

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 28, 2008

Present: Selectmen Ives, Bowles, and Maxfield.

Also present: Road Agent David Rice, Fire Chief Jeff Burr and audience member John Plumer.

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

- I. Selectman Maxfield moved to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, January 20, 2009 as presented. Seconded by Selectman Bowles. All in favor. Motion carried.
- II. The Board met with Road Agent David Rice.
 - a. The Board discussed the proposed warrant article for the resurfacing of Soucook Lane, Lovering Avenue, and Hollow Route Road. Chairman Ives asked if the intent of the article is to grind and repave, or pave over the top. Mr. Rice stated the plan is to resurface what is there with culvert replacement and ditching as needed. He said Hollow Route Road needs a considerable amount of ditching and Lovering Avenue and Soucook Lane do not need a lot of ditching, they just need some brush cutting done. Chairman Ives asked if Mr. Rice felt the Highway Crew would have enough time to do the prep work on the roads. Mr. Rice said yes. Discussion ensued regarding Hollow Route Road and the need to repave a portion of the road before the entire road is resurfaced due to a drainage issue. Chairman Ives said the Board wants to be sure that when a road project is done, it is done properly to get more than a couple of years out of the repairs. Mr. Rice said there is one culvert in question on Hollow Route Road which will be addressed during the ditching. The Board asked if the \$148,000.00 would be enough to complete the project. Mr. Rice said the funds would cover the resurfacing and if a culvert needed to be replaced the funds would come from his budget. Discussion ensued regarding obtaining bids in the spring. Mr. Rice stated that he had spoken with All State Liquid regarding sealing roads and was told unless the roads are in good shape it costs \$2,000.00 less per mile to seal than it does to pave it. He said if the road is not in good condition it will not hold up any longer. Discussion ensued regarding the asphalt project to be completed this spring, as well as costs. Selectman Bowles said he was not in favor of the article as written as he feels Hollow Route Road needs more work than planned. He said he is in favor of the skim-coat for Soucook Lane and Lovering Avenue, but not Hollow Route Road. Selectman Bowles said he felt Hollow Route Road needed to be torn up this summer, place gravel, build the road up and pave it next year. Discussion ensued regarding the wording for the warrant article as well as what it will encompass. It was agreed to change the wording of the proposed warrant article as follows: "**ARTICLE ___**: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$160,000.00 for the purpose of resurfacing Soucook Lane and Lovering Avenue, and for preparing Hollow Route Road and the paved

portion of Bumfagon Road for future paving. \$100,000.00 to be withdrawn from the Roadway Improvement Capital Reserve Fund and the balance to be raised from taxes. This article will affect the tax rate by 12 cents per \$1,000.00 value.” The Board agreed to support this article with the changes. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of looking at utilizing Impact Fees for the Bumfagon Road upgrade. Mr. Rice stated that he was quoted \$70,000.00 per mile to oil and shim and \$72,000.00 per mile to pave.

- b. Mr. Rice advised the Board that the truck has come back from Liberty International and the repairs were due to the corrosion of the harness under the hood. Discussion ensued regarding the trucks being washed often but the area of the corrosion is in an area that is hard to get to as well as the problems if the electrical box gets wet. Mr. Rice advised the Board that the 1-Ton had an issue with losing the wheels but has since been fixed.

III. The Board met with Fire Chief Jeff Burr.

- a. Chief Burr presented the Board with new wording for the proposed warrant article relative to the additional full time position. Selectman Bowles asked about the additional per diem costs. Chief Burr stated there would not be added costs as the per diem hours would change from Monday and Friday to Saturday and Sunday. Discussion ensued regarding the estimate of an increase in ambulance runs as well as the fact that Loudon would also be covering for Chichester 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM, seven days per week. Chief Burr gave a brief summary of how the figures were derived. Discussion ensued. Selectman Bowles stated he is having a hard time supporting this article as he feels there is already a large increase in the budget due to employee benefits, COLA, and raises, and he is having a hard time adding another position right now. Chairman Ives said while he agrees the economic times are tough, he is in agreement with adding this full time position. Chief Burr stated that it was very difficult finding coverage to fill the weekend slots for on-call coverage, and he feels it will alleviate some of the coverage issues by adding this position. Selectman Bowles said there were some newly trained volunteers and additional volunteers are currently in training, and he felt that there would be a new pool of volunteers to cover those hours that are currently difficult to fill. Selectman Bowles said he felt this should be left to the voters to decide and while he is not in favor of it at this time, he may speak with enough residents before town meeting who feel it should pass that he may change his mind. Discussion ensued.

IV. The Board began their review of weekly correspondence.

- a. The Board received an application for a motor vehicle inspection station for Mr. Gagne on Clough Hill Road. The Board stated that Mr. Gagne needs to submit an application to the ZBA for a business prior to any other approval. The Board agreed to defer the application until Mr. Gagne goes to the ZBA for approval.
- b. Selectman Bowles moved to authorize the Chairman to sign a proposal with Huckleberry Heating Oil to remove the baseboard from the west loop side of the building and add it to the east side of the building at a capped price of \$500.00, to fix the heating system at the Town Office Building. Seconded by selectman Maxfield. All in favor. Motion carried.

- c. The Board received a proposal from Howard Gassett Carpentry to install a new countertop and shelves to be installed in the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office to accommodate all the computer equipment used in those offices. Selectman Maxfield moved to hire Howard Gassett Carpentry to build a workstation for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office in the amount of \$1,975.00. Funds to be withdrawn from the Town Office Building Maintenance account. Seconded by Selectman Bowles. All in favor. Motion carried.
- d. The Board reviewed possible changes to the budget as follows: Deputy Town Clerk Wages: to be increased by \$500.00 to account for the election hours. Deputy Tax Collector Wage: to be increased by \$2,500.00 to account for the number of work hours per week. This line had been figured at only one day per week. Selectman Bowles said the Board had reduced this budget line by more than \$2,500.00 originally so this budget line is still down from last year. Witness Fees: Selectman Bowles stated he had spoken with Bob Fiske and this fund covers the police officer's time at court. He said the revenue received pays a portion of the cost associated with the officer's pay, not the entire amount. Selectman Bowles said he feels this line should be left at level funding. The Board agreed. PD Part-Time Secretary Wages: Chairman Ives stated this line needs to be increased to 120 hours to cover the vacation hours of the full time secretary. Discussion ensued.
- e. The Board discussed setting a date for a public hearing to accept monies for the Arthur E. McNeil and Raymond C. Cummings Memorial Scholarship. The Board will determine the date at a later time.
- f. The Board discussed the request for a warrant article to request money for the Clough Pond Milfoil issue. Selectman Maxfield stated that he had spoken with Conservation Commission Chairman Julie Robinson and the Conservation Commission has agreed to fund \$500.00 for the Rocky Pond Milfoil issue and either \$500.00 or \$1,000.00 for the Clough Pond Milfoil issue. The Board agreed that they did not want to put a warrant article in for this purpose as there are funds in the Conservation Commission budget for this. The Board agreed that if the budget for the Conservation Commission needed to be increased to continue funding these projects, they would. Selectman Maxfield will contact Mrs. Robinson and advise her that the Board would like to have the project funded in the same manner as previously done.
- g. The Board received an e-mail from DES regarding the Wiggins Road Restoration Plan.
- h. The Board received a compliment from Mary Ann Steele regarding the Budget Hearing for review.
- i. The Board received an inquiry from Fish and Game regarding including town owned water access facilities on their map. The Board agreed to decline this offer.
- j. The Board received a letter from Dennis Lampman requesting a waiver of interest and penalties on past due taxes. The Board agreed to speak with Tax Collector Helen McNeil before making any determination.
- k. The Board received copies of a past due ambulance bill for review. Selectman Maxfield moved to forward past due ambulance account #41037 in the amount of \$527.10 to collections. Seconded by Selectman Bowles. All in favor. Motion carried.

- l. The Board received copies of Legislative Bulletin #4 for review.
 - m. The Board received a request from Tower Resource Management on whether the town would be interested in having cell towers on town property. The Board stated that no, they would not.
 - n. The Board received information from Pro Bark, Inc., asking if the town is interested in a proposal to grind logs and stumps due to the ice storm. The Board stated they did not see a need.
 - o. The Board received copies of the Annual Report from Capital Area Fire Compact for review.
 - p. The Board received notification from Comcast regarding a change in service.
 - q. Chairman Ives stated for the record that four pistol permits were submitted for signature and approval.
- V. John Plumer was recognized from the audience.
- a. Mr. Plumer stated that there are people plowing snow and leaving big ridges in the road. The Board stated that there are laws regarding this issue and advised Mr. Plumer to contact the Code Enforcement Office with his concern. Discussion ensued.
 - b. Mr. Plumer asked the Board if there was going to be any funding for the repairs to the Town Pound. The Board said they did not feel there would be enough funds this year for this project. Discussion ensued regarding looking at grants as this is a historic property. The Board suggested having the Historical Society get involved with this project. Discussion ensued regarding the wonderful job the Historical Society is doing and the great turn out for the “Made in Loudon” event.

Selectman Bowles moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 PM. Seconded by Selectman Maxfield. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

THE LOUDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Steven R. Ives, Chairman

Dustin J. Bowles, Selectman

Roger A. Maxfield, Selectman