

**SUNAPEE SELECTBOARD
MEETING MINUTES
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM
Friday, March 8, 2024, 9:00 a.m.**

Present: Selectboard Chair Carol Wallace; Selectboard Vice Chair Suzanne Gottling;
Selectboard Josh Trow

Also present: Town Manager Shannon Martinez; Skylar Hathorn, *Executive Assistant*

1. CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Wallace called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. SELECTBOARD ACTION

POSTED ROADS

MOTION, in accordance with RSA 231:190 and RSA 231:191, authorize Highway Director Michael Martell to post roads, from today until May 6, 2024, at his discretion and to grant exemptions at his discretion, made by Selectboard Member Trow seconded by Vice Chair Gottling.

Discussion:

Highway Director Martell appeared before the Sunapee Selectboard on March 8, 2024, to ask the board to formally authorize him to post the roads so that the Sunapee Police Department can enforce the regulations surrounding said posting.

Director Martell went on to talk about how the influx of trucks travelling on posted roads and, in some cases, without a permit is causing undue hardship on our roads and will result in extraordinary municipal maintenance expenses. Formally posting the roads will help to further safeguard the roads and prevent unnecessary and unreasonable damage.

Chief Cobb weighed into the conversation by outlining the RSA and explaining how his team would go about enforcing the RSA. He detailed what is within PD's span of control. He called attention to the types of vehicles that are exempt, by RSA, from posted road like emergency vehicles. Once the Selectboard memorializes this decision, Chief Cobb and his team can enforce the RSA.

Moving forward, he would like to see the ordinance address this matter holistically. For example, it should address how the Town manages school buses, trash trucks, and individuals living on abutting properties on posted roads. Having an ordinance in place will better empower Chief Cobb and the Sunapee Police

Department to protect our roads and prevent unreasonable damage during mud season.

Chief Cobb said he would like to see the RSA followed strictly and for residents to be educated on the RSA.

Director Martell and Chief Cobb spoke about the nuances regarding those who have a seasonal permit, weather conditions, and when the Highway Director is comfortable with vehicles being on the road if temperatures creep above 32 degrees. Director Martell usually looks to WMUR's weather app to make decisions.

Vice Chair Gottling recommended adding to the website the types of vehicles and their weights that are over the maximum weight limit for residents to reference. And that they may also call Chief Cobb for clarification on whether their vehicle meets the requirements for travel.

(RSA 231:191, I) The governing body of a municipality may establish maximum weight limits, seasonal or otherwise, which are more restrictive than limits set forth in RSA 266:17-26, for any class IV, V, or VI highway or portion of such highway, when the highway agent determines that such highway requires postings to prevent unreasonable damage or extraordinary municipal maintenance expense. Such posting shall be in accordance with currently acceptable practices and technology.

A vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

3. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.