes were approved.

NON-PUBLIC SELECTBOARD SESSION – December 29, 2020: Mr. Dalessio moved to accept the Minutes of the Non-Public Selectboard Session of December 29, 2020. As submitted. These Minutes will remain sealed. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. Mrs. Pschirrer asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. On a voice roll call vote with Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the Minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

2021 Annual Budget Public Meeting: The 2021 Annual Budget Public Meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2021. The Selectboard agreed it will be a Zoom meeting. The start time will be 5:30 PM. If we have a large crowd, Mrs. Pschirrer would like to set a limited time for speakers.

Pending Further Actions:

Town Street Lights, Tax Deeded Property Sale, Houghton Brook Bridge Repair, Reservoir Dam Repairs, Emergency Generators: These agenda items will remain on the Pending List.

Houghton Brook Bridge Repair: Mr. Dalessio reported it was published that the Town received the grant for the Houghton Brook Bridge repair, but we have not received anything official from the State. It is on the ARM website. Fuss & O'Neill will follow-up on this.

NEW BUSINESS:

Municipal Resources Professional Services Agreement: This Municipal Resources Professional Services Agreement is for a tax clerk tutor for the Town Clerk-Tax Collector's Office. Mrs. Pschirrer noted the tutor has good experience and is willing to start next week. A separate line was added in the budget for \$5,000. The fee is \$42.00/hour plus a transportation fee.

Mr. Dalessio moved to authorize Peggy L. Pschirrer, Chair of the Selectboard, to sign the Municipal Resources Professional Services Agreement for the Town Clerk-Tax Collector's office. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. Mrs. Pschirrer asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. On a voice roll call vote with Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the motion was approved.

Cemetery Deed D571: Mr. Dalessio moved to accept the Cemetery Deed for Lot D571. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. Mrs. Pschirrer asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. On a voice roll call vote with Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the motion was approved.

Cemetery Deed D572: Mr. Dalessio moved to accept the Cemetery Deed for Lot D572. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. Mrs. Pschirrer asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. On a voice roll call vote with Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the motion was approved.

Cemetery Deed D573: Mr. Dalessio moved to accept the Cemetery Deed for Lot D573. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. Mrs. Pschirrer asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. On a voice roll call vote with Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the motion was approved.

2020 Town Report Cover Ideas: Mrs. Downing was thinking about the inside cover and who the report could be dedicated to. On the back page Mrs. Downing thought about the new Recycling Center; maybe a collage. The Selectboard felt she presented some good ideas. This will continue to be a work in-progress. Mrs. Pschirrer asked if Mrs. Downing was beginning to get reports for the 2020 Annual Town Report. Mrs. Downing has the Selectboard and Recycling Department reports. She will remind department managers that reports are due a week from tomorrow.

Thank You Card: Mrs. Pschirrer acknowledged receipt of a thank you card from the First Congregational Church for the Town's donation made in memory of Nancianne Houghton.

NON-PUBLIC SELECTBOARD SESSION:

Ms. Mayberry moved to enter into a Non-Public Selectboard Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II to discuss (a) Personnel and (c) Reputations. Seconded by Mr. Dalessio. Mrs. Pschirrer asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. On a voice roll call vote with Ms. Mayberry, Mr. Dalessio and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the motion was approved at 7:40 PM.

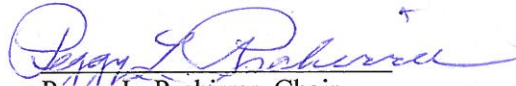
The regular Selectboard meeting resumed at 8:16 PM.

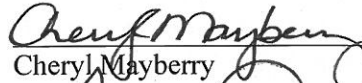
Ms. Mayberry moved that the Minutes of the Non-Public Selectboard Session of January 07, 2021, will be sealed. Seconded by Mr. Dalessio. Mrs. Pschirrer asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. On a voice roll call vote with Ms. Mayberry, Mr. Dalessio and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the motion was approved.

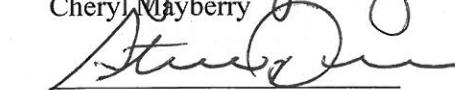
ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Mayberry moved to adjourn this meeting. Seconded by Mr. Dalessio. Mrs. Pschirrer asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. On a voice roll call vote with Ms. Mayberry, Mr. Dalessio and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Regina Borden, Recording Secretary


Peggy L. Pschirrer, Chair


Cheryl Mayberry


Steven Dalessio

(Note: These are unapproved Minutes. Corrections will be found in the Minutes of the January 14, 2021, Selectboard meeting.)