

# TOWN OF THORNTON

## December 28, 2006

### Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

5:30 The meeting was called to order.

Board members present: Arthur Gross, Ralph Perron and Lee Freeman

Also present: Administrator Andrew (TA) Marty Wilson, Burd Engineering; Budget Committee (BC) members Ron Jansen, David Lewis, John Carpenter; Road Agent (RA), Tom Dubey, Jim Demerit, Conservation Commission (CC) members Sally Davis, Timmee Whitmore and Steve Shaughnessy; Kathy Duffy, Julius Feinleib and Chad Downing

Mill Brook Road Survey. Marty Wilson of Burd Engineering presented the plans to date. All of the fieldwork has been completed. Some information still needs to be placed on the plans. Burd Engineering liquidated its assets last month, however Mr. Wilson wants to finish this project. Selectman Freeman inquired if Burd Engineering has filed for bankruptcy? They will be filing for Chapter 13. Selectman Freeman noted that it appears that there is a balance on the Town's contract with Burd Engineering of slightly more than \$1,000 and there is approximately \$2800 in work to complete the survey project. Mr. Wilson confirmed that the \$1000 should be applied against the payables and the town should pay the vendors directly. Mr. Wilson stated that Chris Hofinger would stamp the plans after CAD operator Craig Towle enters the final information. They will have Mylar's produced for the town and complete the project by January 15. Selectman Freeman confirmed that Craig was an employee of Burd Engineering and whether he hadn't been paid already. Mr. Wilson stated Mr. Towle was an employee and was paid as an employee as work was completed.

Mr. Wilson will coordinate with the RA how the final plans should be presented. Selectman Freeman stated he was very upset and he wants get the project finished with a viable product. The Board requested that Mr. Wilson attend the Selectman's meeting on 1/16/07 with a finished product including the Mylar. Mr. Wilson agreed. He noted that the right of way is not uniform so there is no real center to the road. The plan illustrates the metes and bounds and right of way work and monuments as found in the fieldwork.

It was moved to encumber \$2862.50 to complete the Mill Brook survey per Mr. Wilson's letter and confirmation of the vendors. Payments will be made directly to A&D Klumb Environmental \$530; P.C. Bofinger Land Surveying PLLC \$1482.50; and Craig Towle \$850. PASSED (x3)

5:45 Highway Budget. RA Tom Dubey reported he had been researching quotes on overhead doors and an air exchange system as the Board requested. Farina's metalworking does not have an air exchange system and they are the largest operator in

the area. He will call other possible vendors from Yellow Page listings. The RA reported having called 3 overhead door companies. Overhead Doors Options in Meredith quoted \$11,845 for 3 doors with a 16.4 R-value. Overhead Door of Concord quoted \$8,600 for doors with a 17.5 R-value. Windows would be in the front doors only. Selectman Freeman inquired what the R-value is on the existing products? The RA will confirm. Jim Demeritt suggested the RA contact Laurent Door in Laconia. Selectman Freeman inquired if there are any structural differences between the doors? The RA responded that the Meredith quote has an option to upgrade to a 3" track for additional monies.

Selectman Perron made a motion to encumber \$12,000 from the Highway budget for the purchase and installation of overhead doors pending verification of R-Value. PASSED (x3)

Selectman Freeman had e-mailed a request for information about a trailer for transporting the backhoe. The RA reported that in order to tow a vehicle over 10,000 pounds personnel would be required to obtain a Class-A CDL license. Selectman Freeman stated his concerns about the wear and tear on backhoe and would like to see a trailer for the future. Chad Downing stated that a trainer for Class A licensing is \$1000 for 10 hours at your site. The Board and RA agreed this should be a consideration for the future.

Loader. The RA reported he has called the Federal Surplus Equipment office in Concord. They have a 1985 Dresser Loader (made by International) with 1800 hours, for \$18000. It was a Navy machine used in Iceland has a 2yd bucket and needs a muffler and batteries. The White Farm for State Surplus Equipment has a 1993 John Deere 544 loader with 9444 hours and a 2 ½-3yd bucket for \$24000. There are no apparent mechanical problems. The typical life of a loader's engine and transmission is 12,000-15000. The Highway Department personnel feel that the smaller loader may be better choice for our narrower roads and traffic. The rubber is in good shape on both loaders. The bucket on the backhoe is ¾ yd. Renting a loader is about \$1250 wk. With the purchase of a loader the department rental of an excavator would not be needed to put up winter sand. A screen-all would still be necessary and they might be able to work out a better rental arrangement on that.

Selectman Freeman made a motion to encumber \$19,000 for the purchase of the 1985 Dresser Loader from Federal Surplus plus batteries and trucking pending the RA's inspection of the equipment for suitability. PASSED (x3)

The RA will purchase air cleaner(s) for the Highway Garage from next years budget.

Tires. Tires for the backhoe and grader were purchased through Kirk's. The RA thanked Jim Demeritt for the lead.

The C-can has been delivered the RA will order the lumber and metal for the roof tomorrow. It was moved to encumber \$2000 for the roofing materials. PASSED (x3)

Culvert has been ordered. Selectman Freeman made a motion to encumber \$1600 for the culverts in case it can't be received until 2007. PASSED (x3)

It was moved to encumber \$1000 for parts for air jacks to keep the air pressure up in trucks. PASSED (x3)

It was moved to encumber \$20,000 for paving from GMI for Waterthorn. PASSED (x3)

Jim Demeritt inquired if there is enough money budgeted for fuel? RA said Yes.

Julius Feinleib inquired about the Mill Brook Survey and if anything is to be done with it? Selectman Freeman noted it is probably 85% complete and we are supposed to have the finished product by January 16. The Board has not discussed what is to be done with the survey when complete. Selectman Freeman stated he is looking for information on a specific area that has not yet been completed.

6:22 Conservation Commission Sally Davis, Steve Shaughnessy, and Timmee Whitmore, along with Kathy Duffy. Sally Davis reported that many members have been to some training and regional issue training sessions. Only \$90 of the 2006 budget was utilized to laminate maps in the Municipal Building hall. She continued that Campton recently finished an inventory of resources and an index that is on software that can be updated and accessed by the Planning Board. The Conservation Commission handbook says that money not expended can be put into a fund for future conservation activities according to RSA 37-Aii. A motion was made to encumber \$200 of unexpended 2006 budget funds for 2006 dues and the remaining \$410 being set aside into a Conservation Fund if approved by the voters. PASSED (x3). Selectman Gross noted that \$25 was voted many years ago to establish a Conservation Fund.

Sally Davis requested \$200 be appropriated for 2007 for mileage and meetings. To set up an index costs \$8,000-\$10,000. This includes software and maps with layered aspects. Jim Demeritt stated that the PB and CC should be appropriating for the project as it will be utilized by the Planning Board. Sally Davis stated there may be some matching monies available through the Society for Protection of New Hampshire forests but the Town has to show monies are available. Plymouth State University has a new department, but no students are yet available for this kind of project. Selectman Freeman inquired about taking a percentage of current use monies to offset the costs of the index. Current Use penalty monies have gone to the general fund in the past. Sally Davis stated that land in conservation is not costing the town money because there are no roads, or development etc.

Kathy Duffy stated that land use change tax is a one-time fee. The Town continues to receive monies from developed property. Selectman Perron stated he would support a percentage of land use change tax with a not to exceed number. Jim Demeritt stated that the Conservation Commission needs to establish what it is going to cost to do these projects down the line and how the information is to be used.

Kathy Duffy showed a listing of how many other towns are committing a percentage of land change tax to conservation funds. Sally Davis stated the Commission would like to have the support of the Selectmen. Selectman Perron stated he would support a warrant article dedicating 10% of the Land Use Change tax to a maximum of \$10,000 to a Conservation Fund. Sally Davis noted that the town does not have to be the custodian of conservation funds. There are several regional groups that have organized for that purpose. The TA inquired if monies raised would be used in the Town of Thornton if a regional group held conservation funds? YES

Selectman Perron nominated Kathy Duffy to be an alternate member on the Conservation Commission for a three-year term. APPROVED (x3)

Kathy Duffy stated she is very much a proponent of contractors and developers kicking into general fees. This is a Planning Board issue. Selectman Freeman stated that the Planning Board is going to be elected in 2007 and Kathy Duffy might be interested in running for election. Selectman Perron stated she could offer to be an Alternate Planning Board Member after the elections, as the elected members will choose their alternates.

Selectman Perron suggested hiring the moderator in February to have a meet the candidates' night before the March elections for contested Planning Board positions.

It was moved to encumber \$2500 from the 2006 Contingency Fund for Building Inspector fees. It was noted that there are many building permit applications that have not been turned in for payment, as the projects are not near completion. Building permit fees have been collected to offset the payments.

The Board, TA and Budget Committee reviewed and discussed the preliminary entries for various general budget accounts. No wage lines were adjusted at this time.

Paving line item capital reserve. A new line will be added to the budget.

Jim Demeritt asked what is happening with Mill Brook after the survey is finished? Do we want to start something? Selectman Perron responded that the Selectmen should have a better idea after the final product is presented on 1/16.

Minutes of the December 12 and December 19, 2006 Selectmen's Meetings were accepted as amended. APPROVED (x3)

8:50 It was moved to enter non-public session relative to a personnel issue. PASSED (x3) Present were the Board of Selectmen, TA and Chad Downing. 9:00 The Board returned to public session. It was moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session. PASSED (x3)

9:02 It was moved to enter non-public session relative to a land issue. PASSED (x3)  
Present were the Board of Selectmen and TA. 9:15 The Board returned to public  
session. It was moved to seal minutes of the non-public session.

Mill brook stabilization project. The Board reviewed a final report on the project.  
Selectmen Gross and Perron approved the letter and final report submission. Selectman  
Freeman stated he was not comfortable with the explanation of why the project was not  
completed and declined to sign.

Appointments

Budget Committee

David Lewis

John Carpenter

9:20 It was moved to adjourn. PASSED (x3)

**The next scheduled Selectmen's Meeting  
Will be  
January 2, 2007  
5:30 PM at the Municipal Building**