

TOWN OF THORNTON

November 28, 2007

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

9:00 AM The meeting was called to order.

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

Also present: Administrator Andrew (TA), Jim Demeritt, Road Agent (RA) Tom Dubey, and Franz Dubach

Franz Dubach would the town to take over Fondue Avenue. It was built by Leigh Johnston to town specifications. What is the process? Selectman Gross responded that usually a warrant article is voted by the people for the road to be approved with the Selectmen's and Road Agent's final approval. Selectman Sabourn inquired if the road meets the 10% grade standard. The RA Dubey responded he does not believe so. Mr. Dubach stated the prior road agent looked at it some time ago and said it was okay. Selectman Sabourn stated that if it wasn't built to planning board specifications, there should be a road profile prepared showing what the grades actually are. Anything that Mr. Dubach may have in writing would be helpful. Marianne will be requested to research the past history and plans to verify grades etc. He noted that the board has gotten into situations where roads have not been built to specifications. The 10% maximum grade may not have been enforced and there may have been waivers/variances granted. The TA inquired if the board would propose the article or if Mr. Dubach would be required to put forth a petitioned article. The board agreed that Mr. Dubach should present a petitioned warrant article. Selectman Sabourn requested a road profile to compare with the town's records.

9:23 RA Dubey stated that he had cautioned Mr. Johnston that Fondue Ave. might be too steep prior to their paving it in October. Selectman Sabourn stated that unless there is some indication that there was some adjustment allowed by the Planning Board, he does not think that the town should be supporting the acceptance of the road.

New Holland Tractor – The RA reported it is a 2000 with 4000 hours on it. The owner is selling it because he used to mow for the state and the state is doing its own mowing now. He is asking about \$40,000, but the RA thinks there is room for some negotiation. Mower rental comes in at about \$4,500 for two weeks. If we rented it for a month annually, we would pay for purchasing the mower in 4 years. If more mowing could be done annually we would get rid of the small vegetation. Selectman Sabourn suggested the possibility of adding a warrant article. Mr. Demeritt suggested we see what budget season brings.

Sand – The RA talked to Campton Sand for the 2008 budget and it would be about \$16,200 for 3000 yards of sand and an additional \$10,125 for delivery. He also spoke to Shirley Benton who gave him a price of \$16,000 for the sand. He didn't bother with the delivery fee given the proximity of the pit area. The cost of putting up sand from our

property includes \$7,300 for an excavator, and \$1600/week for a screen all, plus the cost of renting another loader and truck(s) to move it from harvest area to storage area. It might be better to purchase the sand from the Benton's and truck it on our own. Our trucks will move 7-8 yards at a time vs. a tri-axle that carries 18-20 yards. The RA's original estimate was based on simple multiplication of single load delivery and he knew it was on the high end. He is guessing they put up about 3000 yards.

Costs to put up sand this year was \$10,500 for equipment not including personnel labor. Selectman Sabourn stated that we will need \$1,500 to clear the land and another \$1,000 to reclaim it, another loader for \$2,500 and possibly the rental of other trucks. Mr. Demeritt stated we are also depleting a resource. The RA stated we have proven that it can be done in house, but it might be wise to purchase sand now until we need to use our product. The board agreed. The RA stated that if we get to 2500 yards and it looks the same size pile we'll stop at that time. All agreed. A berm has been placed down side of current hole for safety. The Highway Dept. may need to hire a bulldozer to smooth the slope next year. Mr. Demeritt stated that in the future it might behoove the town to look into purchasing a screening plant. The board would not be opposed but would not recommend at this time.

Salt – The RA noted that the State puts out about 300 tons of salt on every storm and he doesn't have the budget for that pleasure. Many people compare the condition of state highways to town roads.

Selectman Gross moved to include Selectman Sabourn's e-mail response to Lee Freeman into the minutes. APPROVED (x3)

It was moved to approve the amended minutes of 11/21/07. APPROVED (x3)

Benton building permit – Selectman Sabourn questioned whether there is a permit from NHDOT for the access road. There is a NH DOT letter stating there is an issue with the driveway. He questioned why the town is approving a driveway permit on a non town road. The RA explained that all driveways are approved with the chance that at some point the road might be taken over by the town and to avoid having to tear up driveways. Selectman Sabourn stated there is a fairly new law that does not allow a building permit without frontage on a class V road or better. He continued the Planning Board or Selectmen can allow permits with certain variances. He would like to see a letter from NHDOT approving access to a second home on the current driveway prior to approving the building permit application. He will research the state law. Mr. Demeritt stated he is interested in a copy of the RSA also. Mr. Demeritt agreed that there may be additional driveway approval needed for access beyond the 1st house.

Selectman Sabourn asked the RA why some of the roads were not plowed in the last storm. The RA listed a number of roads that were not plowed. Any gravel roads on the Route 3 side that George Cheney normally plows were not plowed, because George felt they had not "bound up" yet. The RA stated he drives on most roads in his pickup in 2-

wheel drive with summer tires and he feels that if he can get around others should be able to also.

APPROVALS

Building Permit:

11 1 146 D.Bourque 2BR/2BA house

Intent to Cut

15 1 3 E&E Anderson

Deputy Forest Fire Wardens

Renew Bradford C. Benton

Not renewed Nancy Byerly

John Benton

Building Permit: ON HOLD

11-1-33 S.Benton,J.Benton,KMcNamara

(awaiting NHDOT approval for utilizing shared driveway/right of way)

10:28 moved to adjourn. PASSED (x3)

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

Addendum to minutes delivered via e-mail 11/23/07

Response to Lee Freeman from Selectman Sabourn

Good morning Lee,

I checked with George when I left the meeting. As you know, Tom was in error, as he thought the whole road had been plowed. George said he had only plowed the asphalted end as he didn't want to tear up the gravel. Where the road is wide and flat and has so little traffic, he thought only sanding it was better where it wasn't frozen yet. I thought that was a good call on his part. He said they felt they had to do Mill Brook and Upper Mad due to the narrowness and high traffic volumes.

Roy S.