

**TOWN OF WALPOLE
MEETING OF THE SELECTBOARD
FEBRUARY 15, 2024**

Selectboard Present: Peggy L Pschirrer, Chair; Cheryl Mayberry and Steven Dalessio

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Pschirrer called this meeting of the Selectboard to order at 6:28 PM in the first-floor meeting room of the Walpole Town Hall. There were five representatives from National Grid including Kaytlynn Monroe, Rebecca Walkley, Jason Magoon (forestry) Corey Schutzman (environmental) and Bethany Rocha. Also present were Patrick Kiniry and Katherine Kopij and Rose Bolio from the North Walpole Village District and John Peska from the Conservation Commission.

RIVER VALLEY RELIABILITY PROJECT: Kaytlynn Monroe of Hilltop Public Solutions introduced herself. She has been contracted by National Grid to work on this project. Bethany Rocha of National Grid, who focuses on outreach, reviewed the agenda of the history, project scope, benefits, etc. The transmission line runs from the Bellows Falls substation to the Wilder substation. Ms. Rocha explained that the W149 Transmission line was placed in service in 1948. Work would be done in National Grid's existing right-of-way (ROW). Ms. Monroe reviewed the map. Walpole has the smallest section of the line. Ms. Rocha said there are 509 aging structures being replaced with 26 structures being replaced in Walpole over a 2 mile stretch of the ROW. The line will remain active during the project. There will be trees and vegetation removed where necessary. Ms. Monroe spoke to project benefits which include added property tax revenue. This line has significant trouble with tree contact and lightning strikes. Jason Magoon said that there would not be a drastic removal of trees in the North Walpole right-of-way. Ms. Monroe stated it was appropriately 7 acres of tree removal.

The project schedule began in the fall of 2023 with notifications, project website, local meeting, etc. There will be additional presentations as the project progresses. Construction and restoration will occur between Dec. 2026 to March 2030, which is subject to change. Mrs. Pschirrer asked about the notices. Ms. Rocha stated that abutters within 500 feet of the ROW were sent notices. Ms. Monroe explained there is a dedicated hotline number to call for any question or concerns. Ms. Mayberry asked if the project was occurring in North Walpole Village District. The map confirmed the line runs north along the west side of Fall Mountain. Ms. Schutzman explained the multitude of permits required for this large project. There would be time of year restrictions to protect the tri-color bats. Ms. Walkley spoke to the permitting path being either at the local or state citing process. Mr. Dalessio commented that the Town does not have a permitting process for such a large-scale project. The Town will rely on the State to grant the various permits. There was a discussion of the access points to the ROW. Ms. Monroe stated there will be more notifications and presentations as the project progresses to keep the community informed. Mr. Peska asked if the presenters were familiar with the bio-diversity study being conducted by Mr. Persad of Liberty Utilities. Mr. Magoon was familiar with the study. The study is not currently monitored this section of powerline.

At 6:59 PM the Selectboard paused to move into the Selectboard Office to continue the meeting. At 7:03 PM the Selectboard Meeting resumed.

NORTH WALPOLE UTILITY DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH WALPOLE WATER UTILITY: Mr. Kiniry explained that the shut off or on fee had increased to \$30 for each action. Mrs. Pschirrer noted that no one would have their water shut off during the winter months. There was a discussion of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) rules. Ms. Mayberry commented that if the utilities cannot recoup their costs, other users end up paying. There will be multiple notices before the water service is shut off. Ms. Mayberry moved to accept the North Walpole Utility Discountenance of Service Agreement with Walpole Water Utility. Seconded by Mr. Dalessio. With Ms.

Mayberry, Mr. Dalesio, and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the Minutes were approved. The North Walpole Commissioners had approved the agreement at an earlier commissioners' meeting.

At 7:15 PM, the North Walpole Village District Commissioners and Treasurer leave the meeting.

PAYROLL:

Mr. Dalessio moved to accept the Payroll Check Register for the week ending February 10, 2024, in the amount of \$31,290.00 dated February 16, 2024, and for the 941 Payroll Tax Transfer in the amount of \$6,181.44. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. With Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the motion was approved.

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES:

SELECTBOARD MEETING – February 8, 2024: Mr. Dalessio moved to accept the Minutes of the Selectboard meeting of February 8, 2024, as submitted. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. With Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry, and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the Minutes were approved.

2024 TOWN BUDGET HEARING – February 8, 2024: Mr. Dalessio moved to accept the Minutes of the 2024 Town Budget Hearing of February 8, 2024, as submitted. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. With Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry, and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the Minutes were approved.

SELECTBOARD NON-PUBLIC SESSION – February 8, 2024: Mr. Dalessio moved to accept the Minutes of the Selectboard Non-Public Session of February 8, 2024, as submitted. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. With Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry, and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the Minutes were approved. The minutes are to remain sealed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Dalessio moved to acknowledge the following board/committee/board meeting minutes:

- Trustees of Trust Funds Meeting –February 1, 2024

The chair so recognized.

REFUNDS:

Mr. Dalessio moved to approve the property tax refund for map and lot# 004-032-000 for \$69.61. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. With Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry, and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the motion was approved.

Mr. Dalessio moved to approve the property tax refund for map and lot# 011-004-000 for \$8.93. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. With Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry, and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the motion was approved.

Mr. Dalessio moved to approve the property tax refund for map and lot# 028-121-000 for \$99.45. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. With Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry, and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the motion was approved.

Mr. Dalessio moved to approve the property tax refund for map and lot# 030-039-000 for \$29.95. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. With Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry, and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the motion was approved.

BLIND PROPERTY EXEMPTION:

Mr. Dalessio moved to approve the blind exemption for map and lot# 028-132-000. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. With Mr. Dalessio, Ms. Mayberry, and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pending Further Actions: Parking Policy, Generators, School and Old North Main Bridges/Culverts, School Street Drainage Project, Phase 3 Power for Industrial Drive and Bensonwood, Houghton Brook Bridge, Dog Ordinance

Selectboard Operational Guidelines: There was a consensus to table this item until next week's meeting.

Meeting with SAU 29: A date and time to meet is still pending for the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Encumbering Funds Requests for Police Cruiser and Equipment: There was a consensus to table this item to next week. Research is being conducted regarding a purchase order for these items.

Groundwater Management Permit: Ms. Mayberry moved for the chair to sign the Groundwater Management Permit for the former Central Plating Brownfields site. Seconded by Mr. Dalessio. With Ms. Mayberry, Mr. Dalessio, and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the motion was approved.

Letters to Eagle Scouts: Ms. Mayberry moved to approve Eagle Scout letters for Braden and Thomas Haefner. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. With Ms. Mayberry, Mr. Dalessio, and Mrs. Pschirrer in favor, the motion was approved.

HOOPER TRUSTEES MEETING:

Ms. Mayberry moved to enter into a Hooper Trustees Meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Pschirrer. With Ms. Mayberry, Mrs. Pschirrer and Mr. Dalessio in favor, the motion was approved at 7:29 PM.

The Selectboard Meeting resumed at 7:43 PM.

NON-PUBLIC SELECTBOARD SESSION:

Ms. Mayberry moved to enter into a Non-Public Selectboard Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II to discuss (e) Legal at 7:43 PM. Seconded by Mrs. Pschirrer. Ms. Mayberry, Mrs. Pschirrer and Mr. Dalessio in favor, the motion was approved. These minutes are to remain sealed.

The regular Selectboard meeting reconvened at 7:50 PM.

Mrs. Pschirrer requested that the minutes remain sealed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Mayberry moved to adjourn this Selectboard meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Pschirrer. Mr. Dalessio asked if there was any additional discussion. There was none. With Ms. Mayberry, Mrs. Pschirrer and Mr. Dalessio in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Downing, Recording Secretary Pro Tempore



Peggy L. Pschirrer, Chair



Cheryl Mayberry



Steven Dalessio

(Note: These are unapproved Minutes. Corrections will be found in the Minutes of the February 22, 2024, Selectboard meeting.)