

SHARON SELECTBOARD
Regular Meeting Minutes (final)
December 18, 2017

Selectboard Members present: Mary Gavin (Chair), Kevin Gish, Luke Pettengill
Staff Attending: Deb Jones, Margy Becker, Tim Higgins (Road Foreman)

Mary Gavin convened the regular meeting at 6:30pm as duly warned.

Executive Session – Personnel

Motion by Kevin Gish to enter executive session at 6:35PM to discuss a personnel issue. Mary Gavin seconded. The motion carried. The Selectboard exited from executive session at 6:45PM.

FY19 Budget Preparations:

Budget discussions resumed with a focus on highway budget line items. Some time was spent refining a budget for purchase and hauling of gravel and stone. Selectmen decided the Town would forgo contract hauling of gravel in FY19. An increase in the budget for stone was agreed upon, in keeping with new State storm water regulations that mandate lining roadside ditches with stone and/or grass above a certain slope.

The crack sealing budget will remain level at \$12,000, with the intent of sealing a segment of River Road followed by a short portion of Rte. 132 from Raymond Road to Beaver Meadow Road - or as material lasts.

It was noted the trend among municipalities to require road crew members to carry medical cards and to undergo annual or bi-annual physicals. An expense line item was added.

The budget for equipment replacement may need to be altered depending on the results of the insurance adjuster's investigations into the extent of damage caused when a seasonal employee backed a tandem truck into a ditch at a culvert on Broad Brook Road during last week's storm. The 2010 Western Star tandem truck is under contract to be traded against the new truck slated to be delivered in late January. Tim Higgins was asked to report to the Board, when the insurance adjuster's findings are known.

FHWA Funding for Rte 132 Culvert upgrade:

Luke Pettengill made the motion, seconded by Mary Gavin, to approve a grant application prepared by VTRANS District 4 for FHWA ER funds to replace (upsized) a culvert on Rte. 132. The motion carried 3-0-0. Selectboard Chair Mary Gavin signed the grant application. VTRANS District 4 will submit the application. The Town will also apply for a VTRANS Structures Grant for the same project, in case FHWA funding does not come through.

Public Hearing Schedule – Proposed Highway Discontinuance

Margy Becker reviewed the requirements for public notification and hearing on a Town's consideration of whether or not a town highway should be reclassified or discontinued. The Selectboard took formal action in November to begin discontinuance proceedings for TH26 (Ogden Lane). This is a class 3 road which provides access to Rte. 132 for the Ward property and land owned by Marcy Marceau and Alexandre Bird. The road lies opposite Steele Road by the Inn at Idlewood. The public hearing will be scheduled for January 22, and the hearing process will include a site visit.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Luke Pettengill to approve the December 10 meeting minutes, with one change, and the December 11 meeting minutes 'as-submitted'. The motion was seconded and carried.

Warrants:

Payroll and check warrants were reviewed and signed. The pay requisition from Nott's Excavating in the amount of \$79,776.40 for emergency repairs to Rte. 132 was approved. The corresponding warrant was signed. The Town is hoping for FHWA reimbursement.

Pending Selectboard Vacancy:

Luke Pettengill stated he will be unable to complete the remainder of his 3-year term as Selectmen due to conflicts with his work schedule. He will attempt to attend the January 8 meeting, after which time the vacancy will be posted. There is one year remaining in Mr. Pettengill's term. Mary Gavin, whose term expires on March 6 (Town Meeting Day), announced she remains undecided as to whether or not to seek re-election for another 3-year term. She will make her decision public after the New Year.

Adjournment

Kevin Gish made the motion to adjourn at 9:00PM. The motion was seconded by Mary Gavin and passed 2-0-0.

Submitted by, Margy Becker