

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Present: Selectman Maxfield, Ives, and Bowles.

Also present: Road Agent David Rice.

Chairman Maxfield called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

- I. Selectman Bowles moved to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, October 30, 2007 as presented. Seconded by Selectman Ives. All in favor. Motion carried.
- II. The Board met with Road Agent David Rice.
 - a. Mr. Rice advised the Board that both Upper City and Hollow Route Road's need to be resurfaced. He said the roads have been patched but are at a point that patching is not enough. Mr. Rice stated he also felt that Goshen Drive, Sheep Rock Road, and Lovering Avenue were some of the first developments and are seal-coat roads not asphalt. He said there is heavier traffic on Goshen Drive and it is beginning to deteriorate. Mr. Rice advised the Board that he had spent the day driving around with a representative from Pike Industries reviewing roads. He said he would be getting cost estimates for each of the roads they reviewed. Discussion ensued regarding having the estimates for budget preparation with each road cost individually identified as well as discussion regarding the continual cost of road maintenance on asphalt and dirt roads. Mr. Rice went on to say that the approach to Bear Hill Road on the Route 129 end needs to be asphalted. He said the permit from the State has been extended and Pike was going to take care of the asphalt when they were working on another project, however they have not had a chance to take care of it. Mr. Rice said they are also planning to address the East Ricker Road section where the road blew out. Discussion ensued regarding Bear Hill Road.
 - b. Mr. Rice talked with the Board about the projects that have been completed by the Highway Department this year such as grading dirt roads, the May floods, reconstruction of Clough Pond Road and Old Shaker Road, repair drainage on Berry Road, ditching on Flagg Road, Lovejoy Road, Clough Hill Road, Youngs Hill Road, part of Bear Hill Road, part of Country Hill Road, and they have replaced some culverts through out Town.
 - c. Mr. Rice advised the Board that there has been another complaint from the property owner at 100 Berry Road regarding the drainage issues. He stated that he is unable to install a culvert at this location because it would end up flooding out another property.

- d. Mr. Rice advised the Board that the salt shed is full of sand/salt mix and the Highway Crew would be working on finishing screening the remainder of the sand over the next two weeks. Discussion ensued regarding using plain sand on dirt roads, as the sand/salt mix on dirt roads would turn the road to mush.
- III. The Board met with Bob Searles and Road Agent David Rice to discuss a drainage issue.
- a. Mr. Searles provided the Board with photos of his yard showing the drainage issues. He gave a brief overview of the water flow from Mudgett Hill Road and Voted Road and discussed the culverts. Mr. Searles stated that he had spoken with the Road Agent and the Selectmen and feels nothing has been resolved. He said he plans to file for an abatement on his taxes due to this issue. Chairman Maxfield discussed the culvert that was moved approximately 12 years ago on Mudgett Hill Road as well as the swale that was created on the property owned by the Town at that location. He said he looked at the culvert and it appears to be fine. Mr. Searles said the culvert is doing its job, and it's not the water that is the problem, he said it is the swale being so full of sand from the golf course; the swale is not serving its purpose any longer. Mr. Rice said the swale is not fully sand loaded as many other swales are in Town. He said he could look into putting in a detention pond in at the end of the culvert to try to catch something. Chairman Maxfield stated that before the culverts were put in place, the water ran down Voted Road and on to the property Mr. Searles now owns. Chairman Maxfield asked Mr. Searles where all the brush and leaves were coming from. Mr. Searles said the brush and leaves were his and he was told the area where he placed everything was part of his property. The Board advised Mr. Searles that it is not his property, that his property ends at the stonewall. Selectman Bowles stated from the stonewall to the pin on the J & D Auto property is owned by the Town. He said the portion where Mr. Searles is putting his leaves, brush, and metal is where Clough Hill Road used to come out on to the Old Route 106. Selectman Bowles went on to say if the Town needed to get in that area it would be difficult to do with all the junk that has been placed there. Mr. Searles said that he has spent approximately \$900.00 per year over the last four or five years to get rid of the sand. He said he does not have an issue with the water as it dissipates; his problem is with the sand. Chairman Maxfield asked about a detention pond. Selectman Bowles said it is possible to look into putting in a basin detention area to try to silt out some of the sand. He said he went and checked on the site and he is not sure that the problem is just from Voted Road and Mudgett Hill Road. Selectman Bowles said it looks to him like part of the problem is from the road by J & D Auto and some from the side of Route 106. Selectman Bowles went on to say that for Mr. Searles to insinuate all of the problems are

coming from the golf course is an incorrect statement. Mr. Searles asked when the golf course received an approval to raise the level of the water in the pond. Selectman Bowles said that has nothing to do with this issue. He said that this issue is about the sand and there is no way that the sand came down out of the golf course. Selectman Bowles said he felt that people need to stop blaming the owner of the golf course as he took on a project that someone else left in a mess and the current owner is trying to fix it. He said that he does not feel that it is proper for people to be pointing fingers and put blame where it does not belong. Chairman Maxfield stated that when they drained the pond at the golf course another culvert was found that crossed the road off the hill, which was filling up the pond that the current owner had been unaware of until that time. Mr. Rice said that in order to address the issue they would have to take some of the guardrail down to get to the area that would need to be worked on. Mr. Searles talked about cleaning the swale. Selectman Bowles said the swale was clean. Chairman Maxfield stated what the Road Agent proposed is to take the excavator and dig a small retention pond for the silt. Mr. Searles said he does not have a problem with the water as it dissipates. He said the problem is the silt and sand that comes with it. Selectman Ives stated the last few years there has been an unprecedented amount of rain, which has contributed to the situation. He asked that Mr. Searles stop putting brush and leaves in that area as it impedes the Town's access to the site. Selectman Ives went on to say that if the retention pond can be put in for a reasonable cost he is in agreement. Mr. Searles stated if there was any way that he could help to let him know.

- IV. Chairman Maxfield stated for the record that five pistol permits were submitted for signature and approval.
- V. Selectman Ives moved to enter into executive session to discuss personnel issues with the Road Agent at 6:51 PM. Seconded by Selectman Bowles. Roll call vote: Maxfield yes, Ives yes, Bowles yes. All in favor. Motion carried. Chairman Maxfield stated the Board came out of executive session at 7:15 PM. Chairman Maxfield said the Board discussed work performance with Road Agent Rice. They reviewed projects that have been completed and areas requiring additional attention. Mr. Rice discussed ways to improve the overall performance of the Highway Department.

- VI. The Board began their review of weekly correspondence.
- a. The Board received copies of the RSA relative to driveways and pictures of the Murray property on Country Hill Road brought back from last week. Discussion ensued regarding the culvert and condition of the driveway. Selectman Ives moved to absolve the Town from responsibility of replacing a culvert at 40 Country Hill Road Map #59, Lot #18, as there is an RSA that states the Town is not responsible for individual driveway culverts. Seconded by Selectman Bowles. Chairman Maxfield stated the Selectmen are unanimous in the decision that it is not the Town's responsibility. All in favor. Motion carried.
 - b. The Board received a copy of the FEMA reimbursement check in the amount of \$446,444.80 from the May 2006 flooding of Chichester Road and Cross Brook Road Bridges. The Board agreed to hold the public hearing to accept these unanticipated funds on Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at 7:30 PM.
 - c. The Board received copies of a letter from NH DOT regarding State Bridge Aid reimbursement for Cross Brook Bridge in the amount of \$187,277.89. Selectman Bowles stated this is a reimbursement for the work done to repair the bridge on Cross Brook Road. He said the Town elected to go ahead and do the repairs and then file for the bridge aid in an effort not have to wait six months to begin repair on the bridge. Selectman Ives stated the funds had been previously spent and this money will go back into the general fund.
 - d. The Board received copies of ESMI's 3rd Quarter Host Community Fee in the amount of \$21,191.75.
 - e. The Board received a letter from Provan & Lorber Engineering stating they have been retained by Dee Dee Maratea to address the retaining wall issue. Chairman Maxfield stated that Ms. Maratea had contacted him stating that she was not going to be dealing with the Town Engineer's approval as she felt it would be duplication. Chairman Maxfield stated he advised Ms. Maratea that the Town Engineer is going to approve any construction plans and that Sam Mahoney is aware of this.
 - f. The Board received copies of court filings on the SDS litigation.
 - g. The Board received copies of the Forest Fire Warden evaluation form for Jeff Burr for review.
 - h. The Board received copies of a letter to the Library regarding the second incident of flooding in the Children's room. Discussion ensued.
 - i. The Board received copies of an e-mail from Planning/Zoning Secretary Donna White inviting the Selectmen to the Planning Board meeting on November 15, 2007 at 6:00 PM where Gerald Coogan will present his draft report on the Growth Management Ordinance Study.
 - j. The Board received copies of a regional impact notice from the Town of Danbury.

- k. The Board received a request from the Granite State Tax Coalition to place a resolution on the 2008 Warrant for Town Meeting. The Board agreed to put this information in with the Warrant preparation information for review at that time.
- l. The Board received a letter from the US Environmental Protection Agency regarding the NH Climate Change Resolution that was on the Warrant at last year's Town Meeting. They want the Town to sign up for free software that can be used to determine the energy efficiency of municipal buildings and facilities.
- m. The Board received notice of a Community Development Block Grant workshop.
- n. The Board received copies of Councilor Shea's newsletter for review.
- o. The Board received a reminder of the NHMA Annual Meeting.
- p. Selectman Ives discussed the sale of NHIS to Speedway Motorsports Inc. The Board agreed to forward a letter of appreciation to the Bahre Family and an acknowledgement of the ownership transfer to O. Bruton Smith, CEO, SMI. Discussion ensued.

Selectman Ives moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM. Seconded by Selectman Bowles. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

THE LOUDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Roger A. Maxfield, Chairman

Steven R. Ives, Selectman

Dustin J. Bowles, Selectman