

## Board Of Selectmen

October 17

*Condensed from approved minutes*

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

The Board opened the two bids received for winter sand. Skip Overlock, dba Circle 3 Trucking, was the low bidder at \$8 per yard. Stetson will prepare the usual agreement for all parties to sign.

Road Agent John Thompson informed the Board that the recent rains had caused some problems on the roads that are usually susceptible to such damage. Most of the damage was limited to ditches and the edges of the roads. His crews worked continuously during the storm events to keep ditches and culverts from being plugged, and they were able to repair the worst damage right away.

Thompson reviewed a short list of work that he plans to complete before winter. Stetson relayed the gist of the rather negative response received from DOT officials in regard to the Board's request that the state remove the deck from the old bridge across from the Ragged Mountain Fish & Game Club entrance.

The Board reviewed a very preliminary financial plan for the replacement of the large culvert pipe on Morrill Hill Road. The state has included it in the Bridge Aid program for funding in the state's fiscal year 2010, which starts July 1, 2009. The financial plan calls for engineering in 2007 and for construction in 2009.

In response to Thompson's query, the Board clarified that the Road Agent determines when to close a road due to high water and no matter what his decision is, as long as he acts in good faith, state law provides liability immunity to him and to the Town.

The Board then met with Bob Ward and Ragged Mountain Fish & Game Club president Bud Rice to discuss Ward's ideas for landscaping around the flagpole on the Village Green. Rice informed the Board that the Club has responded to the Town's request for assistance with the project by deciding to donate up to \$500 towards the effort.

Ward suggested that the existing 10 trees be removed and replaced with 10 of a different species that will only grow to a maximum height of 3 to 4 feet. He opined that spring would be a good time for the planting.

The only issue yet to be resolved is the disposition of the existing trees. The Selectmen decided to offer them first to the Recreation Committee for use at the Blackwater Park, second to Proctor, and then to anyone else that may want them. If no one steps forward wanting to transplant them, they will be cut down. The Club will proceed once the old trees are gone.

Under old business, Stetson provided an inventory of junk vehicles remaining on the Labraney property, noting that as of October 13 there were four, down from the original 44. The Board again agreed to stay enforcement action as long as continued regular sig-

nificant progress is being made to bring the property into compliance. Stetson is continuing to monitor that work on a weekly basis.

The Board acknowledged receipt of correspondence from the property owner previously cited for the zoning violation on Channel Road, in which that owner committed to bringing the property into compliance. The Board asked Stetson to write back establishing a deadline for the work. Fenton opined that a bucket loader with forks might work well to move the shed.

Under new business, the Board authorized Stetson to approve a recommendation for an automotive state inspection license for property located at 156 Main Street.

Citing the benefit received to Andover residents, the Board decided not to opt out of the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative's "Round-Up" program. Stetson estimated the annual cost to be between \$40 and \$50.

Stetson reported that a representative from the US Geological Survey has started the process of updating the Town's FEMA flood maps.

The Board approved an elderly property tax exemption application.

The Board noted no objection to the hire of another attendant at the Transfer Station.

The Board agreed to enroll the Town in a three-year commitment to PRIMEX for worker's compensation insurance, noting a 5% discount for doing so.

The Board entered non-public session to discuss welfare case 05-08. The Board members voted not to publish the minutes of this non-public session. The Board decided not to grant the requested assistance at this time.

The Board then met with Police Chief Glenn Laramie who reported that there were 123 calls for service during the previous 30-day period. There was a brief discussion regarding the extra detail budget line that has been over-expended due to the greater number of officers that have been needed than were originally budgeted for the Route 11 construction project. The Board told Laramie that he could continue to over-expend the line so long as Stetson provided assurance that such spending didn't cause the Town's total actual expenditures to exceed the voted appropriation for the year.

November 7

*Condensed from approved minutes*

**Present:** Chairman Dennis Fenton, Selectman Andrew Guptill, Town Administrator Mark Stetson

Prior to opening the meeting, Fenton presented the *Boston Post* Cane to Frances Huntoon with 14 of her friends and family present.

The Board reviewed the status of the current year's highway budget with Road Agent John Thompson. He presented a draft of his recommended budget for 2006, noting increases in the summer and winter equipment rental lines to accommodate increases that he

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is proposing for contracted equipment hourly rates.

There was considerable discussion regarding the scope of the special projects work that Thompson is planning to complete on Chase Hill Road. His first recommendation is to reclaim and pave all of the currently paved portion including approximately 200 feet of Emery Road, complete with new culverts and the installation of under drain where necessary. The paving would include only the 2-inch base coat, with the 1-inch top coat being applied within the next couple of years.

His plan would also include using approximately 2,000 yards of a total of 6,000 yards of gravel that would be crushed at the transfer station in 2006. Thompson estimates the total cost to be approximately \$186,000.

Thompson told the Board that the project could be scaled back by excluding the section of Chase Hill Road from Route 11 to Emery Road. However, the cost to do that section in a later year would be greater than the savings in 2006 because the contractor would have to mobilize his equipment to the site twice.

Thompson again committed to completing the work on Pinewood Lane before winter.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the Dyers Crossing Road bridge. The work is now substantially complete and the bridge was re-opened today. Fenton, Thompson, Stetson, and Sean James from the HTA engineering firm met at the bridge earlier today and reviewed a list of items comprising a punch list of work remaining.

Thompson had expressed concern that the manner in which an area of the top coat of paving had been patched will likely not hold up, especially to snow plowing efforts. Fenton suggested the Board enforce a provision in the contract that spells out a financial penalty for each day beyond a specified date that the contractor fails to have the project substantially complete. In this case, that's about 35 days. Guptill agreed.

Fenton strongly suggested that the Town take whatever action necessary to eliminate the beaver problem on Elbow Pond Road.

The Board acknowledged receipt of correspondence from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation detailing the reasons for the department's recommendation that the bridge [across Hame Shop Brook on Bradley Lake Road] be immediately posted with a 3-ton weight limit and passenger cars only. The bridge is deemed to have critical deficiencies and needs immediate attention.

Bob Barry from DOT has committed to preparing proposals for two possible courses of action, one to include patching the existing steel beams in the near future and in the spring replacing the steel beams and timber deck with a pre-cast concrete structure and new railings. The other, lower cost option would be to replace only the worst 5 steel beams and would utilize the existing deck. These proposals would include state forces doing the work and the cost would be shared, 80% by the state and 20% by the town.

The Board then met with Police Chief Glenn Laramie who presented his proposed budget for 2006, in which he is seeking increases for hourly pay for personnel, an increase to expand the part-time officers patrol coverage by one shift and an increase in the cruiser maintenance line to accommodate higher fuel costs. After a brief discussion, Laramie left the meeting.

Under old business, Stetson reported that as of October 28, the Labraney property was in compliance with the state's junk car statute.

Under new business, Stetson informed the Board that the Town's tax rate has been set at \$13.32 for properties in the Andover fire district and \$13.06 for those in the East Andover fire precinct. These rates reflect an increase of just over 15% from the previous year due in part to an increase in the county portion and the rest to the school.

The Board appointed Ann Hewitt to the Recycle Committee.

The Board established bond amounts for trucking of logs from a property on Chase Hill Road and from a property on Tucker Mountain Road.

Stetson presented a very rough draft of the Board's budget for 2006, noting several lines that have yet to be finalized.