

TOWN OF THORNTON

August 28, 2007

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

5:30 The meeting was called to order.

Board members present: Arthur Gross, Jim Parziale and Roy Sabourn

Also present: Administrator Andrew (TA), Building Inspector, Richard Gilpatric; Lee Freeman, Road Agent (RA) Tom Dubey; Giff Kriebel, Jim Demeritt, Sally Kriebel, Melinda Johnston, Barry Van deMoere, Russell Brodeur

Pitman building permit application – Building Inspector, Richard Gilpatric, stated he has been there 2 times relative to the setbacks. Board members commented that there is a right of way that exists where the road used to be and it appears that the building is too close to the boundary line. The Building Inspector will verify the setbacks and may ask them to move the shed.

The board received a letter from the fire marshals office about modular home specifications and the building code that has been adopted by the town. The letter will be copied to the Building Inspector for his response.

5:45 Lee Freeman asked the board if they had read an e-mail he sent them relative to a violation of the safety code, and inquired how it would be addressed. The board has discussed the issue with the Road Agent. Hard hats have been ordered and will be worn. Mr. Freeman stated he will stay vigilant and won't do anything further.

Selectman Sabourn stated he does not think it appropriate to send e-mails relative to town issues to personal e-mail addresses. He asked that they be sent to the town office in the future and they can be addressed and discussed in a public forum. Mr. Freeman stated his concern that his information would be filtered prior to the board seeing it. Selectman Sabourn invited him to bring information to the town office or bring it to a meeting if he felt he needed to.

5:50 The Road Agent requested the board's permission to purchase a cabinet for storing flammable items at the shop and containment trays for oil drums. APPROVED (x3)

The Road Agent requested permission to advertise for part-time winter help for 2 people for the winter season. The town has guaranteed 32 hours/week in the past. APPROVED x3) Selectman Gross confirmed that the summer part-time employee was done Yes, yesterday.

At the board's request the highway department will add some dirt and crown the road more on Upper Mad River Road close to the Haartz property.

The RA noted that GMI paving has gone up to \$63/ton. Last year the rate was \$48.63/ton. The estimate for the proposed projects is \$91,350. The board confirmed that the amount includes the apron at the Highway Garage per the NH Department of Transportation, and the other roads that were planned. The RA confirmed and stated that the culverts are in good shape in these locations. Meadow Way, Beaver Path, and Berry Knoll culverts have been replaced. These roads have not been repaved since the original development in the late '60s. Selectman Sabourn asked the RA to look at a divot on Robbins Nest Road. Selectman Gross stated that it is good to have Church Street in good condition. The board inquired if there were adequate funds in the budget to cover the paving? The RA responded he would like to utilize \$30K from the capital reserve account with the remainder to be out of the road repair line item in the highway budget. That will not totally deplete the capital reserve account.

The RA also stated he wants to put some "regrind" on a portion of Merrill Access Road to help keep the dust down. Highway Department personnel will spread and a roller might be able to be rented from Mr. Shaughnessy. The RA noted that some grinds hold well others do not depending on what was ground. He has used some at the garage and it has held well. Merrill Access Road would be a good experiment location that won't cost too much. The cost of product will probably not be more than \$500. APPROVED (x3)

The RA stated something needs to be done on Blake Mt. Road; there are drainage issues that need attention. Selectman Sabourn stated the board needs to look at it with the RA and see what can be done or get professional help if it is needed. Selectman Gross stated it may need to be laid out for the width. Selectman Sabourn stated he has surveyed in the area and there may be room.

Gore Road guardrails on bridge. Selectman Sabourn stated the iron uprights are solid with no deterioration. He would much prefer some rough sawn wood be bolted on them vs. changing them to metal guardrails. He suggested a minimum of 4" thick material rather than sandwiched boards and adding wooden posts off the end of the bridge. APPROVED (x3) the replacement of wood guardrails on the bridge with extensions at ends.

Guardrail on Merrill Access Road. The RA presented a price of \$18,812 for replacing them last year. Selectman Sabourn inquired if the amount was included in the budget. The RA stated it was not. The RA stated that when the posts rot the pressure of snow being plowed against them breaks them off. The guardrails down Stone Dam Road are not in the budget either. Selectman Sabourn stated there is one place on Johnson Book Road where there used to be guardrails that should also be replaced.

The RA will contact GMI to see if they will extend the 10 day limit stated on the quote. Increase have usually been \$1.50 ton. The total tonnage is 1,450 tons of product that may cost another \$2K if they do not agree to hold the price. Selectman Sabourn stated he is

satisfied with the RA's analysis of where the monies should go for paving. The Board agreed to have a meeting on 9/5 to do a "drive around".

Mr. Freeman commented that Merrill Access Road compacts well on the flat area and guardrails need not be expensive. He suggested wood with cable.

6:15 Paul Gardiner & Toni Bruce-Adams (sister/guardian) came to the board to discuss past due taxes. Mr. Gardiner has had recent medical problems and has applied for disability. The TA asked to speak and suggested that Mr. Gardiner set up a payment plan with the Tax Collector stating that the Tax Collector has worked with many taxpayers in the past. Selectman Sabourn inquired when the medical issues happened, and stated he would like to discuss options with the Tax Collector before any action is taken. The TA is to request that the Tax Collector speak with Board on 9/5, and they will ask the Tax Collector to contact Mr. Gardiner or Ms. Adams

6:37 It was moved to accept minutes of the August 14, 2007 Selectmen's Meeting as presented. PASSED (x2)

Addition to meeting 8/2. Selectman Sabourn stated there were some comments made that should have been in public session vs. non public. The issues were read and will be an addendum to tonight's minutes. APPROVED (x3)

Police department Administrative Assistant position. The board has read minutes of the January 2003. The board at that time felt the full time position was warranted. Selectman Gross stated that some of the officers have been covering the office so that they have not been out on the roads. Selectman Sabourn think there is definitely a need to have someone in the office. He has talked to some other departments. He suggested paying a little higher wage for a part-time position. Selectman Gross stated it is hard to go back once a position is established. Selectman Sabourn stated this is the time if the board wishes to consider a change. He said he would have liked to have had a chance to discuss the issue prior to placing an ad. All departments should be bringing such situations to the board. When a position is vacated is a good time to review need(s). Selectmen Gross and Parziale both stated they don't want to micromanage the department. It was suggested that if there have not been applicants, the board might still be able to change the position. Mr. Freeman stated that there was a discussion in July at a selectmen's meeting in a macro sense. The TA is to ask Police Chief Joyce to keep the board posted of what is happening with application and ask him to attend the selectmen's meeting on 9/12.

6:50 Emergency Management have the board vs. director. Selectman Sabourn would like to change the wording so that the Board of Selectmen is the "director" and add a "Coordinator". This would be someone responsible for keeping the board up to date with changes. The TA is to request Steve Medaglia to attend the next selectmen's meeting to discuss the issues surrounding Emergency Management operations.

6:55 Russell Brodeur presented a letter to the board relative to past zoning violations. He stated the vehicles have been moved, but the camper has not yet been moved. Everything else in property is registered. He has rented a shop to do repair work in the future. Mr. Brodeur stated he has no problem with the board doing a site visit. Mr. Brodeur asked that a letter be sent to his landlord confirming compliance. Selectman Sabourn stated the board is meeting on 9/5 and can swing by that day after which a letter could be drafted to the landlord. The board thanked Mr. Brodeur for his willingness to work with them.

7:00 Smoke Rise Lane. The board will visit the road as part of its 9/5 meeting and road review so that they may discuss the issues associated with its being considered for a town road.

Auditors letter- The board reviewed a letter from Plodzik & Sanderson stating that they may not be able to provide the audit report in time for printing with the town report starting in 2008. The board authorized a meeting with the auditors, John Carpenter and the TA to see if there is a possible solution to this issue. Selectman Gross stated that Mr. Carpenter is very qualified and noted that more technical help may be needed on a regular basis with the growing number of audit requirements.

Old Home Day - Sally Kriebel reported that Old Home Day will be on 9/15/07.

Historical Society meeting presentation in early October will feature a history of firefighting.

Grafton County Municipal Association preliminary meeting. Selectman Gross or the TA may be able to attend at the Lincoln Town Hall on 9/30 at 4 PM.

There has been no response to date from the owners of property on Thornton Gore Road who have placed a trailer on their parcel without a building permit. Selectman Sabourn reported that it has been pulled toward the road and is just sitting there. It is not connected to any utilities. The board will review at the next meeting and a certified letter will be sent if there is no response within 30 days.

Selectmen's Meetings -There was discussion about changing the time of the meetings. It was decided that regular Selectmen's Meetings will be held at 9 AM on Wednesday mornings at the Municipal Building. Additional meetings may be scheduled as necessary.
APPROVED (x3)

Perambulation – Selectman Sabourn stated that the NH Land Surveyors Association has requested CEU's (continuing education units) for public service for the purpose of perambulation.

Personnel plan – The board requested the TA obtain a physicians certifications per the personnel plan for an employee absent due to sickness/injury of more than 3 consecutive days.

Plumbers/Electrical licensing – The TA reported she had contacted both boards and that a property owner is allowed to install plumbing and electrical work in their primary residence/personal bona fide abode without a licensed person from either trade inspecting the work.

Notch View Road – The TA reported that a property owner on that road has expressed his interest in going forward with the betterment of that road to become a town road. He will be contacting others on the road to discuss the option further.

APPROVALS

Building Permits:

15 2 16	A.Foote	balcony replacement
17 2 7	K.Tower	shed
17 14 16	Waterville Birches	3 unit condo
11 1 5-15	D&M Johnston	garage & mudroom
16 7 1502	A.Toolin/G.Sanborn	house
16 6 11	D&C Matthews	family room
10 1 5-08	R&S Sywenkyj	deck
12 4 1	B.Brownstein	storage shed
17 7 49	J.Fereira, Jr.	shed
6 5 1	A&L Pitman	shed

Intent to Cut Timber:

16 7 8	D&N Thorne
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7:50 It was moved to adjourn. PASSED (x3)

**The next scheduled Selectmen's Meeting
Will be
September 5, 2007
9:00 AM at the Municipal Building**

Addendum from meeting of 8/2/07

In answer to a charge made at the Selectmen's meeting on 7/31 that Highway personnel don't start work for several hours, the RA stated they started late on the Mill Brook Road work to give people a chance to get in or out for the day. The crew was on the clock and working at the garage prior to going to Mill Brook. He added that Highway equipment/vehicles were in fact left in Mill Brook at a private property, out of the way (not easily visible).

The RA maintains a log of who, what, when and where, as well as weather conditions for each day.

George Cheney stated that the board should stop the meeting and say they are not going to discuss an issue until the RA is present. Selectman Sabourn stated the board has to listen to the complaints whether they agree or not.

Selectman Gross stated there are many miles of road that have to be taken care of. People have to realize that there are seasons and the monies only go so far.

Selectman Sabourn stated that the bottom line is that the board thinks that the highway crew is doing a good job. Two people can not possibly do what is expected of the department. We have to look at increasing the number of people in a couple of departments and one of them is the highway department in order to accomplish the work. He stated the crew could run the grader every other day and there would still be complaints from some.

Selectman Parziale stated he had a call from a resident on Banjo Drive about a tree hanging over the road.

Blake Mt. Road – Selectman Sabourn stated he does not think that monies should be spent on improving the road until we talk about long term drainage repair. Engineering design work probably needs to be done. He would suggest putting money for the Blake Mountain problem in the budget and let the voters decide.

Anderson Hill Road – George Cheney stated that it fills in with sand on the south side because there is nowhere for the water to go. The RA stated that he has talked with Joan Marcotte. She does not have a problem with work on her property as long as the finished project looks good.

Upper Mad River Road – Selectman Sabourn stated that Karl Haartz wanted the entire road turned away from his property. Selectman Sabourn had suggested Mr. Haartz look at having a landing spot with some kind of swale before the driveway drops away. George Cheney stated he needs a culvert at the bottom of the grade. Selectman Sabourn inquired

if the road culvert in that area of Upper Mad River Road is blocked. The RA responded that it is not. Selectman Sabourn stated that the town needs an easement or a taking of some land and cutting of some trees on the high side of the road.

The RA noted he had wanted to hire a sweeper to pick up sand this year. He had also wanted 4 weeks of mowing. Monies were cut from the proposed budget to allow for only 2 weeks of mowing. Sand preparation is done in house.

The TA stated that some of the conversations should be repeated in a public session. All agreed.

Selectman Gross stated that there have been many compliments about the work of the highway department.

Jacobs and Joshua's Lanes – Selectman Sabourn stated there were a lot of comments about “ponding” at the last Selectmen's meeting. He stated it would be great if the RA looked at the situation and discuss any possible solutions with Jim Ingram. He continued that the individuals at the Selectmen's meeting were talking about extensive ditching and cross culverts to Mill Brook.