

Board Of Selectmen

January 3

Condensed from approved minutes

Present: Chairman Dennis Fenton, Selectman Roger Godwin, Town Administrator Mark Stetson

Road Agent John Thompson reported that the two new plows have been delivered and that one has been hooked up to the grader.

The Board decided not to enter into an agreement with a local business to sell that business winter sand, as there would be no way to limit similar requests or to account for the materials.

The Board reviewed revised construction cost estimates for the Dyers Crossing Road Bridge project, noting an increase due to addition of the timber rail provision.

Jeff Newcomb met with the Board to discuss an abatement application. The Board asked Stetson to further investigate whether the lot has road frontage.

A scheduling hearing has been set for January 10 regarding the Superior Court action against Lenny Caron. The Town Attorney has suggested the Board might not object if Caron were to file a continuance pending the outcome of a ZBA appeal that Caron has submitted. The Board agreed to the Attorney's suggestion.

The Board asked Stetson to solicit a statement in writing from the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests endorsing Armand Boisvert's request that the Town abandon its right of way interest in the Class VI portion of Sam Hill Road.

Stetson reported that the percentage of property taxes collected through December 31 for the 2004 billing was the highest in many years.

The Board then met with Police Chief Glenn Laramie who reported that the number of calls for service was up considerably for the previous 30-day period. He also reported that the light bar on the old cruiser has malfunctioned on several recent occasions. Laramie told the Board that Hillsboro Ford has received the State bid for police-equipped Crown Victorias for 2005. Stetson committed to contacting the dealership to solicit pricing information.

Laramie informed the Board that a new law now on the books in New Hampshire requires operators of motorized scooters to have a license to op-

erate them off of their or their parents' property. Another new law gives law enforcement officers the ability to ticket those who operate those vehicles within the public road right of way, which includes sidewalks.

The Board then met with Ray and Joan Osteen to discuss the recent cease and desist order that the Board had issued regarding where the Osteens park U-Haul vehicles and the lack of a permit for signs on their property. Joan Osteen told the Board that they intend to comply, that the vehicles are all now parked in the rear, the fence is now in place, and that they will complete the necessary sign permit application. Godwin thanked her for her willingness to cooperate.

January 17

Condensed from draft minutes

Present: Chairman Dennis Fenton, Selectmen Roger Godwin and Andy Gup-till, Town Administrator Mark Stetson

Five bids were received for the sale of the Town-owned property on Chase Hill Road. The Board accepted Gail Henry's bid of \$95,000. Other bids of \$91,000, \$73,525, \$65,000, and \$11,000 were also received.

Road Agent Thompson reported that heavy rains coupled with several frozen culverts and drainage ditches have caused problems on Shaw Hill and Raccoon Hill Roads. The Board asked Thompson to prepare a plan to mitigate those problems. Thompson informed the Board that a local contractor has performed temporary repairs to an area adjacent to Pinewood Lane to allow water to exit the roadway.

Thompson asked the Board to consider compensation for the use of his father's garage. Repairs to the Town's grader and other equipment are regularly performed in the garage. The Board told Thompson that, because this would set a significant precedent, it would only consider such a request if it were a detailed written proposal.

Jeff Newcomb again met with the Board and further discussed the status of an abatement application that he had filed. The Board determined that the lot in question does not have road frontage, but asked Stetson to further investigate Avitar's methodology for valuing the lot.

The Board then met with Joe and

Dawn Vosburgh to discuss their interest in purchasing from the Town a small parcel of land located adjacent to theirs on Depot Street. The Board agreed to support a warrant article asking for authorization to take this action with the following conditions: that the parcel be merged with the Vosburgh's existing lot and that the Vosburghs submit their offer of \$2,000 in writing. This is the amount that the Vosburgh's assessment will increase once the merger has been completed.

The Board reviewed the sign permit application submitted by Ray and Joan Osteen for the U-Haul business that they are operating on their property and decided that, before any decision could be made, the Board needs a site plan locating all of the existing and proposed signs on the property.

The Board then met with State Representative Jim Danforth to discuss current legislative activities that might be of interest to the town. He informed the Board that he has been appointed to the Highway Committee. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the current proposed County budget with Danforth commenting that as it stands now, the town can expect a similar increase in the County tax rate in 2005 that it saw in 2004.

There was also a lengthy discussion regarding the current State budget shortfall and the school funding problem. Danforth alerted the Board to several new bills that have been introduced this session that may have impacts to the town. The Board thanked Danforth for his enthusiasm.

The Board then met with Hastings Rigollet who asked if a driveway permit had been issued for a new driveway on Beech Hill Road in its current location. Road Agent Thompson confirmed that the driveway was constructed in the location agreed upon by himself and the owner of the property. Thompson had selected the location over one previously identified by the landowner because it has better visibility looking south. The Board indicated it supported Thompson's decision.

Rigollet then questioned the plowing during a recent storm. Thompson said that during a snowstorm that turns to freezing rain, he leaves a small accumulation of snow on the flat roads and prioritizes plowing and sanding efforts primarily on the inclines. That accumulation of snow holds the rain and is easier to plow off when the precipitation stops.

Gup-till suggested the Board consider adopting an ordinance prohibiting snow being plowed or blown onto Town roads from driveways or private roads.

The Board decided to insert a warrant article asking the voters to authorize a change in compensation for the Town Clerk and Tax Collector position from the current salary- and fee-based system to strictly an hourly rate. If approved, the change would not take effect until the next election for that position in March of 2007.

Stetson informed the Board that a significant payment has been received from a prior owner toward the repurchase of property taken by a tax deed by the Town in 2000. The prior owner has indicated a desire to come up with the balance within a few weeks.

Stetson told the Board that the local resident who for a while now has been trucking tin cans for the Town to the recycling facility in Concord has decided to no longer provide that service. Another local resident, who is in the trucking business, has provided a competitive quote to transport the cans. However, the Town would have to have a roll-off container to store and transport the cans. The Board authorized the purchase of such a container, so long as it can be done within the confines of the existing budget.

After a brief discussion, the Board decided to send correspondence to the Zoning Board of Adjustment supporting a request from the Andover Village District for the ZBA to reconsider its recent decision granting a special exception for the construction of a dwelling on a lot near the Village District's intake pipe in Bradley Lake due to the health concerns because of that close proximity.

Andover Fire Department

By Chuck Ellis

Deputy Chief, Andover Fire Dept.

As most of you can see, we have been making improvements to the Andover Fire Department's building.

The first thing we did was put in larger doors. We went from two ten-foot doors and one twelve-foot door to all three doors being twelve feet wide. We gained one foot in height. This gives us more room for the fire trucks to go in and out.

After the doors were installed we had vinyl siding put up on the front of the building.

Next we had the building's electrical system updated, which brought us up to code. After that, we put sheetrock on the ceiling. In order to raise the door height we needed to take down the old suspend-

ed ceiling and replace it with sheetrock.

A lot of the labor was done by the members of the department. We tore down the front of the building and rebuilt it to accept the new doors. We also strapped the ceiling for sheetrocking, and once it was installed we painted it.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Andover Fire Department, come on in. We have meetings every Monday night at 7 PM. The first Monday of the month is the business meeting, the second Monday is the officers' meeting, the third Monday is for training, and the fourth is for truck and equipment check.

Remember, check your fire alarm and carbon monoxide detectors, and if you don't have them you might want to get them.

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