

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 30, 2000

PRESENT: Lee S., Jim P., Brian G. – Chair, Steve L., Don A.

ABSENT: None

DEPT. HEADS: Carol B., Mary Ann W., Wally R., Richard K., Bill M., Bud G., Ken S., David G.

GUESTS: Jeane Girard, Lavigne & Co., Scott Corse, Scott West, Judy Sturtevant, Stephen Jennings, Henry Tottenham, Hunt Blair, Butch Alexander, Sam Guy, Sonny Demars, Peter Bourne, Bill Henchey, Bruce Tomlinson, Sara Gluckman, Judith Wrend, Amy Noyes, John Rubino, Joanne Harrison, Bill Lizotte, Kelly Rogers.

Meeting of the Selectboard convened at 5:45 PM.

FIRST AUDIT REPORT:

Jeane Girard of Lavigne & Co. gave a review and summary of the June 30, 2000 audit and explained new regulations requiring use of an accrual basis accounting format when reaching a \$300,000 threshold. This system will provide a more accurate idea of where we stand at year-end. Vendors should direct invoices directly to bookkeeping and purchase orders should be used. The conversion could begin in May, with relative ease and little impact. Jeanne and the Selectboard applauded Carol and Mary Ann for their accounting practices. Jeanne advised that the town should budget for the increased expenses of a federal audit as required by federal grant funding when the \$300,000 threshold is reached (ie: Copley House grant). Costs of the federal audit should be billed out to the grant.

HIGHWAY DEPT.

Leaves are being picked up in the Village. A dead tree has been replaced at the entrance to the municipal parking lot. Trash barrels have been removed for Halloween. Sanding and salting was done on 10/30/00. Speed limit signs have been posted on Lower Elmore Mountain Road. Mine safety training was held at the Fire Station on 10/26/00. Lee S. received a complaint regarding potholes on Beaver Meadows Road. Roads will be graded again before snowfall. A "children playing" sign will be re-erected on Frazier Road. Bud G. mentioned a park bench near the monument is broken. Bill M. to repair.

POLICE:

The Department received 224 calls, with 2 detox transfers. Progress is being made on juvenile problems. There has been cooperation from storekeepers. There will be heavy patrol on 10/30/00 and 10/31/00. Two applicants have applied for the position funded with the COPS grant. Neither has experience or training. A \$17,000 highway/safety grant has been received and the money is available this month.

conditions that cause vibrations as traffic passes, cause problems to the connection. In that case who is responsible? On Best Street, sewer line work involved replacing the main. If the ordinance were applied to the letter of the law, the homeowners would have been responsible for the cost. Who is responsible for overseeing the project? What documentation exists on work that has been done/and quality standards, and where is it? Who governs/oversees the person or department in charge of overseeing actual work? The Village hook ups are thirty years old. The materials are now inferior. It would be costly to low and fixed income persons to pay for repair. It is a big concern with the whole system. He suggested setting up a revolving fund for repairs from the right of way to the main line. Increasing the sewer rate by 4% could fund it. This would equal .76 cents per month, per resident and would net \$9,000 for repairs when systems fail. Who is responsible and in charge of the work to be done from the right of way out to the main? When acting as a Selectboard he asked that the Board please vote as a motion and not just hold a general discussion. He asked to be notified of any follow-up discussions on the topic, and thanked the Board for their assistance. Brian G. stated that the Selectboard would not have any immediate answers, but that their jurisdiction is over the highway right of way and the Highway Department only. All other issues should be directed to the Trustees. Scott West stated that you have to go through the town right of way to get to the main when conducting repairs. There is no written or verbal evidence for the homeowner whether the job has been done to par. Jim P. stated that the Village Sewer Ordinance is incredibly vague. Brian G. stated that the information would be passed on to the Trustees. The Selectboard will discuss the possible need for a policy on sewer work within the right of way. He stated the Selectboard would get back to Scott West with in three months. Brian G. directed the TA to place Scott West on the agenda for late January.

FIRE:

The department has been busy. The trucks have all been inspected with the exception of the ladder truck, which is not due until February. Oil changes and winter prep will start in December. Two sections of hose were damaged in the Lanphere fire. Replacement money is available in the budget. Lee S. requested an explanation of the medical bill submitted. Wally explained that a new member visited a physician as required for a medical sign-off to use a respirator. The physician referred him to a specialist without contacting Wally first, and the new member went. Tests are required, private insurance will not cover, we need to pay. Lee asked that procedures be clarified so it won't happen again. Bill M. thanked Wally for use of the station for mine safety training. Brian G. announced that a single bid for work re-facing the front of the station had been received from Sawyer Construction of Hyde Park. On opening the bid it contained two bids – one with cedar clapboards at \$4,760 and one with vinyl siding at \$3,120, both signed by Bruce Sawyer. Wally took the information under advisement and will return to the next meeting with a recommendation.

GUESTS:

Hunt Blair and Butch Alexander came to request property tax abatement of the local portion of property taxes for Copley Manor. Brian G. stated that he thought the Selectboard had previously been clear that they didn't have an interest in either tax stabilization as originally proposed or tax abatement for Copley Manor. Butch thought

stated there is a need for a physical inventory and mapping of the cemetery. She stated it might be time for the town to take a look at what needs to be done. Brian G. directed Julia C. to research possible grant funding for inventorying cemeteries.

GENERAL FUND:

Lee S. moved and Steve L. seconded a motion to approve Payroll Warrant ending 10/21/00 in the amount of \$25,192.06. Passed. Jim P. moved and Lee S. seconded a motion to approve Warrant #00-47 in the amount of \$76,115.97 and Warrant #00-46 in the amount of \$29,676.34. Passed.

GUEST:

Scott Corse stated that Verizon has been moving equipment and removing poles. The Godfrey building has been moved. Sonny Demars stated that at the corner of Maple Street and Washington Highway there are two poles without lights. It is a critical intersection and the darkness makes it dangerous for pedestrians and motorists.

GUESTS:

Sonny Demars stated that he was appearing on behalf of Mike Stafford to represent the Rec/Trails Committee. Trail work has been conducted from lower Bridge Street across the Kelly, Bishop Marshall and Water & Light properties back to the CREW property. There has been cutting, brush clearing and cleaning resulting in a visible trail. Sara Gluckman read the Rec/Trails Committee draft of a proposed Vision Statement and Mission Statement. Brian G. requested a copy of the drafts for the Selectboard. Brian G. stated that the B. Street bridge has been removed and is in storage. It may be possible to retrofit it for trail use at some point.

GUESTS:

Representatives of the Planning Commission, Arts Council, Morristown Community Partnership and Downtown Merchants group were present to discuss proposed changes to subdivision/bylaw regulations. Brian G. stated that at the public meeting on 10/16/00, the Selectboard and Trustees did not officially vote on the changes. Jim P. recused himself due to a conflict of interest per the Ethics Policy. Ken S. clarified the boundaries of the proposed district. No other Board members were identified as having a conflict of interest. Stephen Jennings confirmed that the Selectboard had received a letter of concern from the Planning Commission. He explained that the Commission needs direction for the future. He stated it did not appear that the Selectboard and Trustees were informed in making their decision regarding the Downtown Designation. The purpose is pursuing incentives for business people. Sam Guy stated that the Commission put a lot of work into the changes and the pursuit of a Downtown Designation and he had trouble accepting the decision of the Selectboard/Trustees, and their rejection based on traffic. The proposed changes are vital to the Downtown Designation. The Commission has been working on it since March. There has been no input from anyone objecting to the changes since the initial public hearing. The Trustees/Selectboard could have talked to the Commission earlier in the process so that they could have pursued the Downtown Designation. He stated that he is totally frustrated and hopes that the changes can be re-voted. Kelly Rogers stated that the Downtown Designation is important to the Arts

now it would make the intersection unbearable. After the bypass he would be happy to entertain the idea. He asked where the Planning Commission members were during the Selectboard/Trustees public hearing on the changes? Bruce Tomlinson stated that he had to work, but that the Commission had been working on the changes for six months. Ken S. stated that at any point in the process the Selectboard/Trustees and public could come see the Commission. Their comments could have been made earlier than the eleventh hour. He stated that Steve L. is correct in that it does come down to ten votes. Brian G. stated for the record that he personally might have made a hasty conclusion. He has done some research. He recognized that they have not voted. He stated that he might have erred personally. Sonny Demars stated that the Trustees might feel the same way. Bill Henchey stated that it was fortunate that a formal vote had not been taken so that there is an opportunity to right a wrong. Brian G. stated that the Selectboard has been accused in the past of tinkering with the process and that they are hesitant to jump in. They prefer to wait out the process. Julia C. explained that by statute a vote is taken at a regular meeting following the final public hearing. Brian G. stated that he recognizes that a vote has to be taken. Lee S. stated that he saw a lot of support and dedication expressed tonight. He stated that he learned a lot and probably erred two weeks ago at the Selectboard/Trustees public hearing. Brian G. stated that there are two possibilities – to vote immediately or to postpone to another date. Timing is an issue as the Downtown Designation application needs to be in by November 30th. Ken S. will work on Downtown Designation application. John Rubino asked if there would be further discussion at the joint meeting on 11/13/00. Brian G. indicated there would be. Sonny Demars invited all interested people to the Trustees meeting on 11/6/00 at 5:00PM. Don A. stated the biggest hang up he could see is traffic at the corner. In the past suggestions have been made for a caution light or stop and go light; neither of which he thought would help. Sam Guy agreed there is a problem; but stated that traffic is going to be there anyway, and you need to address the problem or not. Bill Henchey doubted how many residences would convert to business use, how much increased traffic would result, and how rapidly it would occur. Don A. responded that the Commission recognizes increased traffic from the thru-way. Steve L. stated in defense of the Commission that bypass traffic could change the present general traffic flow. He stated that ingress and egress to apartment properties would cause more problems. Sam Guy asked if he knew how much activity there is at the apartments now? A friend lives there and the traffic in and out is constant. Brian G. asked if the DRB review process would address traffic flow for commercial uses? Ken S. responded that it would. Brian G. asked if any conversion would have to go to the DRB for conditional use approval with regard to parking/traffic and would there be a warned hearing? Ken S. indicated it would. Brian G. asked if the DRB could address parking issues created by more than one property owner? Ken S. responded that if there is a shared curb cut the DRB would look at all properties involved. Steve L. suggested in future highlighting/italicizing proposed changes in the printed materials sent to the Selectboard. Ken S. explained that the original changes sent to the Selectboard included highlighted changes, but after starting the process over the materials were re-sent (special use district changes removed) without highlighting. Brian G. thanked everyone for coming.

Steve L. requested an explanation of Sue Olson's request for a traffic light. Julia C. explained that Ms. Olson had telephoned expressing concern over the intersection in the