

WALDEN SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 15,2024

Present: Robert Hatch, Brenda Huntoon, Randolph Wilson, Debbie Messier, Robert Bell, and Jason Larrabee

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm

The minutes of the July 1, 2024 meeting were approved as presented.

Public comment: Fire Chief, Jason Larrabee, reported about Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) changes that will impact volunteer departments. Changes include 300 hours of yearly training, equipment age limits, to include gear and trucks not more than twenty years old and mental health screening. Jason fears these regulations will keep people from volunteering and that the Town will not be able to afford the new upgrades required. He asked that people take time to go to www.OSHA.com where they can make comments on how this will impact towns and their volunteer departments.

Road Report: Walden will have all roads open with two lanes this week. Roads will still be rough and will need to be graded. People need to slow down on them. The Orton Road bridge that was washed out by trees and debris will remain closed indefinitely. There are plugged culverts that need cleaning. There are damaged culverts that will be changed and upgraded. These will be ongoing projects. The office has received our Better Back Roads grant for the Coles Pond Road Improvements.

Town Clerk's Report: Walden's Emergency Coordinator, Lynette Farnham, helped in the office July 11th. Here assist was greatly appreciated on a difficult day. Our FEMA funds from the July 10,2023 flood are close to being finalized. Two other FEMA processes have begun for the June 23rd storm and the local July 10,2024 flood. Diane Banister has minimized the delinquent dog registration list. This job belongs to the Town Constable but has been ignored.

A 2024 tax rate was approved and is attached. Tax bills will be sent out this week.

Other Business: There have been numerous ATV complaints. The Sheriff has been notified. No Walden roads are open to ATV traffic. The culvert installation on Noyestar Road that was offered to Louie Patoine was denied. The installation will be offered to Darkwing Excavation of Wolcott for \$3,160.00 to be completed by July 31,2024.

Bills and the tax rate were signed

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm

Submitted by R. Wilson