

The White Oak Gravel Pit Saga

Select Board answers questions about ownership

Andover Select Board

A lot of people are wondering what is going on with the White Oak Pit so we will try to explain it to you. The pit was taken for taxes some years back and over time, we decided it would be a good area from which to get our winter sand.

We have been getting our sand there for a number of years, saving the town thousands of dollars. We had to get permission from the State to give us a right-of-way over their property in order to access the pit so as far as we knew everything was fine, but it seems it wasn't. The State came to us last year and informed us that they owned the pit and all of the property by the Northern Rail Trail. They told us we may be able to purchase it from them for around \$135,000 but it could be more. They told us that we were not allowed to take any more sand from the pit except for the sand we already had manufactured. They then told us we could take more, but we had to tell them how many yards we had made so they could bill us, but they didn't give us a price per yard. At this point, we felt it was wise to buy our sand from a local supplier because we would at least know what we were paying.

We also noticed that the process that the State uses could take years. Before they can sell the pit to the Town, they

have to offer it to every department in the State. Any department could claim it and we'd have nothing; if no department claimed it, it would then have to go to the state legislature to get permission to sell. If it passes the legislature, it has to go to the Governor's Executive Council to set the price and give their permission, then it has to go to the Governor for his signature. All of this could take anywhere from two to five years, if not longer, so the Select Board decided to look for a new area. We could buy several years' worth of good sand supply and also have a good property for the Town to use for other things. We have found such a place that the owner wishes to sell to us. We talked with him and for several acres of land and a good sand supply, the price of \$100,000 was good. The reason for looking and finding another property is because if it should take four or five years to deal with the State, and at the end not know if we would even end up with the property, it was disheartening.

First, we may not end up with the property. Second, in the process of waiting, we are going to be spending \$40,000 annually to buy sand. So, if we wait not knowing what will happen, we spend at least \$200,000 and still might not even have the pit, so we became proactive and found a pit with good sand for \$100,000, saving over \$100,000 over several years.

Andover Democrats, Progressives and Independents to Meet

Thursday, March 8 at 7 PM

Press release

The next meeting of the Andover Democrats, Progressives and Independents will be held on March 8 at 7

PM at the Highland Lake Inn. The inn is located at 32 Maple Street in East Andover.

All democrats, progressives and Independents are invited to attend. For more information call Mario Ratzki at (603) 735-5440.

Andover Police Department, January 2018

The Andover Police Department handled 233 Calls for Service during January, including:

- Assist Citizen: 15
- Assist Motorist: 8
- Assist Police: 6
- Criminal Threatening: 2
- House Check: 9
- Manner of Operation: 5
- Road Hazard/Obstruction: 7
- Suspicious Person/Vehicle/Incident: 3

- Traffic Accidents 5
- Traffic Offense Citation: 4
- Traffic Offense Warning: 31
- Welfare Check: 4

ARRESTS:

- Heidi Holt, age 35, Franklin: Theft; Criminal Trespass x2
- Peter Hinkley, age 33; Andover: Operating after Suspension; Operating After Suspension II

Budget from page 1

crease

- \$10,576 special education contract increases

Andover Town Budget

The recommended 2018 appropriation for the Town including warrant articles is \$2,262,057. This is offset by a non-tax transfer of \$2,954 to the Solar Energy CRF from the Unassigned Fund Balance, resulting in a net appropriation of \$2,259,103. This is up over the 2017 net appropriation by \$212,209 (10.4%).

However, it is anticipated that the Town will be reimbursed in 2018 by the State Bridge Aid Fund for 80% of the cost of replacing the Morrill Hill Road bridge. The cost was \$620,000, so the reimbursement is \$496,000. Assuming that this reimbursement is received in 2018 as revenue to offset taxes, the net appropriation for 2018 is reduced to \$1,763,103, down from the net appropriation for 2017 by \$283,791. The result would be an estimated overall reduction in the Town tax rate by \$1.10 over last year.

Major budget increases:

- \$100,000 purchase of sand pit property

- \$45,000 winter sand purchase
- \$32,450 salaries and benefits increase
- \$27,500 Emergency Medical Services contract
- \$15,000 add to town office building trust fund
- \$15,000 transfer station building repairs
- \$10,000 beach house building repairs
- \$10,000 town office building repairs
- \$18,503 Highway Dept truck lease finished

Andover Fire District

The recommended 2018 budget for the newly unified Andover Fire District is \$124,671. This is up \$1,595 (1.2%) over the appropriations for the two Fire Districts for the previous year.

Annual Meetings

The meetings at which these budgets will be discussed and voted upon are:

- Andover School District Meeting — Monday, March 5, 2018
- Andover Town Meeting — Tuesday — March 13, 2018
- Andover Fire District Meeting — Tuesday, March 20, 2018



ALL & AWL REPAIR

**Outdoor Power Equipment Sales & Service
Harness & Tack Repair**

Ariens Lawnmowers and Snowblowers
Hustler Turf Equipment 1719 Route 114
Husqvarna Chainsaws North Sutton
Tanaka 927-4973 • Fax 927-4407

COMPARE OPTIONS
REQUEST A QUOTE

354 CENTRAL ST., FRANKLIN, NH | 603-934-3319



A.W. FROST
INSURANCE AGENCY

A|W|F

We don't enjoy our job because we think insurance is great.
We enjoy our job because insurance is confusing, some situations lack transparency, policyholders end up feeling like a number...
...And we're able to fix all of that.



HOME

AUTO

BUSINESS

Your local insurance representative, with coverage options from the carriers you know and love.

Thank You, Volunteers!

We couldn't publish the *Beacon* without you.

Everyone in Andover appreciates everything you do for the *Beacon*!