

MC

April 27, 2010
Selectmen's Meeting

Present: A. Richards, C. Guiry DMD & A. A. Milkovits (Mark Richardson, Chairman absent due to vacation.)

Meeting opened at 7:30 PM.

Vendor checks were discussed and signed.

Agenda:

Appointments:

1. David Morrison, Assistant Road Agent, met with the Board to express his appreciation for the raises the full time employees received (and for the Board defending the raises at Town Meeting!) and also his concern for the lack of raises for the part time employees. Mr. Morrison felt that the part-time Highway workers do the same work as the full time, rising early to work on the roads, plowing, salting, etc. and should also have received the raises. Selectman Guiry explained that the Selectmen wished to keep the budget level, due to the tough economic times. He thanked Mr. Morrison for his concern and input and advised to look to the future for better times when all employees could receive raises.
2. David Cook, Road Agent, met to discuss the many complaints on the condition of the roads. The roads have deteriorated greatly in the last few years partially due to the several seasons of bad weather. The paved roads need more attention than ever. Mr. Cook is concerned on the costs of the needed repairs. This year he will use the paving budget line on repaving part of Townsend Road. The condition of that road has been the subject of most of the complaints. Chip sealing was discussed – this procedure was done by the former Road Agent and seemed to extend the life of the paved roads. Selectman Guiry discussed the fifteen million dollar bond that Amherst secured to repair their roads. The Selectmen's Office in Amherst explained that the plan is to spend \$4,000,000 per year on the roads. The plan for the repair was developed by their Public Works Director working with engineering interns, surveys, etc. Mr. Cook will contact the Director for more information about this project. The Selectmen and Road Agent discussed formulating a similar plan for Mason to repair and restore our roads. The plan could involve forming a committee to study and prepare for a bond. Mr. Cook will update the Selectmen with information as needed.
Re: Calcium Chloride – Mr. Cook will be spreading calcium chloride this year. He requested permission from the Selectmen to “borrow” from the salt budget line to fund the calcium chloride. Since the purchase of salt was considerable under budget, Mr. Cook felt that this would be reasonable. Selectmen approved this request. Mr. Cook discussed different options for spreading the calcium – dry with farm spreader, “salt spreader”, etc. Dry calcium can also be mixed to be wet to spread. Mr. Cook is checking bids for the product. Spreading the calcium will make the many residents on gravel roads a lot happier.
Mr. Cook stated that several 55 gallon drums were tossed on the state forest property. He called DRED (owner of property) and D.E.S. The D.E.S. will have

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Clean Harbors remove the drums and do cleanup. This will not be a cost to the Town.

Re: FEMA application – Mr. Cook has submitted the application. Selectmen and Mr. Cook reviewed the Letter of Intent/Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Mr. Cook filled out the form – project proposed to replace culverts on Russell Road, Wilton Road and Townsend Road to improve drainage for a cost of \$175,000. This will be submitted to Homeland Security.

Re: Shane Robinson, Valley Road, request trees, on Town property opposite his house, to be removed for safety reasons. Mr. Cook inspected the area with Mr. Robinson and relayed the message to the Board. Apparently the trees fall in the “permissive” state right-of-way and may be removed without State permission. This office will contact PSNH to remove the three pine trees that are the problem.

3. Mr. & Mrs. Keith Grimes, owners of Pickity Place and Joseph McGuire of Nutting Hill Road came to complain about their neighbor Darrell Jones at 130 Nutting Hill Road. Mr. Grimes stated that there has been ongoing land clearing and excavation work on the Jones' property. He believes that the Jones' are building an OHRV track as he has seen some OHRVs on the property. Grimes is concerned because the noise from the machinery and the dirt bikes disturb his customers, and the customers don't like to see the land cleared which exposes the machinery at work. After more discussion, the Selectmen decided to check on the past Intent to Cuts on the Jones' property and to send Building Inspector Wilson to the Jones' property to inspect for a track. Mr. Grimes will continue to call the Police Department if there are further noise disturbances.

Selectmen reviewed the following:

1. Legal: Blair – Mr. Blair's attorney has proposed a resolution that includes the Selectmen “forgiving” the attorney and court fees owed by Mr. Blair. After some discussion, the Selectmen voted against accepting the terms of this resolution. This decision will be given to Attorney Little to relay to Mr. Blair's attorney.
2. FEMA – application for assistance has been submitted – see above.
3. Road complaints – see above.
4. Complaint from Keith Grimes, owner of Pickity Place, concerning his neighbor's changes on the property at 130 Nutting Hill Road. Mr. Grimes believes the owners are building a race track for dirt bikes. See above.
5. 2010 TAN: Selectmen, Town Clerk and Treasurer signed the paperwork.
6. Police logs
7. Foreclosure notice – Ledoux, 784 Campbell Mill Road
8. Re: Mason School – copy of letter from Garth Fletcher concerning School Board's recent decision to extend a contract to current Superintendent. Since this letter, the School Board met on Monday, April 26th and rescinded the offer to the current Superintendent. The position will be posted.
9. Re: NIMSCAST – from Jack Moorhouse, Homeland Security
10. Other correspondence

Selectmen signed warrant for timber tax, Fifield Trust, lot D-10, D-38 for \$2,659.22.

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The Board reviewed a list of potential appointees for the Selectmen vacancy:

1. Tom Mitchell
2. Kenneth Greene
3. Kent Forty
4. Garth Fletcher
5. Charles Moser
6. Pete McGinnity
7. Ron Youngblood
8. David Profit

Selectmen will call to see if any are interested in the appointment.

The Board discussed the chicken problem on the Demmons property, Townsend Road. Mr. Demmons has a problem with the "free range" chickens of his neighbors, the Colletons. The chickens have ruined many of his plants and attacked his lawn. There is nothing in the RSAs that specifies damages done by free range chickens. The Selectmen will direct the Building Inspector to check the chicken house on the Colleton property for set-back requirements.

The Town employee "Christmas in May" party will take place on Friday, May 14th at noon.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Barbara L. Milkantz
Admin. Assistant