

Minutes of the Selectmens Meeting
December 22, 1997

Selectmen Present: Peter Moore, Carol Smith and Philip Dwight.
Also present was Bob Varnum.

The meeting opened at 6:00 P.M. with a discussion of several budget items with Bob Varnum.

1.) Road Salt: The use of salt was discussed at length, with Bob explaining the many variables that he felt determined how much and when it needed to be used. Peter and Carol indicated that they had been contacted by several residents expressing concern on the residue of salt left, especially at intersections. Bob explained the problem as occurring because the sander engine is not controllable from the cab. He indicated that for \$1,500 each, two of the trucks could be equipped so that the salt/sand conveyor would be controlled by the truck engine - so that as the speed of the truck slowed the salt conveyor would also slow. After discussion the Board voted that such equipment be installed on the two trucks immediately. Bob will contact Howard Fairfield Inc. to do this as soon as possible. Bob also indicated he will try to use sand and a sand/or salt mixture as often as possible. Peter and Carol indicated that they felt that the salt budget for 1998 should be cut by \$10,000 and the sand budget increased by \$5,000. Later in the meeting this was adopted by a 2 to 1 vote.

2.) Road Improvement: After discussion it was voted to leave the Road Improvement budget at \$150,000 with the following projects to be completed - Gregg Lake Road (Holt Hill Road to Brimstone Corner Road); Elm Avenue, North Branch River to Smith Road and the overlay of Pleasant Street (new section). It was noted that this still left the balance of Elm Avenue, Old Pound Road, Pierce Lake Road and Old Hancock Road to do in the future, as well as overlays as needed.

3.) Sidewalks at School, Summer and West Street: Bob indicated he will do his best to keep these areas cleared, but it might not be possible during a storm or even right afterwards. He would clear them as soon as possible.

4.) The three bids for the new one-ton truck were reviewed and it was agreed that \$35,000 would be included in the Warrant Article for its purchase.

The following were approved and/or signed:

- Minutes of the December 15th meeting
- Yield tax warrants for Thomas and Cloutier
- Land Release Tax for Spaulding
- Current Use Application for Else
- Highway Safety Grant - Video system
- D.E.S. Sewer Annual Grant
- Intent to Cut for Martin
- The invoice for the installation of the heating unit at

- The invoice for the installation of the heating unit at A.R.T.S. was approved.

Peter agreed to review the Pooled Energy proposal from NHMA. In general the Board felt it was a program that would be beneficial to the Town.

The Board tentatively agreed not to join in the Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Hancock. Phil will get additional information and a final determination will be reached at a later date.

Phil pointed out that a Planning Board Public Hearing will be held on January 12th after the Budget Information Meeting to discuss the proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, relative to Home Based Businesses.

It was agreed that the application for a used oil collection grant will be worked on later in 1998.

The Board reviewed the abatement application from Sophie G. Dadiotes re: Map 1A Lot 54 After discussion the application was denied as the lot was assessed in keeping with other empty lots in the area.

It was agreed that Town Hall and other departments would close at noon on December 31st. A.R.T.S. would not open that day.

The tentative budget was reviewed and the following changes made in addition to the Highway changes noted above.

Legal expense reduced to \$5,000.

\$1,400 added for two new radios for the Police Department.

\$2,500 for Project Lift removed.

Fire Department new equipment reduced \$5,900 to \$12,500;

\$11,300 for Scott Air Packs and \$1,200 for hose. \$4,150 for a portable pump was to be put in as a warrant article.

The revaluation warrant was increased to \$15,000.

Non money warrants discussed were giving up part of Hattie Brown Road and the possibility of selling the parking lot between the Antrim Village Store and the Video Store.

Other warrants may include something from the Library and the Aiken Feasibility Committee.

The Board voted to carry over the unspent funds in the Bandstand Fund, the Memorial Park Warrant, the Conservation Account and all accounts for construction of the new Gregg Lake Road Bridge.

The Board will not meet on December 29th. The next meeting will be January 6th.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.