

## Board Of Selectmen

March 7

*Condensed from approved minutes*

**Present:** Chairman Dennis Fenton, Selectman Andy Guptill and Roger Godwin, Town Administrator Mark Stetson

Road Agent John Thompson discussed the status of the winter maintenance budget. There was a brief discussion about some minor damage to a railing on the bridge on Bradley Lake Road at the dam. Stetson reported that he has asked the manufacturer for a cost estimate for replacement parts and that he will submit a claim to the plow truck owner's insurance company for the cost of the damages.

Under old business Stetson informed the Board that the chief advantage of a new accounting software program is its ability to maintain capital asset data in conjunction with the GASB 34 requirement. Pricing has not yet been received for a package tailored to the Town's needs.

Under new business the Board determined \$100 to be the amount of compensation offered to the two landowners for slope and construction easements for the bridge construction project on Dyers Crossing Road. Fenton commented that this is the amount historically paid by the Town for drainage easements and the like.

In response to a complaint received, the Selectmen decided to send correspondence to a property owner on Potters Road reminding him that he must complete the site plan review process with the Planning Board prior to commencing commercial use of the property.

The Board noted receipt of correspondence from the attorney representing a property owner on Hoyt Road questioning a Current Use assessment issue.

The Board signed a Current Use change tax warrant for property on Flaghole Road.

The Board also signed a supplemental property tax warrant to correct a bookkeeping error for property on Currier Road.

The Board approved two veteran's credit applications and two Current Use applications.

The Board reviewed and approved an abatement application for property on Rivers Edge Road.

Acting on the advice of Avitar, the Board decided to send supplemental property tax bills to Public Service Company and to New England Power Company for the value of those utilities' right of way easements.

Stetson reported that the closing date has been set for March 25 at 1 PM for the property on Chase Hill Road.

March 21

*Condensed from draft minutes*

**Present:** Chairman Dennis Fenton, Selectmen Roger Godwin and Andy Guptill, Town Administrator Mark Stetson

Godwin moved and Guptill seconded the nomination for Fenton to be chair for the ensuing year. At Godwin's suggestion, the Board agreed to carry forward the existing ex-officio positions for another year.

Road Agent John Thompson discussed the status of the winter maintenance budget. The grader has been out cuffing over some of the gravel roads in an effort to keep them more easily passable and to help them dry out a little faster. He confirmed that all of the Town roads have been posted for the springtime 6-ton weight limit.

Thompson will be using the forms prescribed by state law to permit exceptions to the posting. Once completed, copies of the form are distributed to the vehicle operator and the Andover Police Department and Thompson retains the third.

The Board signed the deed conveying property on Depot Street to the Vosburghs pursuant to the vote at Town Meeting.

Stetson informed the Board that the project for the construction work on the Dyers Crossing Road bridge is currently being advertised and that bids will be opened on April 8 at 1:30 PM.

The Board denied abatement applications for the O'Hagen and Cassidy properties because the required annual inventory form had not been filed for the preceding year.

The Board opened a hearing at 7:30 PM with Jane Hubbard present to receive public comment on the draft of a Hazard Mitigation Plan that Hubbard had prepared for the town. Emergency Management Director Ed Becker was also present.

Hubbard reviewed the plan and fielded several questions from Board members. She told the Board that she plans to present copies of the plan to the New Hampshire Office of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for review and subsequent to that will submit a final version for the Board's signatures.

The Board re-appointed Roger Laro and Ellie George each to three-year terms to the Recreation Committee, Peter Southworth and Tina Cotton each to three-year terms to the Conservation Commission, Joe Stearns to a three-year term to the Planning Board, Don Gross to a three-year term to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, and Paul Fopiano to a three-year term as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Police Chief Glenn Laramie informed the Board that he has ordered the new cruiser and expects delivery in 60 to 90 days. He doubts that it will be in service in time for the Fourth of July.

Chief Laramie also reported that the overall number of calls for service for the preceding 30-day period was down slightly from last year, however, he noted an increase in the number of domestic violence calls during the same time frame.

The Board signed the supplemental property tax warrants approved at the prior meeting for Public Service Company and New England Power Company.

The Board discussed a request from the Historical Society to consider abating a portion of the property taxes levied to the old store building on Depot Street. The Board determined that because it was received after the statutory deadline for submission of abatement applications, the request had to be denied.

## E. Andover Fire Dept.

By Rene Lefebvre

Chief, East Andover Fire Department

The term "expert" conjures up more knowledge on any subject than I am likely to have. What I do bring to the table is experience. That experience was gained from responding to many emergencies over a long period of time. I would like to share some of that experience with you.

As firefighters we are called to auto accidents to assist the emergency medical people. Part of our mission is to cut away the damaged car and extricate people from the car. We practice these skills and are required to use them often.

This experience over 30 years leads me to make this observation about auto accidents. If the driver and passengers are wearing seat belts, they will likely be alive and injuries are less likely to be life threatening. If not, we expect to see high levels of bodily injuries and trauma. Should the passenger be ejected from the car...well, we won't talk about that mess.

While writing this article I spent a lot of time thinking about the many auto accidents we have had in Andover. We have seen tragedies and miracles. There often appears to be no reason that easily explains the physics that leads to the damage and injuries we see. Almost always though, the underlying factor for a positive outcome is that seat belt.

Experience has also taught us that fire fighting can be very dangerous. We needed to find ways to make our task safer. Wearing the proper gear has greatly made us safer. A fire fighter on the fire ground not wearing his gear looks like a rookie and is quickly disciplined by the safety officer.

Driving a car, though enjoyable, can also be dangerous. Place the odds on your side and wear your protective gear, too.

Acting on Godwin's suggestion, the Board decided to urge both the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment to record at the registry of deeds and at the expense of the applicants decisions that those Boards make for each property whose use is restricted by such decisions or conditioned on compliance with conditions that a successor owner should be bound by, so that a chain of title search would put searchers on actual notice of the contents of those decisions and others on constructive notice. The Selectmen opined that providing the notice in this fashion would facilitate future enforcement efforts.

The Board confirmed previous approval of two veteran's credit applications and approved a Current Use application.

The Board approved a sign permit application for Billy and Karen Sanborn to advertise an ice cream sales business that they are starting adjacent to the Blackwater Restaurant. The Board conditioned the

## POLICE BLOTTER

By Glenn Laramie

Chief, Andover Police Department

The Andover Police Department responded to 67 calls for service for the period February 15 through March 15. Here is a partial list.

Investigated an assault on Depot St  
Responded to an accident on Franklin Highway in East Andover

Investigated bad checks at Raccoon Hill Road and Boston Hill Road

Responded to a domestic dispute at Depot Street

Took a dog bite complaint from Lockwood Road

Responded to a noise complaint on Severance Road

Issued two motor vehicle summons and nine warnings

**Arrests**

Clinton Ordway of Andover, age 24, for bad checks

Leonard Caron of Andover, age 49, for second degree assault

**Drive Carefully**

The Andover Police would like residents to drive carefully during the frost heave season, as frost heaves can cause you to lose control of your vehicle.

**Recycle Your  
Printer, Copier, &  
Fax Cartridges  
At AE/MS**

Parent volunteers package them and we sell them to raise money to help send our students to a week-long environmental camp.

approval on the lights being shut off in the evening when the business is closed.

The Board then met with Gerry Hersey, Bob Ward, Jeff Newcomb, Bryant Adams, Don Corliss, and Brian Tilton who presented a petition asking the Board to convene a special town meeting to reconsider Article 17 [to abandon the Town's right of way on Sam Hill Road] that was on the warrant for the 2005 Town Meeting.

Fenton explained that the Selectmen are not a party to running Town Meeting. State law clearly states that the moderator presides over the meeting. However, the same statute gives the meeting the opportunity to overrule any decision that the moderator makes.

After a very lengthy discussion on and off the subject, the Board committed to consulting with Town Counsel regarding the legality of the petition and what the Selectmen's next course of action could or must lawfully be.