

SELECTBOARD MEETING September 11, 2014

Present: Bob Bancroft Nanette Rogers
 Alex Weinhagen Diane Forsey
 Brent Meacham

Guests: See attached list

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

Alex Weinhagen made a motion to add Huntley Box Culvert Update to the Road Foreman section, Speed Enforcement Options and Personnel Policy to the Discussion section, and Merchants Bank Electronic Funds Transfer Agreement to the Treasurer section, seconded by Bob Bancroft. Motion passed: 2-0.

ROAD SCHEDULE

Alex Weinhagen made a motion to approve the September 12, 2014 through September 24, 2014 Road Schedule, seconded by Bob Bancroft. Motion passed: 2-0.

SEYMOUR ROAD BRIDGE UPDATE

KAS, the engineering firm hired by the Town, recommends that the Town go with a two lane bridge on Seymour Road as outlined by FEMA, admitting this is the path of least resistance. FEMA is willing to approve the project and funding for the two lane bridge, but if the Town wants to stick to a one lane bridge, it would require more review and hold up the project.

Bob and Alex expressed their frustration that the Town has to put in a two lane bridge when the engineer agreed one lane would suffice and the residents agreed. The Board feels like the FEMA is holding the town hostage on the basis of a minor road design feature.

HUNTLEY ROAD CULVERT UPDATE

The original budget for the project was \$105,000. Due to unforeseen problems, the total cost of the project was \$122,325. The State has given verbal approval that the project was completed as designed. The Town will submit the necessary documents to receive the grant funds approved for the project and close out the grant.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Conrad Racine was present to ask the Board to share with the public why the question was posted on the Front Porch Forum about leaving potholes on the roads. Alex reviewed what transpired at the August 28th meeting, where he suggested a survey be done about not grading the road as frequently acknowledging that Bob didn't think it was a good idea. The feedback from the survey and posts on the Front Porch Forum were strongly against this idea. Alex stated the Town needs to look at other options to try to address speeding issues on town roads, including increasing funding for law enforcement and being more explicit in the contracts with the State Police and Sheriff's Dept. Bob agreed.

Con pointed out that the Town has struggled for 20 years to improve the roads and doesn't want to see the roads regress and have safety issues. Bob pointed out that it was not the

intent of the Town to create unsafe conditions. Con suggested the Selectboard include a warning on the ballot to spend more money on law enforcement.

MINUTES

Alex Weinhagen made a motion to approve the July 7, 2014 minutes as amended, seconded by Bob Bancroft. Motion passed: 2-0.

Alex Weinhagen made a motion to approve the August 28, 2014 minutes as amended, seconded by Bob Bancroft. Motion passed: 2-0.

COVERED BRIDGE REPAIRS

The Board received a quote from Jorschick Construction in the amount of \$2,205.00 to replace the broken deck boards on the covered bridge. The existing material appears to be Southern Yellow Pine. Hemlock is being proposed for the replacement boards. Alex and Bob feel the work needs to be done due to a safety issue.

Alex Weinhagen made a motion to authorize Barb Peck to accept the quote submitted by Jorschick Construction to repair the deck boards on the covered bridge, seconded by Bob Bancroft. Motion passed: 2-0.

SPILLER PROPERTY DEMOLITION

Clay Point Associates advised the cost to add TCLP (Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure) testing would increase their quote by \$175.00. Bob pointed out that even with this additional charge, Clay Point's quote is the lowest.

Alex Weinhagen made a motion to hire Clay Point Associates to do lead and asbestos testing on the Spiller house in preparation of having the building demolished, seconded by Bob Bancroft. Motion passed: 2-0.

SPEED ENFORCEMENT OPTIONS

The Board reiterated what was discussed earlier about increasing the line item in the budget for law enforcement. Another option would be to borrow a speed cart to place on roads, such as Woods Hollow Road. The Sheriff's Dept. is supposed to attend a meeting this fall to discuss their services with the Selectboard. A possibility is to join Jericho and/or Underhill to minimize the cost of the services but increasing the Sherriff's presence.

PERSONNEL POLICY

The Board reviewed a memo to employees advising of the upcoming change to sick time and other possible changes to the way benefits (vacation, personal, sick time) are administered. The memo will be amended to include a meeting on September 15th for all full time employees to offer an option for retirement.

The Board requested that a benefit summary of the short term and long term disability insurance be distributed to employees if it has not already been done.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL WARRANTS

The Board approved the accounts payable and payroll warrants.

MERCHANTS BANK AGREEMENT

The Board signed an agreement with Merchants Bank for electronic transfer of funds.

CORRESPONDENCE

Bob advised that the Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) is working on an Ordinance to address the new changes in collection of trash and recycling that go into effect July 1, 2015. The change requires households to pay by volume. CSWD is proposing an Ordinance that will include a price tier based on three sizes (32 gallons, 64 gallons and 96 gallons). This change in the law and the Ordinance will complicate Westford's current structure. The Town will schedule a meeting with the current hauler to discuss the upcoming changes, and one with CSWD as well.

EXCESS WEIGHT PERMIT

The chair signed an Excess Weight permit for Carl Simino.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Alex Weinhagen made a motion to enter Executive Session at 8:02 p.m. to discuss personnel, seconded by Bob Bancroft. Motion passed: 2-0. People in attendance were Bob Bancroft, Alex Weinhagen, Brent Meacham and Nanette Rogers. The Board exited Executive Session at 8:12 p.m. No action taken.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert L. Bancroft, Chair
Selectboard

Nanette Rogers
Town Clerk

