

Mountain Road Reconstruction Project Bond Hearing

February 10, 2016

Minutes

FINAL

Members Present: Chairman Fred Douglas, Selectman Lee Mayhew and Selectman Mark Schultz

Staff Present: Town Administrator Russ Boland and Kent Perry as well as Kevin Leonard from Northpoint Engineering were available to provide information and answer questions.

Public Present: About 20 residents attended the meeting which was held in the Citizens' Hall auditorium which included Andy Roper, Scott Roeper, Karen Grybko, Sandy Schoen, Walter Holland, Leo Trudeau, Wally Holt, Nancy Rose, Ron Curran, Mark Chamberlin, Bob Howe, Burton Reynolds and others.

Media Present: Jessie Salisbury and Ashley Saari

Recorder: Kathleen Humphreys

Selectman Mayhew opened the Bond Hearing at 6:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Douglas arrived at 6:33pm and assumed chairmanship.

Selectman Mayhew described the bond hearing and gave an over-view of the bond to be considered.

Leo Trudeau asked the timeframe of the project. Selectman Mayhew explained the project will start as soon as school ends and should be finished by the time school resumes on Aug. 28, 2016. The proposed start date is June 4, 2016. The pipe and earth portion should be completed by Aug. 11, 2016 with a 15-day paving window after that. Some punch-list items may need to be completed after school starts.

Andy Roper asked about a staging area for equipment. Kevin Leonard stated that Bill Welch has given permission to use his field which is located at the beginning of the project across from Badger Pond.

Kevin Leonard explained the earth work will be a full-depth project. Test pits indicated the earth is not suitable for roads therefore they will cut the grade of the road down, bring in proper fill and put proper road surface down. Culverts, drainage and underdrainage will be added in certain areas. GeoTech fabric will be used where appropriate.

Prior to tonight, three public meetings were held during the Selectmen's meetings in which local residents near Mountain Road were invited to attend. The audience was reminded that at Town Meeting 2015, residents voted for the Mountain Road Engineering Study, which has been completed. The Selectmen are proposing this bond which covers the full-project while residents will have the opportunity to vote on it at Town Meeting 2016.

The Board recommends, at this time, going with the 15-year bond.

Andy Roper asked if there was a contingency plan if a bad solution was discovered. Mr. Leonard said there is not a contingency plan in place but the budget does provide for some contingency with ledge.

A scenario for the funds includes using \$52,000 from the Capital Improvement Plan; \$50,000 in Highway Block Grant was discussed. The Paving Budget is \$115,000. Most of the funds, except the CIP are funds that will be reallocated. The Block Grant money received from the state is expected to increase each year.

Mr. Roper asked about other roads in town that might need work and was told there will be some overlays and other than Center Road, not much work is needed at this time.

The conversation turned to when might the State work on Center Road. The State portion is from Perham Corner to Milford and Rt. 31 to Center Hall. Chairman Douglas said he does not have an answer even though the Board has communicated with our State Senator and Representative.

Town Administrator Russ Boland estimated the tax impact will be 31.8 cents per thousand. What will be constant is the \$52,000 from the CIP and \$50,000 from the Highway Block Grant which are not from local taxes. The remaining money needed to pay the bond would come from reallocating money from other line items in the budget such as paving. For a \$200,000 home the tax impact will be 66 dollars and expected to cost less the following year.

It was noted that the Federal Government issued a statement that now is the time for municipalities to consider doing any highway projects because the expected cost of asphalt and fuel are the lowest cost in the past 10-years and we are in a favorable interest rate environment.

Resident Leo Trudeau applauded the efforts of the Selectmen and everyone who worked on the proposal and supports the project. He said it's the voters turn to make a decision.

Wally Holt asked about salt damage to Badger Pond. Chairman Douglas provided the history. Former landowner Louise Joslin received a letter from DES informing her that the filtration of

salt in Badger Pond was above the recommended level which caused the overgrowth of weeds. The Board of Selectmen in 2000 asked the Highway Department to limit road salt use in that area. Leo Trudeau added that nutrient from the abutting hayfield is 60% nitrogen and will cause additional weed growth. He also noted the calcium is high and determined the problems in Badger Pond are not only from road salt. Chairman Douglas added that about five-years ago cow manure and fertilizers were limited in their usage around body of waters.

A resident who lives at 378 Mountain Road asked about the ledges near Hunter's Cot which he felt is dangerous. Kevin Leonard explained the town actually owns 10 additional feet because a rock wall was incorrectly erected which will allow them to shift the road and will pick-up the elevation. Drainage will be improved. An 18-inch catch basins with a ditch and grid will be installed and the road will have a crown. The test pits indicate the ledge is "pickable".

There will be a presentation at Town Meeting about the project.

VOTE: Selectman Mayhew made a motion, Selectman Schultz seconded, to place on the warrant a bond for \$1,667,354.65 for the Mountain Road Reconstruction Project. Motion passed 3-0.

VOTE: Selectman Mayhew moved, Selectman Schultz seconded, to close the bond hearing at 7:07pm. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Transcriber Kathleen Humphreys

Fred Douglas
Chairman

Selectman Lee Mayhew

Selectman Mark Schultz

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN ON FEBRUARY 17, 2016