

TOWN OF SMITHFIELD
Summary of the September 21st, 2021
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

PRESENT:

Richard Moore
Justin Furbush

ALSO, PRESENT: Nichole Clark

Hans Rasmussen
Bruce Winegardner
Jeff Pelletier Louie Batista

**THIS MEETING WAS TAPED AND THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS A BRIEF
SUMMARY.**

The summary of the September 2nd, 2021, meeting minutes was approved as typed. Richard Moore motioned to accept the meeting minutes from September 2nd, 2021, as typed. Justin Furbush seconded the motion. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. North Shore Drive Boat Landing Culvert Replacement

The culvert project was finished by September 17th. The board agreed that it went well and the only part to be finished is the paving of a small section.

2. Brush Cutting Update

The AA spoke with Aboremore Tree Service, Thomas Tracy and he was starting the cutting on Bickford Rd. Mr. Tracy asked about hazard trees he has been marking along the town roads that have been brush cut. The board agreed that the following roads have hazard trees and would like to see them taken care of this fiscal year. Sand Hill, Mt. Tom, Quaker Ln, Bickford, & East Pond Rd.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Rec Soccer Field Use

Norridgewock Recreation asked to use the field along side of the Municipal Building for their soccer program. The AA informed them that only practice could be utilized there due to limited parking and interfering with the emergency vehicles through way.

2. Fire Department

The department asked the board if a Chevy C-4500 type 1 ambulance could be purchased for \$25,000 from the Sugarloaf Ambulance/Rescue Vehicles LLC to re-

place the current rescue vehicle. The department stated that there were two major repairs needed to the current vehicle.

The board was not aware of any major repairs needed to the rescue vehicle. The board wanted to have a day before deciding.

3. First Responders Vaccination Requirements

The AA submitted a question to the MMA Legal Services asking for help in understanding the requirements for our volunteer fire fighters to be vaccinated. Was there anyone or any documentation that could help? Legal services responded with the following, [The attorneys here at MMA Legal Services are happy to answer any questions you have about the new vaccination/testing requirements for EMS personnel. However, we have not drafted general guidance on this issue because there are few open issues. For example, as you may know, the Maine CDC and Maine EMS have both issued rules governing which EMS employees are required to receive a vaccine. These rules are not entirely consistent.](#)

It is my understanding that under the [Maine CDC emergency rule](#), employees who are subject to the COVID-19 vaccine requirement include “any person who performs any service for wages or other remuneration . . . for an EMS organization . . .” EMS organization is further defined as “an EMS ground ambulance service, non-transporting EMS service, air ambulance service, EMS training center, and/or emergency medical dispatch center, as defined in the Maine Emergency Services System Rules at 16-163 CMR Chapter 2.” This means that if fire department itself is an EMS organization or firefighters provide services for wages or other remuneration to an EMS organization (i.e., they are not purely volunteer), the CDC vaccination rule applies. The application to “*any* person who performs *any* service for wages or other remuneration . . . for an EMS organization” (emphasis added) is very broad. I would interpret this to include all individuals on the fire department payroll that respond to an emergency call on behalf of the organization.

The [Maine EMS emergency rule](#) provides that, no EMS organization licensed by the Maine EMS Board may permit a covered emergency medical services person to provide direct patient care without a COVID-19 vaccine or documentation of an exemption. Under this rule, only employees of licensed entities that provide “direct patient care” are required to be vaccinated. I am not aware of anything that indicates that the EMS rule overrides or revises the CDC rule. If both rules are validly in force, I think both rules apply to covered EMS organizations. Unless something changes, it appears that EMS organizations will need to comply with both rules. This means that EMS organizations will generally need to comply with the more stringent CDC rule regarding who is required to be vaccinated.

With that said, however, I am not an expert on the structure of your fire and EMS department, or the applicability of this new emergency rule to your organization, so I would encourage you to reach out to the Maine CDC or EMS Board directly for additional clarification.

The department did not say they have received or know any different.

4. TextMyGov Info

The AA has been speaking with a representative from Text My Gov, which is a service offered to businesses to use texting as a way to communicate with the public. The information was presented to the board. The AA will contact other municipalities that use Text My Gov and set up a demonstration for the board.

5. Building Use Application-Grove Flats Ln

Residents from Grove Flats Ln have submitted an application to use the meeting room for Wednesday, September 22, 2021. Justin Furbush motioned to sign the

application approved for the use. Richard Moore seconded the motion. Motion passed.

6. Moonshiners Snowmobile Club

Hans Rasmussen informed the board that he was voted in as President and wanted to see if the board would interject looking into expanding the current parking lot at the ballfield. Mr. Rasmussen talked about safety reasonings during sports events and giving the club a trail head for vehicles to park and unload during the winter months. The board agreed they are interested in discussing the idea.

7. Winter Contract Review

The AA had draft copies of the winter contracts for 2021-22 season for the board to review. The AA will request the contractors to come to the October 5th, 2021, meeting to review and sign, as long as they submit their insurances required.

8. Adjourn and Sign Warrant #16-21

Justin Furbush motioned to adjourn and sign Warrant #16-21. Richard Moore seconded the motion. Motion passed.