Selectmen's Monday Meeting, November 23, 1992

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Philip T. Dwight, Chairman, Dave Boule', Mike Oldershaw, Betty Shaw, Secretary.

Mike moved to accept the minutes of Nov. 16th. Second, Dave. All in favor. So moved.

Brian Brown, Police Chief presented the proposed 1993 budget for the police department.

Brian explained he did not put any amount in the budget for radio maintenance since the radar needs to be certified every six months and the cost is only \$20. The Explorer radio is under warranty and if a problem arose with the Chevy radio the bay station radio can be used.

A break down on payroll was reviewed. Brian pointed out the personnel policy reference to an advance to the next step of the pay plan after successfully completing the probation period. Since the Town does not have a step pay plan in effect, Phil moved to remove this line from the policy. Second, Mike. All in favor. So moved.

The cost for dispatch service is not yet available. The presented budget figure is an estimate and subject to change. Police office equipment and the possible need to replace the police computer and one of the typewriters was discussed. Mike Clemens is working on filing an application for a State Grant to purchase a video camera for the PD. Capital Reserve for the cruiser will be the same as previous years.

Ed Forester, 464-3687, has asked the Selectmen to look into the sanding which is being done on the 2nd NH Turnpike. His property is just off Route 202 and several maple trees are showing damage which may be the result of the salt. Selectmen discussed making the area a no salt area. Although Mr. Forester is concerned, he is also aware using no salt may create a danger for traffic. Selectmen agreed to speak to the road agent to see what his thoughts are on using sand in this area.

Bob Varnum, Road Agent, was advised of the problem which apparently is arising from using salt on Mr. Forester's road. Bob explained he sets the speed of the salt to be deposited before he starts the run. If the vehicle goes slower more salt could be deposited on the road than the 3/4" desired. Bob voiced very strong concern over the need to maintain the road in such a way as to protect all travelers. Due to the use of the road, speed which he sees vehicles traveling, and contour of the road, he is concerned that sanding will not prevent a car from sliding off the road or onto Route 202. If the selectmen elect to sand in place of salting, he wants everyone concerned to know that sanding is done after all roads requiring salt are taken care of.

This will result in the 2nd NH Turnpike being sanded later than when it was salted.

The Selectmen asked that signs be placed notifying all travelers that this portion of 2nd NH Turnpike is not being salted. Bob agreed to try sanding in place of salting, but cautioned that if a car goes off the road, he will ask the selectmen to return to salting the area. His main concern is for safety of the public.

Bob reported a serious water problem on the portion of Loverns Mill Road which Mr. Dubowik has just completed upgrading. A culvert should be placed under the portion of road which he just upgraded. More gravel and a larger turn around has to be considered before any consideration is given to the Town maintaining this portion of road. Since this would be at the expense of the landowner, Selectmen want it clear that although a great job was done to this point, more work is required and there would be no guarantee that the Town would maintain this portion of the road. The road will be reviewed after the Spring of 1993 to see how the road stood up over Winter conditions and Spring thaw.

Selectmen reviewed the highway budget with Bob. Since Goodell Road had to be done this year, the completion of Smith Road will be rescheduled for 1994 along with Summer Street. Bob sees West St. as a priority for 1993 along with Jamison Ave. The Sewer & Water Department will be notified of the road improvement schedule. Bob will also check into the cost to complete Smith Road as the Selectmen would like to see this road completed.

Since the tires are good on all vehicles at this time, the requested amount for tires was reduced to \$2,000. Selectmen asked that Bob get quotes on a machine to do sealing of roads in an effort to maintain all roads once they are revitalized.

Most of the gravel roads have been brought up to such good condition that Bob would like to see three to four inches of crushed gravel placed on them. This would result in lower maintenance costs.

Selectmen agreed they would like to see the sidewalk improvement continue. Bob will get a quote as to the cost to continue as far as Wayno's.

The difficulty of clearing the sidewalks during storms was discussed. There are walks which the plow can not clear, such as those higher than the road, and those that are not wide enough to use a vehicle on. Purchasing a piece of equipment to do the job and the possibility of having an ordinance requiring property owners maintain the walk abutting their property are two areas to be researched.

Bob is plowing the Sewer & water Dept. as agreed by the BOS. Selectmen asked the condition of the highway vehicles. The 10 year old vehicle should be replaced this year. Bob has three quotes for a 1/2 ton truck and expects to get another quote shortly.

new sander would cost about \$10,000. The back hoe is 20 year old. Bob is having no problems with the 12 yr. old Ford Truck.

The need for overtime hours was discussed. The only way Bob could justify cutting the amount of overtime in the budget was if he knew there would be no severe snow or ice conditions to deal with during the winter. Bob does not call his men out any more than necessary. If he can do the job himself he does. A few weeks ago when the temperature dipped and there was a light rain, he was out checking conditions at 2:30 AM. In one area where the road had iced his truck went out of control and he nearly lost it. He returned to the barn, picked up the sander and sanded the roads without calling out his men. After a snow storm, once the plowing is accomplished, the men must check out the vehicles and do any needed repairs in order for the trucks to be ready for the next storm. Bob pointed out during the winter, his men keep watch of weather conditions and have always made themselves available when a storm threatens. He voiced his appreciation for the dedication of his crew.

Selectmen agreed to take the credit on next years Workers Comp. premium.

Mike moved to approve the assessment on the Crowell property. Second Dave. All in favor.

The office will be closed on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. Meeting adjourned 9:25 ems