

Town of Chesterfield Board of Selectmen

MINUTES September 4, 2008

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Dan Cotter called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Others in attendance were Board member Bob Brockmann and Administrator Rick Carrier. Jon McKeon was absent.

Appointments

➤ 6:30 John Wheeler

Wheeler from 54 North Shore Rd opposite Wildwood Rd expressed his concern with the water damage caused by the runoff from Wildwood. It is damaging the asphalt on North Shore Rd and undermining his driveway. He presented pictures of the area. He made several suggestions to include cleaning the ditches along Wildwood ditching bucket depth and putting in riprap and gravel as well as building berms each side of his driveway to divert water to graveled areas. Wheeler advised this would contribute less salt into the lake by allowing the use of less salt, safer travel (reduce ice) and preserve trees.

Brockmann advised he had visited the site after the first letter was received. He noted that a new septic had been installed and asked if this diverted water. A water bar had been suggested to mitigate the problem.

Bevis advised that the ditch line must daylight or it would still run over the road. He stated they could clear the ditch line and the "get away". He stated that because there is no crown in the road the run off won't run to the ditch lines so ditch lines won't help without a crown. Bevis advised there is a plan to redesign the drainage in that area of North Shore Rd. He stated that perhaps in the spring they could try to do a crown on Wildwood. It is not a difficult job but there are no funds to do it. He stated he would like to alleviate this in small steps and not to swap issues with another area.

Cotter advised we should repair what is there. Bevis stated he would take care of it.

➤ 7:00 Bart Bevis

Bevis and David Mann were in to discuss the ROW for Merrifield and Hulslander roads.

- Merrifield Rd – Mann presented a conceptual plan for a turn around. This would be a 20 x 30 ft gravel turnaround to include a sloped area to blend into the field and make mowing possible. Bevis stated he has both the fill and gravel to do the job. The Hauerts will need to be approached. Bevis asked that the Board expedite this process so that the work could be done in time for plowing. Carrier will try to have the Hauerts in at next week's meeting and asked Mann for an estimated cost of engineering. Mann stated that most of the work has been done and could be finished in an hour or two. Bevis stated he has the funds in his engineering budget to cover.

Mann suggested that language be put into the agreement noting the turnaround would not be used by the Hauerts during the winter. Slope and construction

easements would be needed. It was noted that Chamberlain Way has a similar design.

- Hulslander Rd – Mann advised that monuments will be placed for the town ROW. There is a ROW by prescription but Bevis thought that giving up some of the prescription area would be fair. It was noted that this is a class V road from the intersection to the French's driveway. Beyond that it is unclear.

Bevis advised that Mark Gilmore had located a spot for a pole for the siren at the Highway garage.

Bevis asked the Board's thought on short term projection of cost of gasoline/diesel. Cotter stated he thought the prices will continue to decline until October.

➤ 8:00 John Zannotti

Zannotti and Van Houten were present to discuss the septic system at Wares Grove. Zannotti revisited Selectmen minutes with regard to budgets noting that the P&R budget should be heading to revenue neutral. With suggestions from the Select Board and Budget Committee, the P&R Committee increased fees to go toward revenue neutral.

Zannotti sees the septic system as part of the Town's infrastructure and not a P&R issue. Steve Pro had surveyed the system and it is failing. Zannotti sees this as an urgent situation and we should not delay. He recommends emergency funds be found to take care of it now to protect the environment. Zannotti had pictures of the area. He advised there are 3 holding tanks and a pumping station by the recreation building. The leach field is not functioning as it should and a failing system contributes sewage to the surface. Brockmann stated the budget is up on spending and there are no funds. He suggests that the design phase be done this year and budget replacement next year. Cotter stated that if the P&R Commission has concerns with the environment, close the beach. It was noted that the season has ended, however the beach is still open on weekends when the weather is good. Zannotti stated there are 3 or 4 residents in the cottage and if the field is in failure during the winter it would still go into the lake.

Cotter asked if the valve is shut off at the pumping station as noted by Zannotti, where is the sewage from the cottage going. Is there a second pumping station? It was noted that a warrant article be put in for Town Meeting. Zannotti is concerned that this may be too late to get the work done before the opening of the beach. Cotter asked if Pro could write an RFQ to put the job out to bid for installation. He stated that it could be done by mid May if contractors were available. Cotter will speak with Pro. Carrier asked if the P&R Comm. would agree to have the design done now instead of putting it all in a Warrant Article with the installation. Zannotti stated he is in support of getting the entire project done now but would settle for the design as long as it did not come out of the P&R budget. He would like it done in a Capital Reserve Fund and not in the operating budget. Using unreserved fund balance was discussed and how to get them. Carrier advised that in order to get emergency funding would require a letter to the Budget Committee and one to DRA but advised DRA would not take a request for \$2,000 seriously.

Zannotti will have Metivier contact Bassler regarding the valve. He asked that if Pro says it would take longer than 8 weeks he would like to meet with the Board again.

- 8:30 Lester Fairbanks Non public RSA 91-A:3 II (b)

Cotter moved to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (b). Brockmann seconded the motion, which carried.

Cotter moved to adjourn from nonpublic session. Brockmann seconded the motion, which carried.

Cotter moved to offer Mario Checchi a conditional offer of employment. Brockmann seconded the motion, which carried.

A copy of the Budget Comm letter was given to Fairbanks. He will have his budget plus warrant articles and the Animal Control budget to the Board by October 1st.

Fairbanks advised that Chickering had in the past presented a noise ordinance. He advised that it is tough to write an ordinance protecting one's right to use his own property at a reasonable time as well as protect neighbors. Most people can come to a reasonable compromise. An ordinance would give specific guidelines that are now only subjective. Cotter asked for a copy of the State law.

Fairbanks was asked about the brakes on the now town car. He will get the information as to when they were done.

Mountain Rd – There has been an officer in Hunter's driveway and there isn't a lot of traffic.

TO/PD parking lot lights – Fairbanks advised that the back parking lot lights and those on the building are on 24/7 with sensors. The timer is for 3 zones and could be changed. Zone 1 is for the building only, Zone 2 for the parking lot and Zone 3 for the school parking. Carrier will also ask Greenwood about the old Town office building exterior lights.

For Signature

- Manifest #36
- Selectmen minutes – Aug 21st
- Forest Fire bill
- Cemetery deeds (2) – Wright & Solomon
- Clarkdale Assoc. correspondence
- Limberger correspondence
- Elderly exemption correspondence
- Raffle permit – FOCS & Benefit raffle
- Intents to cut (2) – Seamans & Zinn
- Yield tax certifications (2)
- Yield tax warrant
- Payroll change notices (2) - cemetery

For Discussion

➤ Town car

When the work on the town car was done, it was discovered that the front brakes need replacing. Greenwood has contacted 3 shops and custom Driveshaft's quote of \$172 was the lowest. The Board agreed to proceed after the last brake job information is received from Fairbanks.

➤ 2008 Budgets

- Budget Committee letter – The Board reviewed the letter from the Budget Committee (BC) advising they would like all budgets to them by October 7th. Their first meeting is October 21st. Carrier advised it would be difficult to get all departments to the Select Board before going to BC. Brockmann stated the timing of the letter is late and they have had 3 months to deliberate. The Board decided to get the Budgets to the BC as soon as available once the Select Board has reviewed them. It was noted that the fuel cost is needed for the departments to complete their budgets. The Board will have as many budgets as possible for the October 7th date. It was noted by the Board that to rush the departments through the budget process would be counterproductive to what the BC is trying to achieve. Dan will respond to the Budget Committee. A copy of the BC letter will be given to department heads.
- Fuel – The Board will use \$4/gallon at this time. It can be changed closer to Budget time with a more up to date cost.
- COLA – The CPI index rate is 5.7%. Historically this index has been used and was noted at the last meeting. The Board discussed tax implications. Cotter stated the COLA should not be looked at in relation to the budget and should not be a percentage of pay rate. The Board decided to table this discussion until a full Board was present.
- Trustees of Trust Funds correspondence – The Board reviewed Perham's request and graph. The Board asked how many hours does her job take. Brockmann would like to find out more about the scope of the job. Is there a job description? Carrier advised only what is provided for by statute. The Board would like some account of actual time spent on specific duties and hours to accomplish those duties in writing from Perham.

➤ Estimated revenues – 2008

Carrier presented an estimate of revenues report comparing revenues through July 2007 with revenues through July 2008 and past experience. These numbers can and will be amended up to and including the tax rate setting. \$100,000 has been used from Fund Balance to reduce taxes and in addition he had requested \$30,000 overlay used to compensate for abatements. The Board will review the report.

➤ Selectmen's meeting schedule

The Board has agreed to change their meeting night to Wednesdays as the Conservation Commission was willing to meet at an alternative site. This schedule will start October 2nd.

➤ Tax map lot merger

Lyle Hoag brought in a copy of his deed noting that the Planning Board has required that the lots be combined and taxed as one building lot based on a Planning Board decision from 1982.

The Board reviewed the deed and the Planning Board plat from 1982. Each document proves this is to be one lot. The Board agreed.

➤ Revaluation follow-up

The Board reviewed letters received from 3 tax payers. The Board discussed the implications of delaying the finalization of the assessing. Cotter expressed his concern that taxpayers were not given sufficient opportunity with the assessors with notice of 2 weeks mid-summer. Carrier advised that tax payers still have the opportunity to file abatement. Would it be a prudent use of the Town's resources to delay setting the tax rate? Looking long term, this would have financial consequences. Cotter would like some consideration be given the next revaluation in regard to time given to the taxpayers.

The Board will have an informational meeting with taxpayers, DRA and the assessors as soon as the information is completed. This will be posted on the web and at regular posting locations. DRA has also offered a tax payer institute to educate tax payers. This will be brought up at the informational meeting. The meeting will not be discussing individual properties.

➤ TO/PD final requisition

Carrier had sent out the final requisition to the Board and anticipates sending Wesfield a check as soon as he receives the signed version from the architect. Regarding the Carter not getting paid, Harrington hasn't received his retainage and neither have the sub-contractors. The liens and releases were reviewed.

➤ Old Business

Master Plan – Bevis had given an update in the Board's packet regarding Mountain and River roads.

Transfer Station – Dunbar had advised that Scrap It is honoring the deal for metal prices. It is the best one he could find.

Department Head reviews – The Board will wait for the 3rd week in September to review so there will be a full Board present.

➤ Other business

1. Brockmann asked if it were not reasonable to change the Transfer Station hours to Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. The hours had been changed previously to accommodate our hauling our own trash on Mondays.

2. Carrier advised that the Tax Collector's phone was hijacked by Sprint and there were long distances charges. He has since changed the long distance back to InfoHighway. The first month charges were deleted but they may get a bill for the second month prior to his changing back.

3. Carrier advised that Dewey Auger had asked to use the Selectmen’s meeting room to do security clearance interviews for a Federal agency. He didn’t give specifics. The Board decided to keep the policy as it is.

Information

- Employee certificate of attendance
- Appreciation letter – Bart
- DES permit tracking
- Misc. correspondence & newsletters

Adjournment

With no other business to conduct, Brockmann moved to adjourn, Cotter seconded and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ross
Secretary

Approved by:

Jon McKeon, Chairperson

Date

Daniel J. Cotter

Date

Robert Brockmann

Date