



SELECTBOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 7, 2009

Members Present: Brian Kellogg, Todd Yando, Dave Yacovone, Bob Beeman and Min Cote.

Department Heads: Dan Lindley, TA; Carol Bradley, Finance Director; Bob Melfy, Highway Superintendent.

Guests: Tina Sweet, Roland Boivin, Kevin Lane, Steve Rae, and John Buttolph.

Meeting was called to order at 5:35PM in the Tegu Building Community Meeting Room by Brian Kellogg, Chair.

I. Agenda Changes, Announcements & Additions

1. None

II. BUDGET REVIEW

1. **Highway Budget-** discussed the highway budget and the fact that it doesn't have any paving expenses in it. We have previously set aside \$100,000 from the FY 2008/2009 budget for paving. We didn't need to use this money as we received an unexpected grant award (Operation Smooth Ride), so we can use this money to pave. Plowing of parking lots was discussed. There have been some concern from the public about plowing parking lots that are not owned by the Town. Carol discussed the overview with the changes that have been made as we have received additional information for dispatching and insurance costs. We are \$86,000 under budget from last year with no paving budgeted. This assumes that the appropriations are being level funded. Dan will be discussing money that will be needed for the Hearth Stone sewer line and ways to accomplish this task in the near future. Roland expressed concern about the Cady's Falls Road. He would like to see the road posted as the bridge is not able to handle big trucks. Dan explained that we could do weight and height restrictions. The height restriction will allow us to install barriers to insure compliance. Mr. Lane expressed concern about the rising cost of property tax. Bob Beeman explained that we are trying to level fund the budget for the second year in a row. Mr. Lane felt that more should be done to reduce taxes. He felt that the roads didn't need to be as wide. Brian stated that taxes in other towns are higher than our Town and we also pay for more services than other towns. Our next step to reduce taxes would be to cut services. Steve Rae wants the trees on the Cady's Falls road to be cut. He felt that it looked terrible. Bob Melfy explained that we did not have time to finish cutting and we would be doing the remainder of that work in the coming spring. Steve also felt that building up the roads with gravel as much as we do is overkill. He also feels that there is a lot of duplication of work when we plow. Steve felt that we should put optional projects up for vote at Town Meeting. Bob Melfy said that graveling the road is maintenance and not an actual project. We need to build the roads up because when they are plowed, gravel is plowed off and not having an appropriate base makes the roads in very poor shape for the spring and summer. Dave stated that we are trying to cut costs as much as we can without reducing the level of service. One example of this is regionalized buying with other towns for plow blades. Dave compared the cost of various highway departments to our highway department a few years ago and found that our costs are in the middle.

Brian wants to have Green Mountain Access put on our next agenda. We need to appoint a member.

1. ADJOURN

Motion made by Min Cote, seconded by Bob Beeman to adjourn meeting at 7:25PM. Motion approved. (5/0)

Respectfully submitted and filed this 9th day of December
Tina Sweet for Erica Reed, Administrative Assistant

Please note that all minutes are in draft form unless otherwise stated.