

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting

15 May 2007

Members present: R. Stephen Leighton, Chairman, and Lynn Sweet.

Greg Messenger (Road Agent), Don Clifford, Vera Boals, Amanda Dumont (Foster's Daily Democrat), Chris Bane, Carol Reynolds Johnson, Nancy Linteau and Attorney Tanguay (McNeill, Taylor and Gallo) were among those attending.

Intent to Cut forms were reviewed and signed.

Attorney Tanguay attended to discuss what action, if any, the Town is to take regarding the repairs to Webber Road. Major part of his discussion with the Board, involved a request to consider declaring Webber Road an "emergency lane" pursuant to RSA 231:59-a. This would allow some work to be done. All are aware that this is a Class VI road. Not asking for maintenance of whole road, only a way to replace and repair the culvert and restore the access more commonly used by the residents. The current access is "rough" and "steep" and residents are concerned that winter access will be "hard". Attorney Tanguay stressed his willingness to work with the Town to find a solution, and requested permission to contact Attorney Mitchell directly. The Board agreed that he could contact the Town Attorney for discussion. Board will also be contacting the Town Attorney for clarification on what requirements/conditions must be met to legally declare Webber Road an "emergency lane". If it meets the criteria, it was noted that raising any funds to cover the cost of repairs would still require approval at a Special Town Meeting. After further discussion, Mr. Leighton and Mr. Messenger agreed to meet up on Webber Road tomorrow afternoon to look over the area below Vera Boal's place regarding the drainage, also to look over the bridge/culvert area to determine what repairs are needed and to help in estimating cost of said repairs. This will be discussed further at the next meeting of the Selectmen to be held on June 5th.

Len D'Italia attended to discuss zoning and the possibility of raising pigs on his property. He was advised that Strafford is zoned "Agricultural and Residential". Provided there is no restriction in his deed, he could raise pigs on his property.

Road Agent and Selectmen then discussed the road maintenance budget, storm expenditures and balance remaining to work with. It was noted that the amount of costs to be reimbursed by FEMA at some point in the future, is unknown at this time. Capital Improvement expenditures will continue as planned as they were raised for a specific purpose. Repairs and maintenance continue, however, some budgeted maintenance projects may have to wait.

Memorial Day Parade authorization was signed.

Certificate of Recognition was signed for Christopher Dustin in honor of attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

Correspondence was reviewed, including letters from students at the Strafford School with many suggestions and thoughts.

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A letter was received from Stephen Smith regarding the public's use of the road he resides on. Board will meet with him at a later date to discuss.

A motion was made, seconded and voted to accept the minutes of the May 1, 2007 meeting of the Board.

After a short discussion, a motion was made, seconded and voted to increase fees charged for the Red Cross Swim Program at the Bow Lake Beach by \$2.00 per fee. This fee increase was recommended by Ted White (Recreation Commission).

Chris Bane attended to discuss proposal to build the Town Office for \$400,000., using the \$300,000. in capital reserve and \$100,000. with revenue from selling the existing Town Office to the School District. Based on research done by the Selectmen's Office, a Special Town Meeting would have to be held to raise and appropriate the \$100,000. to be funded by the revenue from the sale of the existing office (authorization to sell the office to the School District could be done at the same meeting). All this is subject to petitioning the courts and be granted permission to hold the meeting. If granted you are required to post and publish notice as for any Town Meeting and a budget hearing is required as you are appropriating money. Estimated time frame would be 2 to 3 months (3 months being a more realistic estimate), depending when court could schedule the hearing. In addition, believe the School District would need a Special School District Meeting also, for authorization to purchase this property. Considering the time frame you're probably in September by the time you could start. Board noted that it could be presented at the next Town Meeting and this would allow time for planning, getting the information out to the public (public forum by end of Summer?) on what was being presented for consideration and why this option was chosen.

There was a short discussion regarding progress on the proposed renovations to the Bow Lake Fire Station. A plan/design has been drawn by Tony Fallon, now waiting for septic design to submit to DES. Project will be sent out to bid.

At this time, a motion was made, seconded and voted to officially end the April 18, 2007 designation of a portion of Webber Road as an "emergency lane", to be effective on May 16, 2007 at 4:00 P.M..

There was discussion regarding development/building on Class VI roads, establishing a procedure to follow. Copy of "Hard Road to Travel" will be requested for Selectmen's Office.

There being no further business before the Board, a motion was made, seconded and voted to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.