

TOWN OF THORNTON

March 20, 2007

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

5:30 The meeting was called to order.

Board members present: Arthur Gross, Lee Freeman and Jim Parziale at 5:35

Also present: Administrator Andrew (TA), Ralph Perron, Jim Demeritt, Jan Stearns, Tyler Stearns, Sally Kriebel, Melinda Johnston, Road Agent Tom Dubey, Paul Magowan, Barry VanDeMoere, Kathleen Sylvester and Russell Brodeur

Selectman Freeman nominated Selectman Gross to chair the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Gross accepted.

Selectman Freeman nominated Selectman Parziale to be Ex Officio on the Planning Board and Capital Improvement Planning Committee. Selectman Gross agreed. PASSED (x2)

Selectman Freeman stated that the selectmen need a written report from the ex-officio's monthly to make sure the selectmen are informed of the happenings on other boards. He continued that the first time he saw the 2007 Capital Improvement Plan was at Town Meeting.

Selectman Freeman stated that it would be nice to have the chairs of the three elected boards (School, Planning and Selectmen) meet informally on a monthly basis to keep current on the major projects and share ideas. School Board Chair, Melinda Johnston agreed that would benefit both sides.

Sally Kriebel stated it seems redundant to have the ex officio do a written report if the board chairs are meeting monthly. Selectman Freeman stated it is a method to foster communication between the boards.

The board requested that the TA contact Roy Sabourn for a quote to do the surveying as soon as possible. This was a \$4,000 item approved at town meeting. Selectman Gross agreed that the amount is under \$10,000 and does not need to be advertised.

Selectman Gross noted that the Conservation Commission will not be able to get matching grants without the survey. Barry VanDeMoere stated that the article should have been worded as a percentage with a maximum.

Selectman Freeman made a motion to not take over Hidden Acres Road. He continued we do not have enough information to make sure it meets Planning Board regulations. A road profile as required it item #9 is not on file. There is one on Compass Road. He continued that there appears to be an error in the survey. There appears to be a 15' difference between the Compass Point and the Hidden Acres surveys. Selectman Parziale

stated that it would have to be proven. Road Agent Dubey stated that as it was presented to the voters, Hidden Acres Road would be approved once the top coat is done and the Board and he agreed it was correct. Selectman Freeman stated there are two items missing in the records from the Planning Board Table of Road Construction. The developer needs to prove the road. Barry VanDeMoere disagreed stating that the developer should be asked to do an as built stamped survey plan on the road. Selectman Freeman so moved. PASSED (x3). Ralph Perron inquired if minutes of Planning Board meetings had been reviewed? He recalled that there was discussion at the Planning Board level.

5:50 Ralph Perron reported he has spoken with Chris Bolen with the Neighborfest organization and has agreed to join the focus group. His recommendation is that Neighborfest sell their land in Thornton with the proceeds divided between the two towns. He continued that Thornton should take its share and divide it up between two trust funds for the Plymouth Senior Center and the ADAPT organization as long as they continue to support the seniors and youth of Thornton. He requested input of the board members. Selectman Gross got the feeling that they might be desirous of investing the proceeds in land in Campton. Selectman Freeman inquired why Ralph would not be on the Neighborfest board. Mr. Perron responded that they are not looking to increase the number of board members. Selectman Freeman inquired if Mr. Perron would like a letter of support from this board to encourage his placement on the Neighborfest Board of Directors. Mr. Perron said yes and the Board asked the TA to write a letter.

Ralph Perron offered an amendment to the 3/13 Selectmen's Meeting as follows: "On the morning of March 11, 2007 between approximately 8 and 8:30 AM the three selectmen, Thornton Police Department NH State Police and town administrator were made aware of an accident involving a highway vehicle. No other vehicles were involved. No injuries were reported due to this accident. Selectman Perron and Selectman Freeman visited the accident site together then went to Selectman Gross' residence. The selectmen agreed that the employee who was in the accident should go to the hospital to get a check up and verify he he was okay. Selectman Perron and Selectman Freeman went to the highway garage to pass along this message. Police Chief Joyce took the employee to the hospital to get checked. Selectman Perron and Selectman Freeman returned to the scene of the accident briefly." Selectman Freeman moved to accept the amendment as presented. PASSED (x2)

Mr. Perron stated a directive should be made relative to taking care of the flag as town flags are not raised and lowered appropriately. It is a matter of respect.

He continued there should be a town wide directive for reflective vests. A clearly written directive should be established and agreed upon with the employees possibly as part of the review of the personnel policy. Selectman Freeman stated he thought that it had already been established relative to the highway department. Selectman Gross stated he would like to see a directive allowing for one warning and then dismissal for non compliance once the directive is in place. Mr. Perron stated the directive should be written into the personnel manual. He continued that the Police and Fire Departments may have directives

in place. Selectman Perron agreed the subject needs to be discussed. Mr. Perron stated the selectmen cannot mandate the Fire Department as they operate under the Fire Commissioners.

Selectman Freeman reported that there is a great article in the Town and City magazine relative to payroll record keeping, payment of wages and deductions of overpaid wages.

6:00 Paul Magowan came before the board relative to used, unregistered cars on a parcel on Mad River Road. It was noted that state law and town ordinance state that no more than two unregistered cars may be left uncovered on a property. Mr. Magowan stated he has a problem with the town not following up on ordinance enforcement.

Mr. Brodeur and Ms. Sylvester joined the meeting and inquired what the complaint was against them. Selectman Freeman stated that the complaint was unregistered vehicles in excess of the number allowed by state law.

Mr. Brodeur stated that there are snow banks in front of the two vehicles that are going to be removed. Mr. Magowan stated that it is a tough law and tougher to enforce, and he is just requesting that they be good neighbors. He continued that he was glad that Mr. Brodeur came in to the Selectmen's meeting stating, "We don't often get to speak with each other".

Selectman Freeman inquired when the vehicles would be removed. Ms. Sylvester stated they would be removed within 30 days. The board stated this was acceptable. (x3)

Jan Stearns inquired if the town goes out to see who is in compliance? Selectman Freeman stated that the only way the Board acts is when someone makes a complaint, otherwise every residence with more than 2 unregistered vehicles would have to be addressed. Selectman Freeman said he "doesn't think the town has allocated resources for this". Selectman Gross stated that the problem could be seen throughout town.

Selectman Freeman questioned whether the road list in the Capital Improvement Plan is the one supplied by the state. The Road Agent confirmed that it is. Selectman Freeman inquired if it has anything to do with state aid? The RA stated that the road infrastructure in the CIP comes from the State. The State pays Thornton the grant based on the number of miles of road and that they do not specify whether the road is paved or dirt. The RA said he provided the information regarding paved or dirt. Selectman Parziale stated that Mitch Manseau is putting the same plan forward in Campton and it seems to be working well.

Selectman Freeman inquired when the roof would be placed on the container at the Highway Garage. The RA responded he is just waiting for the snow to melt. The materials have been purchased and are on site.

Ms. Kriebel inquired of the status of the contract on old town house roof. The TA was requested to send a reminder to Keith McNamara requesting that the roof work be completed prior to April 30, 2007.

Selectman Freeman asked Ms. Kriebel the status of the LCHIP grant applications. She responded that she can not write a grant application and get on the resource listing until the survey has been completed. The project is listed. Selectman Freeman stated the survey will delineate any rights of way on the garage parcel to heirs and/or heirs and assigns. The town may need to get the heirs and/or assigns to sign off in some fashion.

Mr. Perron asked Barry VanDeMoere to clarify a question on the Planning Board agenda. The site visit and meeting are scheduled for March 29 vs. March 27 as stated on the agenda. The TA will let the Planning Board Secretary know so that the individuals can be notified.

The RA noted that Fire Department turn out gear has reflective striping. They are required to wear this gear if they are in traffic. The Police Department uniform has a reflective stripe in the cuff if it is turned out.

The RA suggested that if the board makes mandatory rules relative to vehicle use it should involve all departments. He continued that not allowing personal errands with municipal vehicles is understandable, but it should apply to all town vehicles. Selectman Freeman stated different types of rules apply for different departments. Selectman Freeman then stated that the RA needs to concentrate on the Highway Department. The RA stated he is just trying to get the point across that the some rules should be consistent between departments. Selectman Freeman agreed and suggested it be discussed at the next department head meeting.

The RA stated he would inform the crew that when they get in a vehicle out of the garage vests will be required.

There was discussion about Mill Brook Road maintenance. Mr. Demeritt argued that it was not being done properly and stated that the highway crew is still stopping for personal purposes to pick up food with highway vehicles. Mr. Dubey responded with the approximate times when they had been maintaining Mill Brook Road and noted that several trucks of stone had been placed in the worst areas. The stone had been picked up at Campton Sand & Gravel and a crew had probably picked up food on one of their return trips.

Melinda Johnston asked what the winter jacket is like. Could the department purchase jackets with reflective stripes on them? Selectman Freeman explained that it gets really warm when they are plowing, so a light vest would probably work better.

Minutes of the March 13, 2007 Selectmen's Meeting were approved as written. PASSED (x2)

Barry VanDeMoere suggested that the town talk with their insurance company. There might be other things that have been missed, and there may be workers' compensation guidelines/requirements for uniforms. AGREED (x3)

Mr. Perron inquired if the truck that had been in the accident was back in service? The RA responded that it was back in service on the following Tuesday.

The RA stated that the Ford 550 repairs were still under warranty and would not cost the town.

Ms. Kriebel stated her hope that in the future the Board would be able to control angry outbursts in the room. People should conduct themselves as adults. It is a public forum.

Selectman Freeman stated that they had received a letter from the School Board about not printing school wage items in the town report. He continued that the information is not derived from the town office but is in fact submitted by the school. The selectmen stated that it came up at a past meeting when there was a request for more detail in the town budget. Mr. Perron stated that there was a request at a school meeting. Melinda Johnston stated that it should be all or none between town and school wage listings in the Town Report.

7:52 It was moved to adjourn. PASSED (x3).

**The next scheduled Selectmen's Meeting
Will be
March 27, 2007
5:30 PM at the Municipal Building**