

TOWN OF THORNTON

December 5, 2007

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

9:07 AM The meeting was called to order.

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

Also present: Administrator Andrew (TA), Jim Demeritt, Giff Kriebel, Road Agent (RA) Tom Dubey, Gerald Warren

Selectman Sabourn offered amendments to the Selectmen's Minutes of 11/28/07. It was moved to approve as amended. PASSED (x3).

Selectman Sabourn asked if the other board members had looked at the covered bridge write up from Quantum Construction. There is no money budgeted for 2007. The recommended engineering and construction service budget is over \$27,000 with an additional \$56,000 for the actual repairs. He asked the RA if the bridge is in crisis? The RA responded he doesn't know. There is erosion 3-4 feet underneath one abutment. Wetland permits will be needed but they are good for five years once granted. Selectman Sabourn stated preliminary design is estimated at \$14,300 including \$1,300 for wetland delineation and \$5,000 for surveying, which is probably more than it needs to be. The RA commented that some of the wetlands information may be on the original bridge plans. Selectman Sabourn reviewed the remaining details comprising the \$14,300 engineering and construction budget. The only questionable item would be the delineation and survey amount. The engineering firm had been recommended by RM Piper who does a considerable amount of bridge construction. Selectman Sabourn continued that it doesn't appear we can wait too long to do the repairs, but it will have to be placed on a separate warrant article for another year. He suggested an article for the engineering for 2008, and another article to bid the repairs for the following year. Selectman Gross agreed. Selectman Parziale stated he remembers seeing the water over the bridge in a past flood. He thinks the bridge needs to be raised along with the road. We should look at those options if we are going to spend money on the bridge. It shouldn't be repaired in the same location. The RA questioned whether it was the culvert from the pond that had caused the flooding. Jim Demeritt stated it might be better to let a flooding situation take out the bridge and then replace it. He noted it would inconvenience some people at the time but would be better in the long run. We shouldn't spend \$70K to do the fix in its current location and then have it wash out. Giff Kriebel stated then you run the risk of bridge collapse under a vehicle. It was suggested doing only rip rap work to force the water away from the abutment. Selectman Gross stated we need to get monies on the budget to get the engineering done. Selectman Sabourn suggested that maybe the engineer needs to see Selectman Parziale's tape of the flooding to better address all issues. If we are going to do this, it needs to be done right. The RA stated that concrete wing walls will probably require the placement of a temporary bridge. There are between 10-15 full time residents on the far side of the bridge although there are several more houses. Mr. Demeritt stated

that there is still the possibility that the bridge could burn after all that money is put into it. Selectman Sabourn suggested building a new bridge next to the covered bridge might be a better long term solution. The board will discuss the plan further at next week's meeting.

Building permit application– Gerald Warren stated he wants to put in a manager's quarters for his daughter at Pemi Campground as soon as possible. The hold up on the septic is that the plan has to be placed on the master subdivision plan and the NH Dept. of Environmental Services printer is down. This will be a manufactured home that he needs have moved from its current location. He showed the board a plot and septic design with a panned in approval number. Selectman Sabourn stated he was acquainted with the project. Selectman Gross inquired if they would still utilize the store. YES. Selectman Sabourn explained that because the property is a campground, it falls under subdivision regulations at the state level. Mr. Warren stated that Eric Thomas at DES says there is not a problem and volunteered to have the board call him to confirm the situation. The slab is in place. Selectman Sabourn moved to approve the application pending confirmation of the approval at the state level. APPROVED (x3)

Sand – The RA stated he received a quote of \$14,000 to put sand up from the highway property.

Winter contractors – the RA noted that the town is in line as the state has just authorized an increase of \$3.90/hour for their winter contractors.

Excavator rental – Mr. Demeritt presented the board with the copy of a bill for an excavator rental in the spring from MB Tractor that was \$4,500 vs. the \$7,300 the town paid renting one from Pemi Equipment. He stated the town needs better checks and balances. Mr. Kriebel asked if the length of rental time is the same. Yes. Selectman Sabourn stated that in comparing the day rates, they are just the opposite and the numbers don't calculate. Mr. Demeritt stated that maybe the board needs to be more involved with large rentals. Selectman Sabourn inquired if the RA checked for other prices. He confirmed that he had gotten several prices, but didn't check with MB Tractor. He didn't know they rented large excavators. Selectman Sabourn stated he knows the RA is trying, and suggested maybe he should check with Mr. Demeritt occasionally and see if he has any additional ideas. Selectman Gross stated that there is criticism from some relative to the RA doing office work.

Mill Brook Culvert-has been installed. Traffic was interrupted for about a half hour.

The TA asked for confirmation that the board wish to have \$30K withdrawn from the Paving/Road Repair Capital Reserve to offset 2007 paving expenses. So moved and APPROVED (x3)

Auditor's expense for 2008 will need to be increased due to AICPA (accounting standards) risk assessment requirements. Additional funds will have to be budgeted for the change in Town Clerk/Tax Collector.

Selectman Sabourn inquired if the TA was able to meet with John Carpenter yet. She has not due to his schedule.

Avitar Associates is going to review the highway property to evaluate the sand for GASB requirement.

Mr. Kriebel inquired if Selectman Sabourn has had a chance to talk with John March relative to the old town house property. He has, they were supposed to get together last month. He spoke with him again on Monday and they are trying to set up a date for next week. If the town needs to purchase some land, a warrant article needs to be put together.

The RA stated that Jim Ingram is going to send us a letter with the load capacity for the highway office for our files.

Selectman Parziale stated that the owner of his development's water system got a notice that there is something in the water since they put in the dug well. There are two artesian wells and a surface well that may be too near the road. Selectman Gross inquired if new wells are added when a new area is developed. NO. Selectman Sabourn stated there is good quantity from the wells. Mr. Demeritt stated he is not sure why Mr. Ingram doesn't go to a capacity system with a large tank. Mr. Ingram has to submit water for testing each month. If there is a problem with water quality he will have to keep testing until the situation is resolved.

10:00 Selectman Gross moved to adjourn to a work session to do paperwork. PASSED
The board will review the hard hat policy at next week's meeting.

APPROVALS

Building Permit

16 3 5-2

L&G Warren

modular home

11:00 It was moved to adjourn. PASSED (x3)

**The next scheduled Selectmen's Meeting
Will be
December 12, 2007
9:00 AM at the Municipal Building**