

**January 20, 2011
Selectmen's Work Meeting**

Present: C. Guiry DMD Ch., A. Richards, R. P. McGinnity, & A.A. Milkovits

Meeting opened at 6:30 PM.

Agenda:

Appointments:

1. Road Agent Mark Brackett met with the Board to discuss the following:
 - Full-time position – Mr. Brackett would like to hire Roy Lundstedt, presently a part-time HD employee for the position. After reviewing all the applications, the Selectmen feel that Ted Jarest of Peterborough may be more qualified for the job. Mr. Jarest would provide depth to the position from his years of experience and, if there became a need, he could step up a position. Mr. Brackett countered with the qualities that he sees in Mr. Lundstedt – excellent equipment operator, talented with repairs, excellent with trees, trustworthy. After more discussion, the Selectmen stated that they would not micro manage the Highway Department and would respect Mr. Brackett's decision for the hire. They also expressed their concern for what had gone on before in the Department and wished to see the Department going forward with a fresh start and possible some different workers. Mr. Lundstedt's benefits will begin May 1, 2011.
 - Personal vehicle use- Once again the Board reminded Mr. Brackett that he is not to use his personal vehicle for any Highway Department work due to the liability issue for the Town. Because there has not been an available truck, Mr. Brackett has been plowing with his truck for a total of 26 hours and had expected to be paid for this. He also stated that he had a verbal agreement with the Board to purchase his truck. The Board reminded him that there had never been such an agreement that they had asked him to give more information about the vehicle. Unfortunately Mr. Brackett did not readily provide this information. The Board reiterated again that there will be no payment for mileage or plowing.
 - Search for a new vehicle – Mr. Brackett learned from a member of the Highway Vehicle Committee that the Committee was not considering the purchase of Brackett's vehicle. The recommendation was made for Mr. Brackett to contact Enterprise and to rent a truck on a monthly basis until Town Meeting decides to purchase one. Mr. Brackett will contact some local dealers and get leasing figures on new and used trucks.
2. Police Chief Barry Hutchins met with the Board to discuss his Patrolmen's issues with the Personnel Policy. Some items discussed were: defining holidays for scheduled work – this is dependent on the Chief's duty roster; defining weapons on Town property – this does not apply to the Police Department as they must follow the PD's S.O.P.s; retirement benefits requirement of working twenty years for the Town – the Selectmen were in full agreement on this issue. As Chairman Guiry explained the policy is a "broad stroke" policy and jobs are better defined through the individual departments. Another question that the officers had was to change the part-time hours to less than 32 hours, instead of less than 29 hours.

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The Selectmen do not agree with this as there would be a danger of someone becoming full-time in a matter of working the extra hours for six weeks! LGC will be contacted for information about part-time hours and full-time hours. Previously the Selectmen had sent letters to the officers addressing their concerns.

Chairman Guiry proposed extending Mark Brackett's probation for another three months, until April 1st. A motion was made, seconded and voted in the affirmative to extend the probation period until April 1, 2011. A letter will be sent to Mr. Brackett informing him of this decision. This does not extend the time limit for Mr. Brackett's CDL license. He must have that no later than February 28, 2011 or he will be terminated.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Barbara G. McKeon
Admin. Assistant