

**Town of Chesterfield
Board of Selectmen**

**MINUTES
August 19, 2009**

Call to Order

Chairman Jon McKeon called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm. Others in attendance were Board members Bob Brockmann, Cliff Emery and Administrator Rick Carrier.

Appointments

- 7:00 Summer Informational Meeting – Town Hall

McKeon called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He introduced the Board members.

Emery advised of the Old Chesterfield culvert project at the Chesterfield fire pond. At Town Meeting, \$92,120 was voted to do the project. He advised that the Town accepted a bid of \$62,000 to repair the culvert from BUR Construction. This project has 50/50 funds from FEMA. The balance of the \$31,000 will come from the CRF. This will give a savings of \$61,000 to the Town (\$30,000 of which is the unused portion of the warrant article).

Welcome Center – Emery advised that the State is in the planning stages for a Welcome Center on Route 9, W Chesterfield near the bridge. He stated they propose a 9,000 sq ft facility to house a State Liquor Store, State Police office, 24 hour restrooms. There will be a 20,000 sq ft and 12,000 sq ft parking areas to include 5 truck spaces. There are restrictions on truck idling.

Emery stated that after finding out about the details of the project the Board contacted Senator Molly Kelly, Representative Tim Butterworth as well as the liquor commissioner and DOT. They have been informed that the Board is not overly happy with the project. The Board's concerns include the costs and overload of services to the Town, losing valuable commercial property as well as limiting the abutting commercial property to the project. The Board would like to see the State cover revenue lost by the Town due to this project; not only for the start up but into the future.

Brockmann advised that the former Spofford Fire Dept building has been sold as is. Emery/Beal increased their bid to \$20,000 at the meeting September 17th. The building will be used for personal vehicles and storage.

Wares Grove septic system – Brockmann stated that the Town has been dealing with an aging septic system for many years. At Town Meeting the Town voted to replace the system. The Town was granted a 50/50 stimulus grant. A state of the art Clean Solution system was installed.

Brockmann gave an overview of the Wares Grove Recreation Improvement Project. He stated the plan is to replace the Basketball court. The Lions Club is very active in this project. The playground will be next. There have been donations coming in for the projects.

Brockmann also expressed his appreciation for the Fire Departments stating we have 2 top notch departments.

McKeon introduced Marilyn Rousseau, Deputy Health Officer. Rousseau advised that the town has 3 deputy health officers and the Town is a POD (Point of Distribution) Town in the event of emergencies. She passed out handouts to the audience and encouraged people to get flu shots. She stated that the H1N1 vaccine should be available in November. This vaccine is most valuable to those born after 1958 as those before have most likely built up immunity to the H1N1. She stressed the importance of hand washing.

McKeon introduced Don Lyford, DOT, to present the alternatives to repairing Route 63 by the lake. Lyford was joined by Mike Dugas and Doug Graham. He stated the proposal is to improve pedestrian safety and guardrails. He advised they had proposed a bypass but there was not enough Town support to proceed with the project.

Dugas explained the existing conditions and the 2 design alternatives for improvements. The existing road is 21 ft wide where the recommended width should be 24 – 26 ft wide. There is no safe place for pedestrians or cyclists. He stated that the site view is not adequate to allow a truck traveling 30 mph to stop. The project is 1,500 ft long starting north of Cottage Row to the Egan property.

Dugas stated that both alternatives would widen the road to 24 ft, keep the existing curve, have a 4 ft wide ditch to collect and treat sediment before going into the lake and replace the guardrail.

Alternative 1 would not impact the lake at all. The widening would occur on the west side of the road and would require pole relocations, drilling/blasting into the hillside, reconstruction of a driveway and accesses.

Alternative 2 would impact the lake widening the road toward the lake. The roadway slope would be pushed into the lake.

The chosen design may be a mixture of both alternatives. Lyford stated that the lake area was surveyed and this new information will be put on the plans.

Lee Brockmann asked where the traffic would be routed around the project during construction. Lyford stated that it would depend upon what alternative is used. If it goes toward the hillside they may be able to keep one lane open.

Wendy Schwartz asked if Route 63 could be closed to tractor trailers. Graham stated that DOT has no authority to restrict truck traffic on state roads by statute.

Bayard Tracy, Spofford Lake Assoc. asked if alternative 2 was realistic at all because of the Shoreland Protection Act. Dugas stated that both options will require permitting under the act.

Jo Johnson asked about the ledge removal. Virginia Street asked about the improvements. Lyford stated that the money is available in the 10 year plan at this time. Pam Walton asked about the rock face and the vegetation to prevent erosion. Emery stated that many trees will have to go.

Wendy Swartz asked if the speed limit could be lowered so that trucks would not need to have the road widened. Lyford stated that widening the road would allow for pedestrian safety. The road cannot be posted for below 30 mph because it is a state road.

Kate Heermann asked about putting things in place to slow traffic. Lyford stated that there are some things they want the Town to request i.e. signs showing the speed of the vehicle. The Town would be required to pay the electric. He stated that speed bumps are a liability. He stated that there is a permanent sign showing speed on Route 9 by the Hillsboro bypass.

A resident stated that the improvements would only encourage more speeders. This is a real safety issue. Johnson asked how many citations or tickets have been given out along this area. She hasn't seen any because there is no enforcement of the speed. She asked if Southwest Regional Planning Commission would do a traffic study in the area.

Emery stated out of the \$400,000 budget, how much has been spent on engineering. Lyford advised that the \$400,000 is for construction only. Emery suggested eliminating parking on the lake side of the road by the cottages.

Tracy asked if the curve would be maintained. Lyford said yes. Jill Diesl stated that she has been in the area since 1980 and has not had a problem as a pedestrian walking her dogs.

Lyford stated that they would need the support of the Selectmen to proceed with the improvements. He advised that once a plan has been chosen there would be public hearings. Heermann asked that the meetings be held in the summer to allow attendance by summer residents.

Bevis, Road Agent, asked if the State had a preference between the alternatives. Lyford stated no but once the lake survey is done and the costs are compared would decide which way they would go.

McKeon stated the problems are safety for pedestrian and residents, safety for vehicle traffic with regard to the guardrails and the quality of the lake. A member of the audience asked if he was concerned about safety why not do the bypass. McKeon stated the bypass would be a larger burden to the Town because the Town would have the responsibility to maintain that portion turned over by the State.

Wendy Schwartz asked if the State had the power to override the Selectmen. Lyford stated they do not want to fight with the Town.

Lyford reiterated the curve would not be taken out. They would have to remove some site issues. A member of the audience stated to just keep the road as it is and fix the guardrails only.

Walton asked if it would require State legislation to limit traffic to tractor trailers. Graham stated yes, there would have to be a change in the current laws. Diesl said if we can't get the local police to run radar in the area, have the State do it.

Bevis asked that didn't the State hold liability with the guardrail repair. He thinks that widening the road would give pedestrians a better line of site to be aware of oncoming vehicles. Widening the road would improve safety. He stated that when he in on Route 63 with his 12 ft plow traveling to another road and meets another vehicle, one of them is off the road.

Graham advised that speed bumps are considered a liability as well as increasing the noise as vehicles slow down and then speed up. There are also winter maintenance issues.

McKeon thanked folks for coming. The Summer Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm and the Selectmen's meeting continued at the Town Offices.

For Signature

- Manifest #34
- Selectmen minutes – Aug 5th
- DRA form MS-1 Extension Request
- Winn correspondence
- Dow correspondence
- Auditor Management Representation letter

For Discussion

- Draft streetlight ad

The Board reviewed the draft ad for the proposed street light removals. The ad will run on September 3rd giving 2 weeks for interested parties to express their concerns to the Board by September 17th.

- Town Hall chimney repair

The Board examined the chimneys before the summer meeting. McKeon stated that there is a brick that is ready to fall. He said that other than that, the repair could wait until next year. He stated that the estimate given by Smart is in line for the work that needs to be done. The Board agreed. Brockmann will check to see if Bill Lauterbach can remove the brick.

- Route 63 Neighborhood Assn. correspondence

The Board reviewed the letter sent to DOT prior to the Summer Informational Meeting regarding the proposal to repair Route 63.

- Budget preparations – COLA & fuel oil

Fuel Oil – The Board reviewed the Energy Information Administration Short-Term Energy Outlook for 2010 projected utility costs. The Board will use \$2.80/gallon for budget purposes. This figure can change closer to budget time.

COLA – The Board reviewed the NH Employment Security CPI. It was noted the change from July 2008 (5.7%) to July 2009 (-1.9%). In 2009 budget the COLA used was 2%.

Emery suggested going with 0% COLA. Brockmann suggested giving all non-elected officials a 2% COLA since last year it went from 5.7 to 2%.

Emery stated because we are down in revenues where are you going to get the money. Brockmann stated the department budgets and looking at the OT budget lines. Brockmann advised that some of the Budget Committee is questioning the bonus program. Brockmann stated that the Dept Heads find the valued ways to reduce their budgets to pay for the 2% increase.

The Board asked that Fairbanks give them the shift scheduling.

McKeon asked what the impact would be of 2% COLA. Carrier stated it would be \$20,000 to the budget. McKeon asked what would be the cost to the Town without paying that \$20,000. The cost of training new personnel was discussed. Emery stated give the 2% to the employees and 0% to elected officials noting that elected officials run to serve the community and some elected positions have a high salary.

Brockmann moved to give a 2% COLA to all employees but 0% to elected officials. Emery seconded the motion, which carried.

The Board would like the Department Heads to communicate to the employees noting that it is a 4% swing from what the table states to offset what the Board feels was the reported COLA last year.

- Department head reviews

The review forms were given to the Selectboard. Each Board member is to evaluate each department head and then those will be combined to get the average rating. Carrier asked that when the Dept. Heads submit their budgets the Board have the reviews ready. Emery stated he would like to see the budget presentations before rating reviews.

➤ Transfer Station electronics program

The Board reviewed Dunbar's memo regarding an electronics program. McKeon stated he doesn't see why we would incur more costs when we can farm it out.

Emery moved to continue to send the items to Keene. Brockmann seconded the motion, which carried.

➤ Transfer Station C&D accounting

The Board reviewed the C&D accounting. This gives information regarding the expense vs revenue. It was noted that this should be a cost neutral item. McKeon asked what could be provided to Dunbar to make a more accurate measure. He stated that Dunbar is doing the best he can with the experience he has. The Board will review the information and discuss it with Dunbar when he comes in.

➤ Harpoon Brewery correspondence

A letter of appreciation was sent to the Board for their support in allowing use of Town property for a stop during the Brewery ride that rose over \$55,000. They also sent T-shirts to the Board. The Conflict of Interest Policy was reviewed. The Board estimates the shirts to be under \$10.

➤ Larkin subdivision – Letter of Credit

The Savings Bank of Walpole has notified the Town they will not be renewing Larkin's Letter of Credit on May 1, 2010. The Board reviewed the draft letter to Larkin advising of his intentions to complete the work on the road. The letter will be sent September 2nd requesting a response by October 2nd.

➤ Town Hall & Office buildings furnace cleaning

Jackson Oil does not clean furnaces but had provided a list of service providers. Emery suggested contacting Terry Winn. If he is unable to do it in a timely manner Carrier will contact Dixon Plumbing and Heating.

➤ Wheeler property – town owned

In 1995 this property was deeded to the Town. Carrier cannot locate how it was obtained. There is nothing in the Town reports. The Board asked that Carrier find out if the Town can sell the lot and by what method of sale should be used.

➤ Massachusetts reference request – Wesfield

Carrier will complete the reference form out objectively.

- Next week's manifest

The Manifest will be ready by Tuesday afternoon.

- Old Business

Sallyport floor – Fairbanks advised that the floor is ½ done.

Camp Spofford PILOT agreement – Carrier and Emery will be meeting with the Town attorney on August 31st.

Lawn mowing/trimming – McKeon stated he attended the Cemetery Commission meeting. He asked that they supply what is the cost of mowing and trimming of the cemeteries as well as the cost of the equipment maintenance. He would like to compare costs with an independent contractor.

Tax Collector files in basement – Carrier advised that more has been done and Benjamin has trash that needs to be removed. Gordon will take care of this.

Poocham Rd washouts by Bokums – Cunningham has sent a letter to the Bokums.

- Other business

1. Emery attended the Library Trustees meeting. The Library has a different personnel policy than the Town but is modifying their policy to bring it more in line with the Town's personnel policy particularly in the area of part-time benefits.
2. Carrier advised that 7 applications have been received for the Deputy Town Clerk position. He and Rudolph agreed to interview 3 Town residents.
3. Carrier asked about the pantry door handles. The handle screws are stripped. McKeon will look at getting longer screws.
4. Carrier provided the RSA pertaining to Heritage Commissions.

- Non public RSA 91-A:3 II (a)

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

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

Information

- Treasurer's report
- Employee certificates of course completions
- Code Enforcement correspondence – Bokum
- Misc. correspondence & newsletters

Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ross
Secretary

Approved by:

Jon McKeon, Chairperson

Date

Robert Brockmann

Date

Clifford Emery

Date