

**SELECT BOARD MINUTES**  
**WELLS TOWN OFFICE**  
**May 21, 2024**

PRESENT: Select Board: Don Preuss, Paul Woodruff Jr., Tammy Holcomb  
Also: Nora Sargent, Jerremy Jones, Stan Martelle, Sue Holcomb, Joe Capron, Pat Caiazza, Carrie Desantos, Kevin Desantos, James Kelly, Jean Kelly, Donna Lee Kelly, Cathy Walker, Todd Walker, Scottie Fredericks, Eleanor Jones, Peter Rubino, Peter Rubino Sr, Patty Rubino, Jackson Morse, Nate Noble, Mary Nichols, Richard Mann, Susan Marcus, Charlie Recknagel, Peter DeOlympio, Terry DeOlympio, Gary J Brayton, Timothy Jones, Austin Campbell, Austin Campbell Jr.

1. Meeting was called to order by Select Board Chair Don Preuss at 7:00 P.M.
2. Minutes were read and approved.
3. Bills were studied and discussed and orders were signed.
4. Stanley Martelle asked about the Town of Tinmouth and Town of Wells swapping work for plowing two roads at our end of town. Don explained that yes, the Town is in talks with Tinmouth on this subject. Stanley explained that he feels the town highway crew has enough to do and that he felt Tinmouth does not want to pay properly to have these roads done. He feels the good ole boy thing does not work anymore and felt the Town of Wells would not benefit from this arrangement. The board said they would take what he said into consideration in making their decision.
5. Several people came on behalf of the position of being against the chemicals being put into the lake on June 4. Don started by explaining that the poster that was hung up inviting people to the Selectboard meeting was inappropriate. Don went on to explain the two different lake groups and the towns involvement with them. Don explained the town does not govern what organizations can do with their appropriation money that is voted in. He also explained the marina is state owned and that town neither condemns or condones the use of pesticides. Don Explained that the lake is far better than it was years ago. He also explained that they were more than welcome to come in and fill out a petition on pesticide use for the ballot next year.

Kevin then spoke on the subject of pesticides in the lake and the changes that has made in the fishing over the past few years. He also explained that the state has not tested all species of fish in the lake in years, and they are very concerned over the fish population. Kevin explained that they are concerned over the chemicals that are being used and that they are forever chemicals (PFA) . Kevin asked that board not support the use of chemicals in the lake in the future because this new application that is in progress is good for 5 years. Tammy stated the state is shutting down the fish hatcheries as well. Don suggested that they reach out to other lake towns that are having the same situation and they may get some ideas on how to handle all of this from them. More discussion ensued on the items that were notated on the poster that was informing folks of the lake treatment. Jerremy Jones stated that all the information can be found on the website and explained the different links to folks. The question was raised as to the 94% unidentified chemical. Jerremy explained that that is confidential and that the state has access to all of that information. Jerremy explained the same chemical that the folks are complaining about is used in Prozac. Don explained that this discussion had gone on long enough and it was time to move on.

6. Eleanor Jones wanted to speak about the emergency shelter situation. The board explained that during emergency situation the MWA is open as a emergency shelter. This is not open just when a few folks are out but if someone is in need they can reach out to the Selectboard and they will help them the best that they can. They explained the 211 number and Nora said she would be sure this information is in the Town report for easy access.
7. Paul made a motion to accept the overweight permit for Tatro Trucking llc seconded by Tammy passed unanimously.
8. Don says the property deal with the school district is moving forward, he read the emails form the lawyers and a short discussion ensued.
9. Library floors were discussed and that we could not get any more than one bid on the floor job. Tammy made a motion to accept the bid from Bobs hardwood floors of Bennington to refinish the floors for \$4,750 Paul seconded it. Passed unanimously Don will confirm the price as the quote is a year old. The board had reached out to Danaher floors and Wilson flooring for pricing as well.
10. Don then talked about East Wells Road slide. We need another engineer to gather stream information. He also explained a grant is available to mitigate problem areas. Don will fill out the pre grant application which is due June 24, 2024.
11. Don explained that Casella's can provide us with a compactor box for tires that will h old roughly 300 tires. There will be a normal pull fee plus \$250 a ton. The board will look into weather this permitted and will revisit this.
12. Board discussed issues with the large pothole on end of North Street and a few other road issues. They discussed the fact that the grader is broke down.
13. Pat Caiazza asked about the cell tower update.
14. Paul made a motion to adjourn at 8:26pm seconded by Tammy.

---

Don Preuss

---

Paul Woodruff Jr.

---

Tammy Holcomb