

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
September 25, 2017

At the Selectmen's Meeting held on Monday, September 25, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. the following people were in attendance: Peter Corey and John Tholl.

Troy Merner, State Representative, attended the meeting to give a legislative update on what is going on in Concord. Troy said the biggest thing going on is basically on utilities and having the values done based on DRA's valuation methodology. We are a fair market value state. 48% of the towns won't be impacted. The Towns impacted are in the north country. Troy reviewed the increases. Every town in Troy's district would go up except for Twin Mountain and Randolph. Whitefield's increase would be \$1.73 per thousand. A lot of the legislature thinks it is a poles only bill. It is a lot more than that. They based a bill on pole taxes – the legislatures think this is just an extension of this. Troy said that there is a lot of juice to pass it in committee. They are talking about phasing it in over three years. We will get devastated up here if this passes. Troy met with Littleton officials last week to discuss this. Troy said a couple have said he feels bad, but those towns will have to suck it up and one said these towns need to be put on notice about this change. Mr. Sansoucy does most of the utility assessments in New Hampshire communities and he was right on with the value for the Moore Dam. Next Monday night Troy said that he is meeting with Berlin. We are trying to organize the best we can. The Speaker has not taken a stance. The best way to do this is if we can get the bill "inexpedient to legislate". Skip and his people have been to all the meetings. Troy said the best way to influence this bill is to send letters to all of the members of the Science, Technology, and Energy Committee. 52% of the state are negatively impacted. There are a couple of companies behind this. Troy said that Sansoucy's office is very helpful and Skip does this assessing all over the country. The Whitefield substation is now an exporter of power and there is value in that substation.

Troy said in reference to the power plant, he showed the plant to a company showing an interest in purchasing the plant. Currently the plant does not have a contract. All these plants are in trouble. They may be repurposed a little bit. Employees would stay. They would be selling on the market. They have already closed two of these plants in the state and this one may not be far behind. Peter asked about direct sell in the area. We have some companies who are looking at the area. Right now they have no power agreement. The wholesale price of electricity is pennies. These biomass plants can't make it. Petet said if it is possible to connect with Gerry Pons who is running our EDC, that would be helpful. Troy said once we get to that point we will. Troy said we spent a week meeting with these people and their lawyers.

The Dalton water line residents attended the meeting because they thought the engineer was going to be here. Peter explained the engineer was unable to attend tonight. The Dalton residents that their end was all done, and they are wondering when the town's part will be done. Peter said a preliminary plan is done and it has been sent to the state. Our intent is to get it done by the winter.

Mr. Fogg said he feels if there is any damage to their line due to the town section not being done yet that the town should be fixing it. John said he feels it is the responsibility of the homeowners for their own private line. We are moving as expeditiously as possible. Can't tell you date certain when it will be done. Our intent is to get it done before winter.

Mrs. Shaw said that they feel the money they paid toward the project should be placed in an interest bearing account. The Board said they believed it is in an interest bearing account, but we will check. Mrs. Shaw a newspaper article said the Town of Dalton gave the \$25,000 or was that misconstrued? She said she called and corrected it with the newspaper. Mrs. Shaw said in the article Peter said this enables us to add users, where are you going to add? We are going to have a water main to a certain point and if another user wants to hook on we will have the capacity to let them hook on. They would be tying in to our section. Mrs. Shaw said they have a vested interest in that line. She asked if new users would be charged to hook on to the line and what the cost would be. Peter said the hook-up fee for a new residential user is \$1,000.

They Dalton users why did they have to pay \$5,000 if we are making the line better for the town. Why do they each have to pay \$5,000 and other users only have to pay \$1,000. Peter said we don't have to do this. We can turn the water off and you all could have gotten wells. We came to the agreement that we would install 675 feet of water line to get you out of the public right-of-way. We asked for the contribution of \$25,000 from you to alleviate your water line issues. They asked if Shawn takes on his responsibility would it be considerably less than hiring a contractor? Peter said he doesn't know. John said that Shawn has projects he has to get to as well. The engineering costs alone will probably be \$20,000. Mrs. Shaw said the first private contractor was going to do the whole project for \$50,000. Shawn said he rethought that and he backed out of it. Peter said in discussing the preliminary engineering design with DOT, there is no way he would have installed that water line for \$50,000. If he was going to have to do that for \$50,000, he would have had to hire an engineer and pay the cost of permits from the state not to mention a whole lot of other things.

Are we out of line to ask for a breakout of the costs? The Board said it is all public information.

Mrs. Shaw said they have a 50 foot right of way from St. Matthews, they would like to request that the hydrant not be placed in their right-of-way. Peter said we are going to be talking to the engineer on Thursday about moving from this side of the road to the other side of the road because there are significant problems with digging within 25 feet of a known-cemetery. Peter said we are going to talk about crossing the road further up in Dalton. The Town doesn't have the facilities to do the engineering and they would charge whatever they charge and any costs for permits would have to be paid for. There is a lot to it. Fred said there could be issues with the sewer line in the same area as the water line. Shawn said the sewer line goes up to the entrance of the trailer park.

Peter said we are doing the best we can to move this forward as quick as we can. We called DOT and we asked them to please expedite it and they have been very good about moving it forward.

Peter has a concern that there is an illegal connection on the line that goes to the barn. Bob Stiles told Fred that the barn was hooked up. Mrs. Shaw said it their barn. What needs to be done to have it hooked up? It would have to pay the \$1000 hook up fee and put on a back flow preventer and a meter. Mrs. Shaw said she is not paying another \$1000 so they would prefer to have it disconnected. It will have to be physically dug up and disconnected with Fred there to verify.

Fred will notify them once the water has to be turned off for the project construction.

## Department Head Meeting

### Fred Ingerson – Water Department

Shawn and the highway department helped them change out a hydrant in the rail yard on Union Street. Had to install a new gate valve and fitting. It was probably about \$5000 for parts.

Working with DOT to locate water mains on Jefferson Road. At the old town office building we disconnected the old water line. It has been leaking for quite a while. They replaced a couple of curb stops with the highway department on Jefferson Road that were going to be problems with. They are considered ours and Fred said they were before. It is a copper line that runs from the curb stop to the main. Had to replace a valve box in the sidewalk. It was a plastic box and bring it up to the grade of the sidewalks. It is going to be level. There is a leak on Jefferson Road on a private water line on a curb stop which is in the town's portion of it. Fred is trying to get trench permits to repair it before the road is paved over. It is in the state right of way so it is ours already. There is a leak on Mt. View Road and it is on the homeowner's portion so they are putting in a new water line because it is all ledge up there.

Fred met with Horizons to go over some of the improvements to the water system for next year. Working on meter readings. The notification for the sanitary survey

In reference to the Sanitary Survey, Peter asked Josh if Welch's would be willing to serve as a grade level 2 operator until Fred gets certified. If it is acceptable, can we use the same arrangement as we used previously. Peter said we can sign the letter tonight, but we need to know tomorrow. Josh will email Judy and let her know. Josh needs to speak with his dad first, but didn't feel it would be an issue.

The Board reviewed a letter received from a couple who recently purchased property at 32 Shirlaw Drive requesting that they be allowed to hook up to the town water. There is currently an issue with insufficient pressure in that area and we have not been allowing hook-ups. John said we have turned people down to tie on to that line. John said the Town has to be consistent in what they tell people. We can notify them that we understand their concerns, but unfortunately can't allow a connection due to insufficient pressure. Once the project is completed next year they will be able to hook up at that time.

The next letter to be reviewed is the letter from Dave Scalley re: the former Whitefield Hardware Building water hook up. There was a meter and curb stop there at one point. It has been taken out. There is no heat tape or power there anymore. There is maybe 8 inches of pipe sticking out. There is a ball valve that had froze and split. Fred put a temporary clamp over it and that is all that is there preventing it from leaking now. Fred said we did have water ties where the water was and we dug where the ties said it was but there was nothing there. Shawn said that whole area is concrete out in the roadway so it is not a small feat. We would shut that section of road down and dig down. It is a pretty big project. It is copper coming in to the building so we don't know what goes back to the main. They don't know what is there, but there probably could be lead. It really needs to be dug up all the way to the main, closer to Highland Street. Shawn said Dave Scalley has the equipment and operator and it would be good if we could work together to rectify this issue. Peter said we don't want the town paying for what is his water line. Fred has talked to him about it, but he doesn't feel it is his responsibility. He feels it is the town's responsibility. Peter said he would go talk to Mr. Scalley.

Fred said when he was doing the meter readings this past week one had a very high usage, 220,000 gallons of usage. They are in the process of selling the property and are asking for an abatement of this

bill, which will be \$978. They usually have minimal usage. They did have their plumber go take a look. The usage is coming from the garage. They never shut that down—they have always left that open. They have always shut down the main house. The plumber said he inspected the buildings and couldn't see anything turning on the meter. Josh said he would say they used it. There are outside faucets. The Board sees no reason to abate it.

Peter said in reference to the QBS for the engineer for Wastewater project, we have formed a panel for the QBS process to choose the engineer. It is five people, Phil Beaulieu is the Chairperson, Ed Betz, Tom Considine and John Schultz who ran a construction firm in New Jersey, and Leon Geil.

Josh said the generator is installed and they will hook everything up. They will shut everything down and wire it. We are waiting on Stiles to tell us what we need to get a propane tank.

Josh said today Grandma's has been calling. Josh said when he is in the area he has not smelled anything. He has checked the pump stations. Today Shawn went and turned the pump stations on. Shawn received a phone call and by the time he got to the restaurant he could not smell anything. He thinks there could be several leachfields that could be failing in that area. Peter asked John Ross, health officer, to go connect with them and see if we can find anything. Josh said everything all meets, Mt. View and Northwoods, down by Dick's where the old Mt. View Road came through. It is gravity down the hill and it turns into a pressure zone and all goes to Grandma's and it gets pumped out.

Northwoods Pump Station – the development behind the Spalding – that is their pump station. Josh just was not sure. He turned that one on too. Usually you get smells when you don't have flow and it sits in a tank for a long time. There is really not much down there right now. It doesn't happen all the time. Josh pumped it down to what he could.

Josh said the only other thing to do there is you could smoke test that section to see if their plumbing isn't right in Grandma's. The gas from the sewer system could go up through their system. That would be the next step if John doesn't find anything. It should come out their vent pipe.

Josh said right now we do all the bacteria testing twice a week for the sewer station. We do it in Bethlehem because the incubator and sealer we have in Whitefield hasn't worked. Josh said if we had our own incubator and sealer, we could some of Fred's water samples as well. We need a new incubator and a quantity trailer sealer. The cost for that is a few thousand dollars. Could we split it between the two departments? Fred does his monthly testing which is \$90 a month. If it is a piece of equipment you need, then get us a purchase order. Josh will get a price and write up a purchase order.

Kelly Smith – Recreation

The After School Program is happening downstairs and going well. Parents are donating things and they are happy that it is here. No problems with the bus. Success so far.

Soccer uniforms the Lion's club did the shirts for it. The ¾ team the coach actually decided to purchase the uniforms so he furnished those uniforms. Kelly will send out thank you notes.

John said the Legion is going to help to pay for the basketball uniforms for the team.

Ed Samson, Police Chief, was unable to attend the meeting tonight, but left the Agreement that the Jefferson town attorney had done up for the details at Santa's Village. John said he has reviewed the

agreement and the only question is about the Town of Whitefield billing Santa's. This is how it has been handled in the past and seems to work well. The Board signed the agreement with the Town of Jefferson.

John Ross, Jr. – Fire/Rescue

John Ross, Jr. wondering about the status of the repairs of Engine #2. The Board felt we should pursue this. Peter makes a motion we contact counsel to see how we could proceed with seeking recoupment of work not performed but paid for two years ago. The motion was seconded by John Tholl. All in favor, 2-0. Motion passed. Judy will work with John to put together a package to send to our town attorney.

Shawn White – Public Works

Shawn said he replaced 120 feet of culvert on Pine Street. They are working on the Jefferson Road sidewalk. Still waiting on the state getting to some basins near the old town hall. They may start pouring some concrete on Wednesday. Shawn has an issue with culverts on Airport Road. The first culvert has collapsed. We will be out there to repair and replace that. Shawn said he cannot find the time to get View Street done this year. They are finishing up what they have with Kimball Hill and Gould Road. View Street is not a small project. They have been working with Fred on replacing some items.

On the building on Brown Street, he is waiting to hear back. There is a cost of \$1500 to have it inspected for asbestos and lead. If it has asbestos we have to dispose of it and if it has lead it has to be disposed of as hazardous waste, which would be very expensive. We are in the process of working with that. Peter was wondering if DES has any funds to help with that?

Shawn said that State will pave from Liberty Drive into town.

Eddie asked about those lids in the middle of the road. Shawn said that they are going to be flush with the road. Shawn said he is going to raise them so we can open them if we need them.

A motion was made by Peter Corey to authorize Wendy Hersom, Chairperson, to sign the Grant Agreement SBG-17-10-2017 to prepare an environmental assessment – Phase II Archaeological Study at the Mt. Washington Regional Airport. Wendy had told Judy that the airport was required to do an environmental assessment which was done a few years ago by Stantec. The grant paperwork was not completed under the prior airport management and this has been outstanding for a few years and is just a clean-up of that process. There already is an outstanding bill. It was the archeological services component of the work. The original request was in 2015. Peter said he does not know if anything was found in Phase I or Phase II. Eddie wanted to be sure it had nothing to do with the Blackhawks. This study has nothing to do with the blackhawks. The motion was seconded by John Tholl. All in favor, 2-0. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Peter Corey to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2017 Selectmen's Meeting. The motion was seconded by John Tholl. All in favor 2-0. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Peter Corey to enter into non-public session at 7:50 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c) matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if

based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant. The motion was seconded by John Tholl. Roll call to enter non-public session: Corey – Yes; Tholl – Yes.

The Board came out of non-public session at 8:05 p.m.

The Board had a discussion with Fred Ingerson about the water/sewer connections at the Morton property at 43 Brown Street.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.