

**Town of Livermore  
Board of Selectpersons  
September 23, 2013 Meeting  
Minutes**

**Present:** Megan Dion, *Chair*, Peter Castonguay, Mark Chretien, Rodney Newman, John Wakefield

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. The Minutes of the September 9, 2013 meeting were accepted as presented.
3. Fire Department Chief Donald Castonguay provided an update on his department's operation. He said volunteer staffing has been relatively steady, and he said the crew is very dedicated and works well together. Calls have been mostly car accidents, and most fire calls have been for mutual aid in Livermore Falls and Jay. Engine One, the primary response vehicle, will need some plumbing work due to internal wear on the pipes. This, he said, occurs mainly when water is taken from ponds and contains sand and gravel. Work continues on the squad truck, mainly rearranging equipment to make it more user-friendly. The squad truck now has a flatbed body, which allows it to carry more equipment. He discussed his planned schedule of equipment replacement that is mandated by OSHA rules, including air bottles (four per year) and turnout gear. He said turnout gear replacement (two sets per year) is for interior attack crew for now. He anticipates applying for two grants this year, one for pagers and another for forestry equipment.
4. Town Clerk Renda Guild reported that things are going well in the office. She said there will be an election in November and that she has been working with Registrar of Voters Krista White on election matters. She said she doesn't care for the new time clock, and that she has been training on payroll and accounts payable and that, though complicated, it's going well.
5. Highway Foreman Roger Ferland reported that he met the prior Thursday with Selectpersons Peter Castonguay and Mark Chretien to finalize the work program for the culvert near the St. Pierre property on River Road. The program consists of re-setting the existing culvert and making improvements to prevent water that sits near the inlet end from working into the road base. Mrs. Dion asked about building up the road. Mr. Ferland said they considered that. Mr. Chretien said it would involve a gradual buildup of about 500 feet of existing road to accomplish that. Mr. Castonguay also pointed out that there are several trees that appear to be just outside the Right-of-Way that need to come out, to improve the drainage. Mr. Chretien also said they observed a considerable amount of water originating from behind the St. Pierre home and that it would be helpful if it could be slowed or diverted. Mr. Ferland said fabric and riprap will be installed at the site to slow the absorption of water into the road base. Work should begin the early part of the week of October 1. Administrator/Treasurer Kurt Schaub said he's heard from many people who are anxious for the problem to be resolved. Mr. Ferland added that he'll need to cover the culvert work area, preferably with cold mix, and it was agreed to allow him to purchase the mix necessary to do that. Mr. Ferland also said he grader was used, and billed, for only about half the time they had initially anticipated needing it, which saved over \$1,000, and was still able to grade the town's gravel roads and spread cold mix on various trouble spots in town, including Waters Hill Road. He also used Don Mercier's roller for about 4 hours, at \$50 per hour. He said he would like to keep the excavator for an additional two weeks to do the culvert work on River Road, at a cost of \$1,500. He said they have not been charged for the month of September. On a motion by Mr. Chretien, seconded by Mr. Castonguay, it was unanimously agreed to rent the excavator for an additional two weeks. Mr. Schaub said it would be helpful to obtain an approval on the purchase of culverts for the replacements approved during the September 9 meeting. He said he obtained three price quotes – E.J. Prescott - \$5,722.80; Ferguson Waterworks - \$5,511.00; and Paris Farmers Union - \$5,623.30. On a motion by Mr. Chretien, seconded by Mr. Wakefield, it was unanimously agreed to purchase the culverts from Ferguson Waterworks. Mrs. Dion presented a gravel load sheet to Mr. Ferland which she said should be completed in order to track where purchased gravel is being used. Lastly, Mr. Ferland reported that a crack has opened up on

Norlands Road, near Bartlett Pond. He said it is in the surface layer only, but should be repaired before cold weather sets in. He suggested a local business to do the work, at a cost of \$220. It was agreed to have the work done as outlined.

6. Mr. Schaub presented his Treasurer and Administrator reports. He said that liens for unpaid 2013 property taxes will be filed during the week of October 7, and that the group purchase of road salt through AVCOG resulted in a savings of almost \$8.00 per ton from last year, and that the bid notice for winter sand will be issued shortly. He said the auditors have postponed their visit to Livermore due to additional work in another town. He also provided an update on his activities with Oxford County Regional Recycling and that organization's goal in moving more toward single-sort recycling. He said he anticipates Livermore will ultimately participate in a single-sort program via Oxford, though it will require the installation of a second compactor at the Transfer Station, the cost of which will be recouped in savings within three to four years, if not sooner. Mr. Chretien asked if it would be helpful to include a portion of the compactor's cost in next year's budget. Mr. Schaub said that is a good idea, and that the town has taken that approach with major expenditures in the past. He added that the greater ease of recycling might encourage more people to do it. Lastly, he said that Animal Control Officer Wayne Atwood has submitted his resignation, effective November 30. A search will be made for a replacement ACO, preferably one that is state certified. Mr. Castonguay asked why the town is paying a veterinary bill on the current Warrant. Mr. Schaub said that that vet bills are the town's responsibility in cases of abandonment where an injury or illness doesn't warrant euthanasia. Reimbursement is sought from the owner, if found.

7. Mr. Schaub presented financial information compiled by RSU 73 Superintendent Robert Wall on the town's costs of withdrawing from the district, and potential costs of doing so. Mr. Wakefield questioned whether or not a part-time superintendent could actually be obtained for the \$13,000 estimate provided, and whether or not the state aid for education had been applied to reduce the amount of tuition quoted. Mr. Newman said state aid may be factored in, as the district's costs are in the range of \$13,000 per student, which is considerably more than the tuition rates provided. Not considered in the financial rundown is the cost of acquiring the elementary school on Gibbs Mill Road, for a local education program similar to the Town of Fayette. Ron Clark, a resident of Leeds, shared his observations and experience with districts that have consolidated and later separated. Mr. Clark said he did school consolidation work in Connecticut, and now does so as a hobby in Maine. He said that state aid applies to municipalities, not to districts. He also said there are many nuances and pitfalls in the process, and shared a sheet of statistics he had compiled on staffing and Essential Programs and Services funding. He suggested various timelines for withdrawal, including a referendum vote in November of 2014, which would allow for withdrawal effective July 1, 2015. He also said that money isn't the only reason to change districts, and that a look at test scores and other quality measures is important, as are Special Education and "poison pill" items such as service contracts on computers and other equipment. RSU 73 Board Member Cindy Young asked about student transportation, which Mr. Clark said is the responsibility of the municipality that tuitions its students to other districts. Mr. Clark also stressed that it is important to negotiate the "next step" at the same time as a withdrawal. Mr. Newman asked if it would be appropriate to appoint a committee to look into education alternatives and get a sense of what direction the community would like to pursue. Mr. Schaub suggested an ad-hoc committee for now, and it was agreed. Mr. Wakefield said that, before this goes too much further, it might be nice to sit down with Livermore's current RSU 73 board members to discuss this matter further. Mrs. Young agreed. They will be invited to the October 7 meeting. Mr. Wakefield also said he was told that the savings from closing the High School and Middle School in Livermore Falls would offset the cost of the renovations at the combined Spruce Mountain High School. Mrs. Young said there are savings from those efforts, and mentioned that AYS has just agreed to lease the gym at the former Middle School. The district will no longer pay to heat any portion of that building.

8. There was no new business.

9. For correspondence, Mr. Schaub noted he attached the various letters from resident Dwight Hines as requested, though they had already been sent to the Selectpersons on an individual basis.

10. Mr. Hines asked about amending the Minutes of the August 26 meeting to reflect that he did not expect the Board of Selectpersons to conduct an investigation. A review of those Minutes found no such reference. Mr. Schaub addressed Mr. Hines about his September 11 email and its allegation that Mr. Schaub had not responded and, thus, Mr. Hines was expanding his request. Mr. Schaub reminded Mr. Hines that he had offered Mr. Hines the opportunity to review all content on Mr. Schaub's computer. At the time the offer was made, Mr. Hines said that he would call Mr. Schaub to set up a time to do that, but never followed through. Mr. Schaub said he felt it was inappropriate for Mr. Hines to suggest any employee had failed to perform in given that set of circumstances. Mr. Hines agreed.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt E. Schaub