

# TOWN OF THORNTON

## March 26, 2008

### 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, Giff & Sally Kriebel, Road Agent (RA) Tom Dubey, and Louis Marcotte

The TA informed the Board that Chairman Gross had been delayed and would be here shortly.

The Board reviewed correspondence and manifests.

Sellingham Road – The TA reported that she had received a call from Mr. Santoro relative to maintenance on his road. He was on the agenda for this date but rescheduled to 4/9. The road is classified as Class VI and is not maintained by the town. The board asked that the TA keep the town attorney in the loop with the Santoro information. A letter mailed to Mr. & Mrs. Santoro relative to the road classification was copied to the Town of Woodstock. The police department has an open file relative to the situation.

Old town house shed. The insurance adjuster visited the site today. Selectman Sabourn stated that the deed for the old garage needs to be verified relative to reversionary clause(s). No further contact has been made with Mr. & Mrs. Uhlman.

The Transfer Station Manager reported that Representative Guida had come to the facility and had several issues with the facilities operation vs. others he has visited. The manager explained to him that he holds on to materials and markets products to get the best revenue for the facility.

House Bill 1429 for local control of the landfill in Bethlehem has passed the House. If it passes the Senate, it will probably mean that the Bethlehem facility will be shut down. If that happens, it will cost the towns more for waste disposal due to the additional hauling and increased tipping fees.

Minutes of the 3/19/08 Selectmen's Meeting were approved as drafted. PASSED (x2)

Selectman Sabourn reported he had attended the school board meeting last evening. They were discussing the building project. It became apparent that it is not going to be a quick fix. They are attempting to get two classrooms in the back area and there are several issues that need to be addressed including tearing off sheds. Right now they have to move tables three times a day. The school board discussed constructing a temporary garage on the NH Route 175 side of the gymnasium for needed storage. In general, a building addition is needed. There were about 15 people in the audience. Comments from

those present were around costs-especially for people on limited incomes. The board agreed to consider a possibility of placing a couple of class rooms in the gym. The school board has looked at five different plans to date. One of the comments to the board was a request to focus on needs vs. wants. The school board was very receptive and listened to those people present.

The school board reported that they had forgotten to reduce the budget by \$140,000+ in interest for the first bond payment. The budget will be adjusted.

Lee Freeman sent a note stating that Stone Dam Road should not be posted as it hadn't been in the past. He called Selectmen Sabourn and Gross and asked for a night meeting, but a day meeting had already been scheduled. Selectman Sabourn told him that the matter would be discussed. Mr. Freeman is concerned with the delivery of a barn. Selectman Sabourn checked the road this morning. There are ruts 5-7" deep from True Road to the town line in the vicinity of the guardrails. It is his opinion that the road needs to remain posted. He asked the RA if it had been posted in the past. The RA responded that it probably had not as the road was not even plowed until Mr. Freeman moved out there. Until that time everyone was mistakenly under the impression that the road was a Class VI road. Upon research it was found to be a Class V road. Mr. Shaughnessy now has a development with 2 houses currently built and Mr. Downing has a wood business. It was an oversight not to have posted the road in the past. Neither Mr. Shaughnessy nor Mr. Downing has contacted the RA relative to the posting. The RA noted that he is doing the job he was appointed to do. If he did not post Stone Dam Road and more ruts were made by heavy vehicles, it would be more maintenance. Selectman Sabourn noted that the whole road used to be referred to as Merrill Access Road north and south. That is immaterial at this point as there are already ruts. That portion of the road is not built to the same standard as this part of Merrill Access Road.

Sally Kriebel stated that Mr. Freeman was here last week when the road bans were talked about. It was discussed that if someone has a need, they can contact the RA. The board agreed that it was made clear last week. The RA stated he will work with anyone, but Mr. Freeman feels that anything that his department does is retaliation. The RA is just trying to do his job. Selectmen Sabourn and Gross agreed that the posting sign needs to be there at this point. All agreed. Selectman Gross inquired if Blake Mt. Road is posted. Yes. The RA noted he does not usually post roads that are accessed from a posted road. Selectman Gross inquired if there is any problem with the south side. The RA stated it is okay and is part of Merrill Access Road.

Jim Demeritt suggested putting the exceptions on the road posting signs next year so that everyone knows the rules going in. The board agreed that it might be a good idea or at least adding the RA's phone number with a magic marker.

Giff Kriebel asked for clarification if the board was requesting the road names be added or to call the RA. Selectman Gross stated that the RA is the boss of his department. The RA stated he could add the phone number to the signs for next year without too much difficulty.

Hidden Acres Road - The RA presented pictures showing obvious drainage issues. Selectman Sabourn inquired if he had noticed the drainage issue mentioned at a past selectman's meeting coming from another driveway. Jim Demeritt stated the issue was from a couple of days before the last meeting, but there is an issue there. Selectman Sabourn noted there is a good 8" of sand that has washed into the roadway and the drainage issue needs to be addressed before he would sign off for the town to accept the road. The TA will draft a letter to the developer stating that he needs to address these driveway issues before the town will consider taking the road over as a public way. Mr. Demeritt stated that no matter what is resolved, he would suggest that the road go through another winter before the town accepts it to make sure the issues are resolved. All agreed.

Loader motor. The RA reported that there is "blow by" on the pistons probably as a result of the motor overheating. Mechanic George Cheney recommends replacing the motor due to the price and time needed to rebuild it. The RA does not yet have a price. Selectman Sabourn inquired about the cost of a rebuild. Mr. Demeritt stated he knows a person formerly from Conway Tractor who has done a lot of work for him for a very reasonable price. The RA stated he doesn't know whether the cylinder walls are scored at this point. Mr. Demeritt stated that the holes are sleeved and could be replaced. Selectman Gross inquired if the transmission is okay. George says it is okay. The RA noted he still has the backhoe to load trucks until the loader is fixed. Mr. Demeritt also suggested putting a buzzer/sensor on the loader to notify the operator if the equipment starts to overheat. The RA will check on the information from Mr. Demeritt.

Road signs - The RA reported that in 2012 the Federal Government is working to mandate larger street signs. The proposal is for 12" signs with 9" letters. This will mean new brackets and signs throughout town. Does the board want the RA to start changing signs or wait until it is mandated? Selectman Sabourn responded wait until it's mandated. Mr. Demeritt inquired about the penalty if we don't do it? The RA stated he just wants the board informed about the potential as costs will be significant if it happens.

Mill Brook Road Improvements – The RA suggested utilizing the \$10K budgeted for the capital reserve to do some trimming on overhead trees. Selectman Sabourn agreed that technically it is a good idea, but he thinks that the money was intended for long term road improvements. If a crane is needed he has no issue with using some of the monies. Giff Kriebel suggested the board come up with a multi-year plan for Mill Brook Road; what needs to be done and then prioritize it going forward. Selectman Sabourn agreed, but noted that there are some immediate needs that need to be addressed now.

In response to a recent question Selectman Sabourn asked for a listing of what the RA is planning to see done this year. The RA will update a prior list for discussion with the board. Ditching on Judges and Woodwinds Roads are high priority items. Mill Brook Road was ditched a couple of years ago and part of Upper Mad River Road was done last year. Ditching requires two people on traffic control while another one runs equipment. The can only do so much. Selectman Sabourn inquired if it is possible, if there is enough

in the police budget to help with work zones? The TA responded that the chief would probably want to add detail personnel as officers would not be able to leave a work zone to respond to a call. They discussed summer contractors' budget, utilizing high school students, and 18 year old minimum age requirement. Mr. Demeritt suggested contacting the football coach at the college. Ms. Kriebel suggested utilizing the CERT team if they are available, as they have training in traffic control. The board agreed that it might be a good idea in order to free up full time personnel making it possible to get more ditching done.

Jim Demeritt suggested that if there is some engineering that needs to be done the board might be able to work on that with the \$10K that was set aside. Selectman Sabourn responded that \$10K would not go very far. The board wants to retain the majority of the monies and build up funds for future work on the road.

Selectman Gross stated that the RA and board should review salt/sand purchase options before the fall. The sense of town meeting was mixed. The RA noted that a lot of people believe that the parcel was purchased because of the sand on it. A couple of contractors have said that they could put up probably 3,000 yards of sand in a week. Trees would need to be removed. Selectman Sabourn stated they will have to work out details before advertising for bids. Mr. Demeritt stated he would like to see some kind of plan for the excavations, how they will occur and reclaiming as we go. Selectman Sabourn stated he would like to bring Wes Avery in to take care of the trees first. We can use the stumps as part of the reclamation. The RA stated they have been harvesting the majority of sand from one location on the site and noted that bank run gravel is a usable by-product of putting up our own sand. Mr. Demeritt suggested that cross sections might be utilized for pricing purposes, and that he is concerned with locating a stump dump close to this building. We need to keep options open for enlarging this building in the future. Selectman Sabourn stated it is not economical for cross sectioning a small project.

The board approved having the LGC Health Trust handle the retiree billing. The TA has been assured by LGC that no one would be cancelled without authorization from the town first. The town is ultimately responsible for the insurance premiums.

Selectman Gross will cover the Planning Board Meetings until June. Selectman Parziale will cover them when he is finished working with the school for the summer. PASSED

Selectman Sabourn will be the Safety Committee representative. PASSED

Selectman Gross was nominated to be chairman for the Board of Selectmen. PASSED.  
Selectman Gross nominated Selectman Sabourn to be vice chair. PASSED

Giff Kriebel questioned whether Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) openings should be advertised vs. automatically re-appointing an individual. Selectman Sabourn stated he hears the concern but believes in rewarding loyalty. Rather than placing a notice in the newspaper he would ask the chair and/or vice chair if the individual has been doing a good job, and most of the time he would take their word. Mr. Demeritt and Mr. Kriebel

agreed that David Gravel who is up for re-appointment is a very dedicated individual and he is interested in continuing. Mr. Gravel was re-appointed. PASSED (x3). Mr. Demeritt stated that there is one ZBA board member who might be more interested in being an alternate vs. a full member.

Lou Marcotte stated he had no issue for the board and was just here to observe the meeting.

Mr. Demeritt stated that a section between the two Fadden Road outlets is really bad. He stated that the highway crew had been there yesterday to do some work on it.

A copy of the letter to Senator Reynolds, Representative Matheson, Executive Councilor Burton and the Grafton County Commissions generated as a result of a vote at town meeting was given to Mr. Demeritt for Mr. Freeman. There is no charge for the copy per the selectmen as Mr. Freeman put forward the article for the voters' consideration.

The TA reported that she had a conversation with Genevieve Benton relative to the possible exclusion of names on town records on a piece of property owned by her recently deceased father. The claim is being researched and it appears that only her father's name has been on the property card for many years. Further research needs to be done to ensure that no other changes were made to the ownership. Selectman Sabourn stated that whatever the deeds say is the determining factor vs. what the town's records may say. Town records do not determine ownership. Selectman Gross stated he also had a call from Ms. Benton.

Mr. Demeritt stated that Shirley Benton was at the most recent Planning Board meeting. The road accessing the back lot was on paper and the whole lot is included in the number of acres. Is the land across from the road part of the lot? Selectman Sabourn stated that it should be a separate lot with a different property identification number. It was a subdivision due to title having been retained to the road. Mr. Demeritt stated that the Planning Board's attorney will be reviewing the issue. He suggested that in the future, maybe the selectmen should write the chair of the other board so that the other board knows what is happening.

Selectman Sabourn stated that the Planning Board should insist on an independent inspection of how the bridge on 10-2-8 was built because it is accessing a subdivision to make sure that it is adequate for the intended use. It is a matter of liability protection for the town with the approval of a subdivision.

11:00 It was moved to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91 A:3 relative to a personnel issue. Present were the Board of Selectmen and TA. 11:40 The board returned to public session. It was moved to seal the minutes of the non public session. PASSED (3)

Selectman Gross reported that the library trustees have voted to have one of the trustees sign the library time sheets for the foreseeable future.

APPROVALS:

Intent to Cut:

16 1 5

Owl St Assoc

11:50 It was moved to adjourn. PASSED (x3)

**The next scheduled Selectmen's Meeting  
Will be  
April 9, 2008  
7:00 PM at the Municipal Building**