

**Appleton Select Board
February 25, 2025
Minutes**

1. Convene, 5:25 P.M. (Reed, Esancy, Costigan, Marriner)
2. Costigan: Motion to hold an executive session regarding board's legal right and duties relating to the role and responsibility of the Road Commissioner. Esancy: Second. 4-0-0.
3. Costigan: Motion to hold an executive session to consult with town attorney regarding the Board's legal rights and duties relating to special town meeting budget warrant and articles relating to roads (5:23 PM). Esancy: Second. 4-0-0
4. Costigan: Motion to end executive session and reconvene, 6:23 PM. Marriner: Second. Unanimous.
5. Costigan: Motion to authorize the chair to work with the town attorney to convene an executive session with the Road Commissioner. Second: Esancy. Unanimous, 4-0-0.
6. Costigan: Motion to authorize the chair to work with the town attorney to write questions for special town meeting for road maintenance. Esancy: Second. 4-0-0.
7. Costigan: Motion to approve A/P Warrant 49, \$17,080. Esancy: Second. Unanimous.
8. Marriner: Motion to approve the minutes of Feb. 11, 2025. Esancy: Second. 3-0-1. Reed/absence.
9. Public Comment: None.
10. Roads
 - a. Discussion and action on special town meeting relating to roads. Costigan explained in FY 24 roads and Bridges was underspent, as was the winter roads maintenance budget. The totals went into the town's undesignated funds and a special town meeting will ask voters to reclaim the funds and use the funds for paving. The low bidder for the Town Hill project could not be awarded after a 45-day extension (from the 10-day bid amount) the bidder declined to be bonded. The next bidder was Northeast Paving was willing to break the bid into two fiscal years to complete the work. The board has opted to ensure the Town has the full amount to complete the project at one time.
 - b. Road Commissioner: Indicated he "will be posting dirt roads beginning tomorrow. Will probably need to start bringing in crushed stone for areas that have thawed sooner than others." Costigan asked if there was budget in mind for the work just described. He said there was not because it would be an emergency situation.
 - c. Costigan reiterated the earlier discussion of the board to hold a special town meeting to use funds from undesignated for road paving and also to accept the DOT grant of \$200,000 and appropriate \$15,000 from undesignated to act as the town's match. Costigan reiterated use of unspent FY24 funds would offset the amount needed to be raised in FY26.
 - d. Boyington: Noted he missed one meeting in December and wondered when he needed to have his budget to the board. Costigan reminded him of the Road Policy with the deadline of November for roads budget. She reminded him no plan was submitted for FY 25 and the board held the sum flat. The board was endeavoring to do the same in FY 26 and would factor the increase in winter roads maintenance. Year to date road

maintenance only 13% of the budget had been spent. Benchmarking historical events the board is anticipating a significant amount of carryforward which will

- e. Boyington asked if the board would deny work to keep projects going until June. Costigan indicated the intention of the board is to base the budget on a plan and the plan that remains from last year is to finish Town Hill. Boyington indicated he had submitted a plan. Esancy noted the board received an email in FY 24 in May or June and that we are in a different year. Costigan asked Boyington to give a plan and to review the Roads Policy. Boyington indicated he had a plan from last year. Using money that fell to undesignated to complete a project when a low bidder did not fulfill and to continue to work toward the completion of Town Hill, a project prioritized by the road commissioner. Costigan reminded the November deadline for FY road budgets and that FY 24 was flat and FY 25 would be flat for the maintenance.

11. Select Board

- a. Esancy: Motion to allow CMP pole on Fishtown Road. Marriner: Second. Unanimous. The pole is not situated in a ditch.
- b. General Budget Discussion
 - i. Discussion of FY 26 budget version 2.3
 - ii. Winter Roads: Costigan: Motion award ARC section 1 bid, \$592,535.34 section 1, subject to voter approval, insurances and bonding. Reed: Second. 4-0-0.
 - iii. Costigan: Motion to award Section 2 to Rock Hill Construction, \$348,300 contingent on voter approval. Reed: Second, 3-0-1. Marriner asked if we had discussed costs with two contractors in sand shed. Costigan indicated the current winter roads budget has \$5000 built in for a loader and the road commissioner indicated shared use and rental in a contract he holds independently with the Town of Searsmont. Costigan noted the bid indicates the contractor who plows section 1 is also responsible for plowing the town office and that has been overlooked by the board for several years but states it is included in the bid contract.
 - iv. Costigan indicated edits would be made per discussions and spreadsheet would be finalized for the budget committee. Discussion of warrant wording in subsequent meetings; general discussion with clerks keeps the April 11 deadline for completion of warrant articles.
 - v. Marriner: Motion to adjourn. Esancy: Second. Unanimous.