

Emergency Selectboard Meeting – Flood Recovery
Peacham Town Offices
July 12th, 2024

Present: Alfred Dedam, Peter Craig, Andrea Kane, Jeff Berwick, Jeremy Withers, Dylan Gombas, Rebecca Washington, Jenn Surat, Anna Carvalho

Alfred called the meeting to order at 5:06pm.

1. Alfred acknowledged Dylan Gombas for doing a phenomenal job for his organization and responsibilities until Jeremy could get back.
2. Check-ins
 - a. Jeff Berwick, Fire Chief – Fire Department back in good shape. Jeff met with State Fire Marshall and viewed 7 of the houses in South Peacham. Had a HAZMAT situation last night, but it's taken care of. Filing in for Neil, so he can take any questions for him.
 - b. Jeremy Withers – Road Foreman, thanked Dylan and the crew for doing such a great job. Building back will take time, but they'll work on it. He thanked all the people involved for their efforts. Trying to wrap his head around all the work that has to be done, but he will focus on rounding up trucks and equipment to get materials. No material in local quarries and sand pits. This could delay the recovery time. Calkins is opening up tomorrow, says Peter. Jeremy's priority is to make the roads not only passable, but safe. His guys need a break. He will reach out to VTrans for support. Most roads one-lane passable. Andrea asked about the kind of traffic the recovered areas can take. Jeremy explained it will settle, and that drivers need to be careful to avoid compromising them and in order to remain safe. All signs have been used.
 - c. Peter Craig noted that NEKWMB is under water, so they could not pick up recycling. We are full from last week, so the transfer station will only be operating for trash, bulky waste, and metal this Saturday.
 - d. Alfred requested a discussion of rebuilding Gov Maddocks and Willow Brook. Alfred wondered what the process would be to discontinue those roads (past Dean Bornstein's on Gov Maddocks). Jeremy thinks it should be discussed. Alfred and Rebecca will research the process. The planning and discussion of Gov Maddocks and Willow Brook Rd will take place after other roads have been taken care of. It's not a matter of if it will happen again, but when. Rebecca suggested hiring an attorney for discontinued roads. Alfred already got a recommendation.
 - e. Peter suggested having a discussion with Tree Board to look at new dangerous trees due to flooding, then look into taking down trees. He will be speaking with loggers.
 - f. Peter said dump went well today. St. J Academy showed up with 1 ton dump trucks, so they carried and sorted flood materials at the transfer station, so no need for a dumpster from Casella, but they will come on Monday to do a dumpster swap. Tomorrow regular trash is normal price, but flood related waste will still be free.
 - g. Rebecca noted that now that 48 hours have passed, FEMA will be less lenient about proper paperwork. Need to follow purchasing policy for FEMA purposes to get reimbursed. Anything over \$15,000 has to go out to bid. Morgan Gold flew drone to get photos and videos of damage to help with documentation.

- h. Andrea asked about purchasing procedure because she was considering a porta potty for South Peacham workers. Rebecca clarified that anything under \$1000 they have the go ahead, anything between \$1000-\$15,000 needs two written quotes, and anything over \$15,000 goes to sealed bid.
- i. Rebecca asked Jeremy about some incoming inquiries:
 - i. Regarding road material that ended up on people's property – Jeremy explained that if it's out of right of way, the town is not responsible. If it's in the right-of-way, they will get to it eventually.
 - ii. Regarding Martin's Pond Ln - it is a private road so they will be responsible for the maintenance.
- j. Jeremy asked that everyone please be patient. Class 4 roads are on the back burner, as Jeremy believes they are mostly passable. Not everyone in town is aware of the level of damage and recovery needed, so Jen suggested putting out a note requesting patience.
- k. Jen asked about the Emergency Relief Fund. Andrea confirmed it is back in action. A GoFundMe has been started. Rebecca has been checking with Auditors, as long as there are copies of information, it's ok, however it is for personal relief, not roads, which is dispersed by a committee.
- l. Andrea reported that some residents are trying to call 211 to report damages, but are having difficulties getting through from this area. Residents should try both numbers.
- m. Donations of cleaning products need to be accessible. Decided to keep them in info booth. Alfred will move it to the Town Office parking lot. Andrea spoke with State about respirators and N95 masks, trying to get some. People need to use protective equipment when cleaning.
- n. Jeff commented that although there are only a few houses still without power, if you are using pressure washer or generator, run them *outside* to be safe.
- o. Wellness calls – Folks at church is working down a list.
- p. Update on McKenzie family.
- q. Andrea suggested meeting as a community, it helps keep folks positive to have a gathering. Discussion of date and place.
- r. Agenda for Wed's regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting will be truck bid selection and recovery discussion only.
- s. Town road crew will be down to a two-man crew shortly due to a resignation and family leave. One truck is still down. Our crew will focus on small stuff, like cleaning out culverts, and give big stuff to contractors as projects. Rental companies calling and offering equipment, but Jeremy's not sure if that would work due to transportation and limited crew. Town Clerk's office can help with W9s, Insurance, contracts, etc.
- t. Peter moved that Rebecca and Jen act as Administrators for the FEMA projects, seconded by Andrea, all in favor, so moved.**
- u. Rebecca and Jenn will look into borrowing money for the recovery to use in the meantime before FEMA reimburses.
- v. Jeremy thanked the all the contractors who came out: Scott Abare, Garren Calkins, Craig Morris, Rob Cochren and Emerson Logging, Allen Thresher and his grandson Dylan, Nate Giroux and the White Family of Willow Brook Construction, Donnie Moore III, Shane Stevenson, Alfred Dedam, and all the others who stepped up.

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3. Peter moved to adjourn at 5:58pm, seconded by Andrea, all in favor, so moved.