

Minutes of Selectmens Meeting  
October 6, 1997

Selectmen Present: Peter Moore and Philip Dwight.  
Also present was Mr. Forster.

The meeting opened at 6 P.M.

Mr. Forster presented his view that the trees on the east side of Old Turnpike Road, opposite his house, have been killed by the use of road salt. The Board indicated that they had been provided with information that the death of these trees has been caused by many factors, chief among which was age and excessive tapping. No agreement was reached. Mr. Forster also presented his view that remediation was needed for the health of the other trees in the area. No decision was reached in this area.

However, the Town offered to have the dead trees cut down. Mr. Forster agreed to this and agreed that the trees could be laid down the bank. The number of trees to be cut will be agreed upon in the very near future.

The Board signed and/or approved the following:

- Payment plans for 1994 taxes due were approved for the following property owners: Jennisen, Enman, Zachos and Mattil. Phil will follow up with the four property owners who have yet to make arrangements for payment prior to the tax deed sale.
- An intent to cut was signed for Meadowsend Timberlands Inc.
- A Yield Tax was signed for Shea.
- Minutes of the Sept 22nd meeting
- Abatements for Wallace & Williams
- Elderly Exemption for Bradbury
- Health Trust Authorization - forms which authorize the Town to join the NHMA Health Trust.

Phil reported on the two proposals for the 1997 Audit with the advantages and disadvantages of each. There will be further discussion at the next meeting about which to accept.

The estimate to provide heat in the Recycling Center was discussed. Phil was asked to obtain alternative solutions due to the high cost.

The Board was in general agreement that they should be represented in whatever action might occur in a potential Electric Utility tax abatement case. Phil was asked to convey this information to Town Counsel, but to point out that no specific monetary amount was being authorized.

The notification relative to rate increases for Health Insurance was reviewed, especially the 45% increase in the Point of Service Plan.

The 1997 Tax Rate was reviewed - down 1.4% to \$32.61.

The Board accepted with regret the resignation of James Dennison as a Trustee of the Trust Funds and a letter of thanks for service to the Town will be sent.

The letter about the drainage problem at the Bennington Landfill site was noted as was the letter relative to the possible septic failure.

Phil reported that the Salary survey of Police and Highway Departments was in process.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Philip T. Dwight.