

Selectboard members present: Peter Marsh, Susan Jefferies (Chair)

Others present: Tom Estey, John Jefferies, Kerry Kurt, Aaron Guyette (VHB Eng.), Eric Clifford, Dennis Casey, Bill and Celine Coon , David Wetmore.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

**Minutes:** P. Marsh moved to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2015 meeting. S. Jefferies seconded. Voted and approved.

**Bills:** S. Jefferies moved to instruct the Treasurer to pay the bills as presented. P. Marsh seconded. Voted and approved.

**Mail:** The certificate of highway mileage for RT 116, Class 2 & 3 roads (44.459 miles) was approved by the board.

**Road Foreman report:** T. Estey report that the hydraulic pump failed on the one-ton truck and is being replaced.

He also reported on the Ben Roberts Road culvert project. The existing culvert is about 80” long and over 20’ below the existing road surface. It has failed and a temporary bridge has been installed. The project involves the installation of a box culvert or open bottom arch. Bids were opened for the project design work with Otter Creek Engineering submitting a bid of \$26,500 ;and VHB Engineering a bid of \$78,506.56. The Board and Foreman will review the bids.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Town Garage Construction Update:** T. Estey reviewed the status of the town garage construction. Everything is on schedule and on budget. The roof decking should be on site around Jan. 13. Electric power will be installed around the end of next week.

**Proposed land sale:** The Select Board has received a petition with sufficient voter signatures asking for a public vote on the proposed sale of land that is part of the gravel pit parcel north of town. The Select Board will warn the vote as part of the Town Meeting warning.

Visitors to the meeting said that they had heard little about the proposed sale of Town land. The Select Board explained the background of the proposal, the nine years or so of discussions with the adjoining land owner, the limitations on future development of the land and other factors which made the sale a reasonable option for the Town to consider.

**Budgets:** S. Jefferies reviewed the budget noting that significant changes include the initial payment on the Town Garage financing, the depletion of the Emergency Reserve fund and the likelihood of no budget surplus carried forward, and the Town’s \$20,000 share of the VTRANS paving grant, if received by the Town.

D. Wetmore reported that the Town did not receive a Planning Grant this year. The Planning Board is finishing the Zoning Bylaws and will need to consider changes to the Town Plan which expires in October of this year. He explained his requests for budget funding for consultant assistance, parcel map updating and related needs.

Town Treasurer C. Coon recommended that the Town continue having an annual outside audit. Audits are usually required for issuance of bonds as may be needed when purchasing future capital equipment such as a fire truck.

**New Business:** S. Jefferies reported that the Board is considering warning for Town Meeting changing the membership of the Board to five Selectmen. She also reported that Dan Dubenetsky has said that the School Meeting portion of the annual Town Meeting be warned for a specific time.

P. Marsh reported that the installers of the heat pumps in Town buildings recommended that they be protected from ice fall by pent roofs. He will see about having them installed.

**Agenda Items for Next Meeting:**

- Garage Construction Update  
Land sale status  
Budget and Town Report

The next meeting will be January 19<sup>th</sup>.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peter Marsh