



Office of the
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
272 Main Street
Townsend, Massachusetts 01469

Sue Lisio, *Chairman*
Andrew J. Sheehan,
Town Administrator

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SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 17, 2013 - 7:00 P.M.
SELECTMEN'S MEETING CHAMBERS

The Board of Selectmen joint meeting with the Finance Committee and Capital Planning Committee and Highway Superintendent Ed Kukkula. The Board and Committees called their meetings to order at 7:06PM and roll call showed the following present:

- Sue Lisio (SL), Board of Selectmen
 - Robert Plamondon (RP), Board of Selectmen
 - Colin McNabb (CM), Board of Selectmen and Capital Planning
 - Roger Rapoza (RR), Capital Planning
 - Carolyn Smart (CS), Capital Planning and Finance Committee
 - Lorna Fred (LF), Capital Planning
 - Sam Grant (SG), Finance Committee
 - Andrea Wood (AW), Finance Committee
 - Nancy Rapoza (NR), Finance Committee
 - Rick Oakley (RO), Capital Planning
 - Andrew Sheehan (AS), Town Administrator
 - Ed Kukkula (EK), Highway Department
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- EK contacted 30-40 communities. Of those, 12-15 responded with an overwhelming majority recommending starting with a pavement management program.
 - NR recommended more funding for the Highway Department and asked for creative solutions.
 - RP asked what criteria are used to determine which roads get worked on. EK replied that it boils down to the condition and amount of traffic on the road.
 - CM asked about the cost of hiring a consultant to prepare a pavement management program. AS and EK estimated \$25,000-\$40,000.
 - LF noted that the program given as an example received 65% of their funding from Chapter 90 funds and the remainder was local. She suggested committing local funds on a matching basis in order to get started.
 - SL said many communities match Chapter 90 funds. She recommended creating a base plan with a goal using an acceptable ratio of "bad" roads.
 - CS mentioned that Capital Planning has received requests from the Highway Department every year. If roads are a priority, money needs to be put in their budget. Committing \$200,000 for road improvements means something else would need to be cut.
 - RP believes a debt exclusion would be better received than an override.

- AW recommended looking at other options since the school and fire station are also on the horizon.
- AS suggested funding a pavement management plan through free cash at town meeting or with remaining Chapter 90 funds.
- CS prefers the Chapter 90 option and using free cash to fund road repairs and also bundle the worst roads as one entity for a debt exclusion or override.
- EK estimates it would cost approximately \$3 million to repair the 10 worst roads in town.
- SL recommends putting money into the highway budget annually.
- RP prefers the debt exclusion as a way to show people what they are getting for their money.
- SL would like to use the Chapter 90 money to fund the consultants.
- RP wanted clarification on what they can do that EK can't. AS said a consultant offers manpower, expertise, and software that the department doesn't possess. EK said the information they provide is far more detailed with estimated timelines of what needs to be done when. It's the whole package.
- NR believes EK knows what roads need to be done. She would have a hard time agreeing to spend funds on a consultant when it could be spent on the roads. Realistically, we can start with the top 5 or 10 roads.
- AS suggested getting pricing and a time frame for a pavement management plan.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM