

Approved

# Town of Randolph OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN

MINUTES OF MEETING September 25, 2023

Members Present: Paul Jadis, John Turner, Michele Cormier

Guest: Redza Dempster, Richard Umiker, Yvonne Jenkins, Howie Wemyss  
Paul Kenison, Linda Dupont

The meeting began at 6:30 pm

Vouchers were reviewed and signed.

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### DISCUSSION ITEMS AND MOTIONS:

Redza Dempster came before the board to discuss the possibility of the Town of Randolph creating a resolution declaring Randolph is open to all people who are welcome. Redza sent an email to the board stating other towns have done so, noting an example from Franconia:

*“Whereas, the Town of Franconia welcomes all people regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or any other variable that makes us who we are.*

*Whereas, the Town of Franconia has a responsibility to all its residents to keep them safe from discrimination, harassment, or from those who want to marginalize others for being different than themselves through prejudice and bigotry.*

*Whereas, recent events in the North Country have singled out the LGBTQ+ community and other minority groups as not welcome.*

*Now, therefore, be it resolved by Town of Franconia Select Board that the Town of Franconia will welcome all to our community and that our Town services, amenities, and properties are available to all who live here and to our visitors passing through, following guidelines and policies that apply equally to all persons.*

*We are committed to promoting a secure, welcome and safe environment.*

*We are committed to modeling respectful dialogue.”*

The board suggested this resolution be brought before the Town Meeting in March when all the voting residents are present to make an impact. Selectmen Jadis stated, that bringing this before the legislative body will ensure the feelings of the Randolph Community are united.

Rick Umiker asked the Select Board to investigate how to request a special election for the replacement of Rep. William Hatch, who resigned from his position. This request would need to be presented between October 4<sup>th</sup> and October 18<sup>th</sup>. Selectmen Jadis inquired as to the pros and cons of holding a special election. At the moment, Shelburne, Gorham, and Randolph are not represented in the house. Michele Cormier stated she has been researching the steps that need to be taking to request a special election and has reached out to the other towns on their feelings.

Having no response from the other towns Michele has heard from David Willcox stating only one of the towns needs to make the request to the Secretary of State and then it will be submitted to the Governor and the Governor's Council for approval. Michele also spoke to Councilman Joe Kenney for advice and guidance. Michele Cormier moved to proceed to make a request asking for a Special Election to fill the vacancy left by William Hatch. Paul Jadis seconded. All agreed.

Howie Wemyss and Yvonne Jenkins reviewed with the board the REEP committee study for replacing the eleven street lights with LED. A proposal from Affinity LED Lighting, a company that manufactures and supplies LED street lighting is out of Dover, NH.

- The replacement costs would be \$7,122.
- The existing lighting would need to be purchased from Eversource at a cost of \$980.
- There is a 2.8-year return on the investment
- The new lighting is dark sky compliant.
- If approved, the town would own the street light and be responsible for the maintenance of the street lights.

The REEP Committee recommends this project move forward. Selectmen Paul Jadis will take the lead and review the information presented.

The REEP Committee has also developed an RFP to install solar panels at the Town Hall.

Paul Kenison stated that the last truck would be inspected tomorrow. Selectmen Paul Jadis asked Paul Kenison to walk the Durand Road construction area and pick up any clumps or large asphalt pieces left along Durand Road. Paul Jadis stated we do not want any debris that can cause damage to the newly reclaimed roadway, drainage, or undermining the road.

R&D will be returning to High Acres Road to complete the gravel grading and the apron when they return to do the top coat on Durand Road to complete the aprons, and driveways here as well. Paul Jadis noted there was standing water by Lowe's Cabins where the annual cookout was held. Selectmen Jadis has reviewed the punch list with the Durand Road Construction Crew.

The board reviewed a letter received from K Eggleston. The board will review this separately with Sam Fortin of CMA Engineering due to arrangements made between K Eggleston and the engineering firm.

Communications from NH DOT Safety Improvement plan to include rumble strips along US Route 2 from Lancaster to Gorham. Randolph would be more than happy to host a public meeting on this.

Michele Cormier will be contacting Sharon Penney of Broadacres to discuss the town stop plowing the turnaround in front of the house in order to stop further deterioration of the existing pavement. The town owns the road until brought before the March Town Meeting when voted otherwise.

Michele Cormier reviewed the town's safety program and informed Paul Kenison that he was part of the committee as the road agent of Randolph.

The board reviewed a Driveway Permit from Ledia Eusden. Having questions, the board did not vote on the permit until more information could be provided by the road agent, Paul Kenison. Paul K discussed the possibility of a culvert in that area. He will drive up and inspect the new area and determine if any additional drainage would be needed. Michele Cormier asked if a soil analysis would be needed to comply with the Land Use Ordinance and the required setbacks as well. The board will wait until Paul Kenison inspects the area to determine further action on the permit.

Michele Cormier made a motion to request the Trustees of the Trust Funds to reimburse the town \$586,995 from the following Expendable Trust Accounts.

- \$546,995 from the **Town Roads & Bridges Expendable Trust Funds** for
  - \$528,095 Durand Road Reconstruction
  - \$18,900 High Acres Road
- \$40,000 from the **Fire Equipment and Protection Expendable Trust Fund**
  - 40,000 Fire Tanker

John Turner seconded. All Agreed.

The town has received confirmation that the Demolition Grant submitted to demo the Lowe's large greenhouse and the Lowe's Cabins. We will proceed with the steps to proceed and post for bids.

The State Police responded to another incident of a resident on Durand Road. This is the second time. The board discussed further actions and the possibility of contacting the town's attorney regarding the situation and the town's recourse.

Redza Dempster spoke about the Ravine House Pool area focusing on the rope railing. He stated that he has been in contact with Lauren Bradley and Mark Kelley discussing alternatives for the area.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm

*Randolph Board of Selectmen*

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*Michele Cormier, Chair*

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*John Turner, Selectmen*

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*Paul A. Jadis, Selectmen*

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*Linda Dupont, Assistant to the Selectmen*