

Town of Otisfield  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
March 2, 2016

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Chairman: Hal Ferguson, Lenny Adler & Rick Micklon present.

2. **FLAG SALUTE:** Audience and Board members saluted the flag.

3. **ACTION ON MINUTES:**

Meeting minutes from February 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2016. \*Motion at accept minutes. LA/RM-  
Unanimous.

4. **GUESTS:**

Craig Zurhorst –Western Maine Transportation,

- Western Maine Transportation has served four residents of Otisfield since November 2015
- Craig gave a short history of when Western Maine Transportation was started and the areas that they serve.

Craig also answered the previously provided questions.

- **Who is eligible for the services?** Bus/van service for the public. Contract rides which are (Maine Care, CDS, BCFS, etc.) are restricted.
- **What if any are the associated costs to the individual passenger?** Standard published fares. \$3.00 – Adults per person with a reduced rate of \$1.50 for seniors 60+, children 5-11, disabled, and Medicare. Accompanied children under age 5 ride free.
- **If additional costs are to be paid by the passenger how much are they and when do they have to be paid?** Fares are paid in correct change cash at the time of boarding. Booklets of tickets may be purchased in advance through WMT office by cash or check.

- What is the radius of WMT service (distance from Otisfield)?  
Oxford/Norway/South Paris.
- Duration of each trip (time allowed between drop off at destination and picked up for return)? The duration would be determined on a trip by-trip basis and could be affected by other riders.
- What is the mode of transportation, bus or private auto driven by a volunteer/WMTS employee? Bus/van for public rides. Contract rides are often provided by trained volunteer drivers.
- What assistance is provided by the drivers for the elderly and handicap? Door-to-door service is provided by drivers trained in passenger assistance. As long as WMT is aware of the need ahead of time, a wheelchair accessible vehicle will be provided.
- What are the ride request and cancellation policies/procedures? WMT appreciate a 48 hours notice, but 24 hours from the time of the trip should be sufficient. Cancellation may be made prior to the time of pick-up, but we truly appreciate 1 to 2 hours notice, if at all possible.
- Given that your regular route through Oxford is via Route 26 how far will you deviate from that route to provide a service, both regular and irregular? WMT doesn't currently have a regular route so "deviation" isn't a factor. The distance from Oxford/Norway/South Paris may affect trip timing and may result in some inconvenience to riders based upon other scheduled riders.

5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

A. None.

6. **DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

Chief Jordan (KJ) and Captain Hooker (MH) were asked to attend for participation in the Sivlaqua Williams Way Dry Hydrant discussion. HF provided an overview of what has transpired since 2009. RM asked MH about the verbal agreement which was between the town/fire dept. and past president of the Silvaqua Owners Association (SOA) Jane Fahey. MH said the SOA wanted to hold on to the right of

way to control Williams Way so they would be able to close the road with the fire dept. doing the testing on the hydrant. The use of the dry hydrant has not changed since the verbal agreement was made. There are 3 dry hydrant locations on this side of town, Route 121 by Bean Road, the beach and Oak Hill Road. LA stated in his opinion if there was a fire in the SOA area we should use a relay system using the William's Way hydrant. The challenges being the narrow dirt road, winter conditions and cars parked alongside the road in the summer. If the fire was outside of the SOA area the best results would come from using a tanker shuttle from the Otisfield town beach hydrant. Round trip from the beach hydrant back to the SOA is 6 miles. MH suggested we check out how other towns handle dry hydrant issues.

HF e-mail MMA on 17 February with a query about maintaining the dry hydrant on private property by using public funds. MMA replied that they are skeptical about using public funds on private property. LA agrees , if the lawyer states do not use town funds on private property we follow his advice. RM did not interpret the MMA answer the same as HF and LA. HF asked if RM would like to take the action to pursue the legality further . Agreed. RM big picture can the town continue use the dry hydrant. HF the fire department will use this dry hydrant the same as any other. If it is determined that using public funding is legal on private property it must be voted upon by the townspeople. RM asked MH about the verbal agreement which was between the town/ fire dept. and past president of the SOA Jane Fahey. MH The use of hydrant has not changed since the verbal agreement was made. The agreement with SOA included SOA obtaining a permit by rule and having the excavation done. The fire department would install the dry hydrant using materials previously provided in a grant. Once tested and working any further expenses would be borne by SOA. KJ The fire dept. tests and back flushes the dry hydrant on an annual basis and also has used it for training.

Last summer it was discovered that the depth of the end of the pipe was at a shallower depth than it should have been and that the flapper was damaged. In December 2015 the fire department repaired and extended the pipe to get the proper depth. KJ when we initially installed it the end was in 48 inches of water and it was not resting on a rock as it was found to be during the repair. The beginning of February 2016 the fire department tested the hydrant and it worked fine. HF The depth of the lake since 2012 has been lowered to 32" below the dam

in the fall and raised to 16" in the spring. SOA has not spend anything on maintaining the hydrant, however they have spent money on plowing the road for hydrant access. HF said FD will continue use the Williams Way hydrant as they would any other. MH the main reason the dry hydrant was put in Silvaqua Association was for the benefits the people of the association would receive such as reduced insurance rates.

David Hyer (DH) attended the meeting on behalf of SOA. DH the association understands that the benefits from the hydrant mainly benefits the SOA residents , but that it also benefits others. He believes that the selectmen knew at the time that the hydrant was put in that Thompson Lake was going to be lower. DH could not find anything in the minutes from 7/2/2010 about the change in water levels. HF the Thompson Lake Dam Committee based upon a TLEA recommendation and a public hearing agreed to the lower winter water levels in 2012. DH feels it's a public hydrant and also wants a third party to check the dry hydrant to see if it was install correctly. KJ A deal is a deal. He also stated it was installed correctly in accordance with NFPA 1142 standards..

**6. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

A. None

**7. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT ITEMS:**

- A. New disability insurance: Christine King is the town agent will come out to talk with the board, if the board wanted. The other company is no longer in business.
- B. Recreation Dept.: Anne gave update about ball program.
- C. Kayaks: MMA fine with the letter for going the kayaks to Seeds of Peace, this letter will cover the town from any liability.
- D. Road are posted.
- E Richard St. John CEO- Junkyard: Cobb Hill taking pictures and received certified return rec back.

**8. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA:**

A. None.

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

A. None.

10. **SELECTMEN'S ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED & VOTED ON:**

- A. Town Warrant: \* Motion to sign Warrant #16 to pay the town bills.  
LA/HF-Unanimous.
- B. ATV Policy workshop- Tablet to future BOS mtg. with a light agenda.
- C. General Assistance Administration Shannon Moxcey: Was offered a position through the Town of Norway with benefits and Otisfield would pay Norway for her services.
- D. Fuel oil: Did not lock in with SAD#17 for oil prices. AP to check into other other possibilities.

11. **QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:**

- A. LA Have an article for this town meeting to raise funds for ambulance service if a person can't paid for it.
- B. HF \$500.00 from the outreach committee goes toward the hood over the stove at the community hall.

13. **ADJOURNMENT:** \* Motion to adjourn at 9:20 PM. HF/LA- Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted

Sandy Ouellette, Acting Secretary

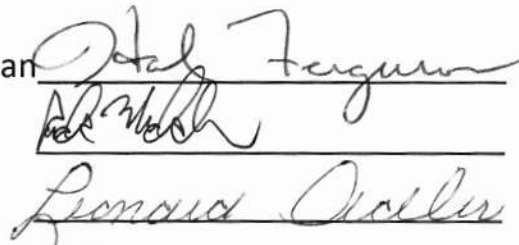
Approved by:

Hal Ferguson, Chairman

Rick Micklon,

Lenny Adler,

Approved on March 16, 2016

Three handwritten signatures are stacked vertically. The top signature is 'Hal Ferguson', the middle is 'Rick Micklon', and the bottom is 'Lenny Adler'. Each signature is written over a horizontal line.