

Board of Selectmen
April 26, 2007

Present: Kenneth F. Troup
Panny Gerken
Curt Plante

The Board of Selectmen met at the Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. Present: Advisory Committee members David Lindsay and Andrew Burnett and Police Chief Alfano.

WARRANT

#7-22	\$ 88,896.21
#7-22a	\$225,889.76

SNOWPLOWING, RECENT SNOWSTORMS AND MAIL BOXES

Snowstorm Policy: The Board of Selectmen received a copy of the old and new snowplowing policy and operations. The new policy provides more clarification: Step #1 is the same but explains more precisely. Step #2 states that with the present work force and equipment, the department will generally remove snow that is falling at a rate of $\frac{3}{4}$ " per hour or less. Step #3 states that if the storm ends during the evening hours or over the weekend the roads will be open but not widening driveways until Monday. Mr. Brown stated that sometimes the top of the residents' driveways are cleared and the truck must enter the driveway to then clear the snow. Mr. Plante applauded the efforts of the DPW to widen people's driveways but does not feel the town should be doing this. His opinion is that it is too high risk for the town, we are opening ourselves up to liability issues and having to go back to fix stonewalls, planters, mail boxes, etc. Plus we don't have the time or manpower. Mr. Burnett stated his only concern is that the snow gets pushed back enough so that he could receive his mail. Mr. Burnett's mail box is right at the edge of the road. Mr. Brown stated for the most part Main Street is plowed to the edge. On a motion made by Plante and seconded by Troup, the Board of Selectmen voted to stop the practice of cleaning out driveways. (Troup – yes, Gerken – no, Plante – yes)

Mr. Plante suggested that Mr. Brown stagger his work force on larger storm events. Mr. Brown says they do stagger the workforce now, and explained the sanders go out and then plow trucks are called in 1 to 2 hours into route of the sanders. Mr. Plante stated he also noticed that with 2 to 3 storm events Mr. Brown had a limited crew in for 3 to 4 hours to plow the entire town but other times for the same storm event brought in all vehicles. Mr. Brown stated that storms during the week are a worry to him because of the buses traveling on town roads. Mr. Brown stated there is no communication between the DPW and Superintendent Wood regarding delayed starts or school cancellations. Ms. Ross agreed to contact Superintendent Wood to see if he would be willing to communicate with Mr. Brown when he decides to delay or cancel school due to the weather.

The Board of Selectmen recommended that going forward Mr. Brown be sure that the Police Department parking lot is plowed out immediately. Mr. Brown stated that the last snowstorm the truck assigned to the center of town was not running. Mr. Brown and Chief Alfano discussed this matter and the situation has been resolved going forward.

The police officer on duty will contact the DPW to come in for any spot sanding that is necessary.

Mr. Troup wanted to be sure if he voted the new policy he was not endorsing the town's response to the most recent snowstorm. Mr. Brown stated that they did work under the new and it was a judgment call he made at the time.

Mr. Brown will revise the policy and send back to the Board for their review and approval.

Mailboxes: Ms. Ross recommended that the DPW be responsible for fixing mailboxes when they are damaged by the snowplows during a snowstorm. A recommendation was made to have the EMT's drive around town checking the mailboxes to determine if they are in compliance with the U.S. Postal Service at the same time they are checking to be sure residents are in compliance with house numbering requirements. If mailboxes are on file as being in compliance and they are then hit by snowplows during a storm the town should be responsible for fixing if they are hit. Ms. Gerken questioned whether it is the plow or the snow damaging the mail box. Ms. Gerken felt that if this policy of fixing the mailboxes was adopted the drivers were then going to plow another foot out. Mr. Plante's opinion was that most people put mailboxes too close to the road and don't properly secure or maintain them. It is his opinion that it is not the plow but the snow that hits them and did not think we should be fixing mailboxes. Ms. Ross recommended that if the Board does not want to fix mailboxes it should be made very clear and incorporated into the snow plow policy to read "The Town is not responsible for mailboxes knocked down during snowstorms."

Salt: Mr. Brown stated that the salt mizers are helping out a lot and salt use has been cut in half. Ms. Ross stated she would not recommend cutting back on Route 117 but would like to try to cut back salt use on the secondary roads. The Board of Selectmen was asked if they would support the purchase of 300 tons of salt to start the year. Mr. Brown stated that the price of salt is going up, from \$37 per ton in 2002 to \$42 per ton in 2002 and \$52 per ton now. Mr. Brown discussed using liquid calcium which is much more expensive but friendly to the environment. One truck is set up for this.

On a motion made by Gerken and seconded by Plante, the Board of Selectmen voted to approve purchase of 300 tons of salt. (Troup – yes, Gerken – yes, Plante – yes)

Drainage: Mr. Brown provided the Board with a list of drainage repairs for 2007.

Significant areas are Golden Run Road and Vaughn Hill Road. Ms. Ross asked what the Board would like to have done if anything with remaining funds on these two roads. Mr. Plante stated it was premature to spend any money on engineering until we had resident cooperation on both of these roads. Mr. Plante felt we should go ahead with the Golden Run Road berm but he stated it would not prevent an event like in the last two weeks. Selectmen recommended a neighborhood site visit be scheduled so that the berm approach could be explained and discussion could take place about other possible

solutions. Mr. Brown, DPW Director, Ms. Gumbart, Conservation Commission administrator, landowners, and New England Power will be invited to the site visit.

Mr. Brown reviewed his plans on doing drainage work in various areas of town during the summer of 2007. Mr. Brown would like to remove the sand berm along the roadside on Main Street from Forbush Mill Road to the Center to Town. He would also like to replace the culvert on Spectacle Hill Road. He said this could get expensive because of the need for a special culvert for endangered species. Mr. Brown will talk with Town Planner Nat Tipton to see if this is something the developer would be willing to take care of. He will also check on cost estimates for steel plates.

BONAZZOLI PROPERTY

Mr. Bonazzoli was present for this meeting. Mr. Plante recused himself from this discussion. Ms. Ross stated that Historical Commission was interested in the land but was not willing to fund to have the title cleared and the soil testing. Mr. Troup stated that based on research and interest, he thought the Town should accept the gift of land. The cost to do the soil testing would be from \$1,500 to \$3,000. Mr. Bonazzoli agreed to clear the title. The Board of Selectmen agreed to go ahead with the soil testing. The Board of Selectmen deferred their vote until the title was cleared and the testing was completed.

KEARNS

Mr. Kearns met with the Board of Selectmen to request permission to display a sign on his property advertising Kearns Automotive. Mr. Kearns stated that the State of Massachusetts requires a sign on the premises in order to receive his dealers plate related to his Class II license. He also requested the license be issued to Thomas Kearns, Kearns Automotive (dba). Mr. Kearns stated that if his business grows he will move it out of Bolton. On a motion made by Gerken and seconded by Troup, the Board of Selectmen voted to approve Mr. Kearns' request to modify the Class II license to be issued to Thomas Kearns, Kearns Automotive (dba) and to allow for one sign on the property, not to exceed 12 inches by 12 inches". (Troup – yes, Gerken – yes, Plante – yes)

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Steven Agretelis of Troop 1 met with the Board of Selectmen to request permission to build dugouts on the softball field at Memorial Field. Mr. Agretelis provided the Board of Selectmen with pictures of various dugouts at other schools in the area. The dugouts will be 20 feet long by 6 feet wide with a sloped roof. The softball league is willing to pay for most of the estimated costs and the remainder will be through donations.

The Board of Selectmen received a letter from Building Inspector Frank Krysa stating that a permit be pulled by a person with a construction supervisor's license; that no one under the age of 18 be allowed to use any power tools and that the town receive some sort of indemnification should anyone working on the project be hurt.

Mr. Agretelis stated that when the dugouts are being constructed there will always be a licensed carpenter present along with other adults, and they will not be handling power tools.

On a motion made by Gerken and seconded by Plante, the Board of Selectmen approved the request contingent upon approval from the Parks/Recreation, Conservation Commission and Building Inspector.

LAUREN PARENTE

Ms. Parente met with the Board of Selectmen to continue discussions regarding her request for permission to use the horse show ring for a benefit horse show. All proceeds will benefit the Luekemia Lymphoma Society. Ms. Parente informed the Board of Selectmen she would secure a \$1 million insurance certificate. Ms. Parente confirmed that all participants will sign a liability waiver as well. She also spoke with the owner/landscaper of Time In A Garden who is willing to fix any damage done to the property. Ms. Parente proposed installing temporary plastic fencing in the area where the existing fencing is coming down. She will move any broken fencing out of the way. The entry point for the benefit would be through the Flatley driveway and Mr. Troup agreed that the special permit signed in 1986 allowed the town to access the land on the weekends. Mr. Brown will send a crew to remove a tree that has fallen in the area of the horse show ring. On a motion made by Gerken and seconded by Plante, the Board of Selectmen voted to approve the request of Ms. Parente to hold the horse show benefit on the horse show ring. (Troup – yes, Gerken – yes, Plante – yes)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Adopt Designer Selection Procedures: On a motion made by Gerken and seconded by Troup, the Board of Selectmen voted to approve the Designer Selection Procedures with minor revisions being made. (Troup – yes, Gerken – yes, Plante – yes)

Sweeper: Ms. Ross reported that the sweepers will be operating the middle of the week overnight to clean the streets. Mr. Burnett asked if they would be doing sidewalks. Sidewalks are done by the DPW and should be done before the sweeper.

Kid Care Fair: Ms. Ross informed the Board of Selectmen of the Kid Care fair to be held on Saturday, April 28 at Emerson School.

Tree replacement: Ms. Ross reported that as part of the tree replacement program trees will be planted at 676 Main Street, 708 Main Street and 713 Main Street. Ms. Remington should be contacted regarding any input on the types of trees. Ms. Ross agreed to check with Ms. Remington to be sure the owners of these properties have approved the location.

256 Green Road: Mr. Plante recused himself from this discussion. Ms. Ross informed the Board of Selectmen that Mr. Turner has requested a 2 week extension to his order issued February 2, 2007 that required Mr. Turner to demolish, dispose of materials, and backfill the cellar opening at 256 Green Road by May 1, 2007. On a motion made by Gerken and seconded by Troup, the Board of Selectmen approved an extension until May 15, 2007. Mr. Turner will be required to contact the Building Inspector Frank Krysa to conduct a site inspection of the property, for the purpose of checking the work in progress, no later than May 1, 2007. The five foot chain link fence with locked gate will

remain in place until the project is complete including the removal of all debris from the property and all original requirements are completed no later than May 15, 2007.

Massachusetts General Law Books: Ms. Ross asked the Board of Selectmen if they wanted to continue to receive the Massachusetts General Law books. She stated it is costing the town approximately \$1,000 per year to keep them up to date. Most people access the Mass General Laws online. The Police Department also has a copy. Mr. Plante asked if it is a requirement that the town have a copy on file. Mr. Troup suggested that the books be moved to the new library to be accessible for the public. Mr. Troup also questioned whether the case law and footnotes could be viewed online as he found this information quite interesting and helpful. Ms. Ross will find out who uses the books and what other towns do.

RFP for insurance coverage: The Board agreed that Ms. Ross should go out for an RFP for insurance coverage.

Adjudicatory hearing: Ms. Ross provided the Board of Selectmen with the definition of adjudicatory hearing from the Black's Law Dictionary.

APPOINTMENT

On a motion made by Gerken and seconded by Plante, the Board of Selectmen voted to appoint Jane Moosbruker to the Personnel Committee, term expiration June 30, 2008.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.