

# Notes from Concord, May 2017

Mary Anne Broshek and David Karrick

June is budget time. The New Hampshire budget is crafted every other year and the new budget will cover state fiscal years from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019. Governor Sununu submitted his budget to the Legislature at the end of February. The process is that the House of Representative has first crack at reviewing, revising, and submitting a House budget to the Senate. This year the House was not able to pass a budget and so the Governor's budget went to the Senate. This is a very unusual situation and was commented on by House Speaker, Shawn Jasper (from a WMUR article dated 4/6/17 by John Destaso).

"Jasper minced no words in his opinion of the 32 members of his caucus who opposed the leadership in Thursday's vote."

"This is just a movement of people who, I think, are totally disconnected from their constituents and totally disconnected from the facts," he said. "The only one consistent message when we talked to these 32 people was, 'We didn't want money going back to our cities and towns and school districts because we do not trust our local officials to make the right decisions with that money.'" (Note: the House budget included 50 million dollars to go back to towns and cities for the purpose of reducing property taxes.)

Budget discussions revolve around what money is available (revenue) and what money should be spent (expenditures). In a May 8 article, Legislator Mary Jane Wallner stated, "A two year state budget is more than a bunch of numbers. It is a strategic vision for key investments in our priorities. What problems the Legislature and Governor choose to address with these prioritized

investments tells us a lot about what we value."

The Senate Finance Committee has until May 25 to finish their work on the budget with a vote the next week by the full Senate. The amount of revenue has a higher prediction for the Senate version as additional revenue reports come in. The Senate is also predicting a 2% decrease in Medicaid caseload. This same decrease was predicted for the last budget and resulted in a nine-million dollar budget deficit. Latest news on May 24 says that the Senate Finance Committee wants to lower the Business Profits Tax and Business Enterprise Tax as well as greatly increasing allowable deductions for calculating those taxes. The opposing view is that lowering business taxes is not what is currently needed to increase economic growth; instead it is getting more dollars into the hands of consumers through property tax relief and a higher minimum wage. The Senate Finance Committee also voted to restore funding for 13 rape and domestic violence crisis centers operated by the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Now is the time to let your Representatives and Senators know what you value. In the April Notes from Concord, we talked about legislation that lowered revenue or tried to move back funds that had previously been provided to cities and towns. Restoring funds to towns and cities has been a major priority of the New Hampshire Municipal Association as a central means of lowering property taxes. At the time the April article was written, most of the legislation had just gone through the Senate and those votes were provided. Here is what happened since then:

SB 2: lowering business taxes that in See Concord on page 14

## Minutes from page 7

driveway and running it into a retention pond down on the hill side. However, Thompson explained that the Town cannot do the work on a private landowner's property. The Board indicated that the pipe under the road currently has been there long before McCrave's purchased the property. Delaney suggested that McCrave could give the Town a Right of Way, otherwise it is a private property owner cost, not a town cost.

The Board suggested that McCrave's neighbor, Buddenhagen be contacted to see if he will allow the water to be diverted from McCrave's back yard to the back of Buddenhagen's property.

McCrave believes the Town is responsible for paying the cost. McCrave will contact his attorney for his opinion on this matter. Roy will contact the Town Attorney tomorrow to find out what his opinion is on this matter as to who should be responsible and bear the cost.

Thompson also indicated a wetland permit is probably in order.

**Valley Road Signs:** Roy indicated that she received a second notice regarding the signs on Valley Road not being there. Thompson stated that the day after he was notified that the signs were not there, he posted signs. Thompson will check to see if the signs were taken down.

**Town Office-Library:** Priscilla Poulin, the Andover Town Librarian wanted to make sure that the dirt pile near the ramp would be taken away. Thompson indicated that it will be taken care of and that the town cleanup is underway for the spring.

**Highland Lake Beach/Bob-house:** The bob-house remains on the beach. It is a town resident's bob-house. At this point it cannot be accessed for removal. Once the ice is gone, it is Fish and Game's jurisdiction.

**Old College Road:** Thompson met with DOT about lifting the grade on both sides of the triangle at Route 11 and Old College Road. The person from the ROW bureau is working on the paperwork.

**Other Work:** Last Street Bridge repair is scheduled for this Thursday, April 20, 2017.

Maple Street Bridge is not on the schedule currently because it is an open road.

Roads are being cleaned up, along with the cemeteries, and ball field.

Keyser Road has been graded. Other dirt roads in town are being graded as they dry up and as time permits.

White Oak Building is open and running.

**Chief Laramie:** Update on the Route 11 Culvert Failure:

Laramie spoke with Brian from DOT. The culvert failed about 8 PM Sunday evening between Plains Road and Switch Road. The State had been waiting for Wetland Permits before they repaired that area of Route 11. The road has been closed all day and the work will continue through Tuesday, expecting completion by the end of Tuesday. Laramie notified Emergency Services of the issue so they can reroute if necessary.

**New Police Cruiser:** Laramie expects the cruiser will be in about mid-May. The Police Department will outfit it with all the standard equipment, at a projected cost of about \$8000. Laramie would like permission to take the money out of the Police Revolving Fund. The fund gains its monies from 90% details and about 10% from donations. The Board agreed to allow Laramie to take the money out of the Police Revolving Fund to outfit the new police cruiser with the standard equipment.

**New Officer:** Laramie stated that all the background checks are completed. The new officer has not been sworn in yet. According to Academy rules, if the officer is sworn in before the academy, he has six months that he can be on his own policing, although it is recommended that he be supervised. If an extension is filed, then a supervisor must be with the new officer until he is certified.

By the time all the background was completed, the first academy had already started. Additionally, according to Academy rules, a person must start on the day the academy starts. If a person missed the first day of the Academy, they may not attend that session of the Academy. The next academy session is in August. The new officer is set to go to Australia to teach for the month of August. That makes the next available academy for him to attend in January 2018.

This officer will replace Officer Dow who retired earlier this year. Laramie would also like permission to look for another officer to replace David Hewitt so he can retire. Laramie would like to look for an already certified officer to hire. The Board agreed to allow Laramie start the search for another officer who is already certified.

**Signatures:** Intent to Cut; Timber Tax Bills; Veteran's Exemptions

**Proctor Liason Update by Mishcon:** Mishcon updated the Board on the status of Lawrence Street Bridge, Morrill Hill Road, and the Monticello Drive property.

Bill Bates is a new member of Board

Mishcon reported that Proctor has no plans to replace the Thoreau House. Additionally, Proctor purchased the Stetson property on Shirley Road

Proctor was happy to support the town and the school project at Town Meeting. Proctor believes when there are good school and town systems in place, it helps to bring in faculty.

**Field Trip:**

The Board will view Highland Lake Beach for what signs are over there and also view White Oak Pit's Highway Office.

**May 1, 2017**

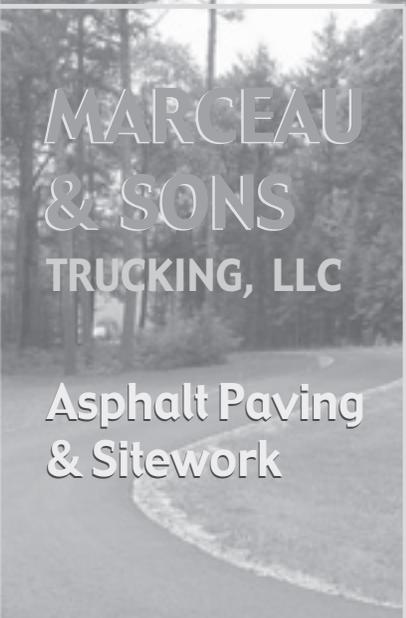
*Condensed from approved minutes*

**Present:** Marj Roy, Vicky Mishcon, Jim Delaney, and David Blinn

Also present were, Derek Mansell, Jesse Schust, Doug Phelps, John Kinney, and Chief Glenn Laramie

**Road Agent Report:** The crew has one more day of road sweeping. They are working on the cemeteries and the ball field. They already mowed Lake- See Minutes on page 9

- ASPHALT PAVING
- DRIVEWAYS
- PARKING LOTS
- ROADS
- PATCHWORK
- SIDEWALKS
- ASPHALT CURBING
- SAW CUTTING
- SEAL COATING
- BLUESTONE HARDPACK
- LEDGE PACK
- RESIDENTIAL
- COMMERCIAL
- MUNICIPAL
- FULLY INSURED
- FREE ESTIMATES



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