

Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, February 11, 2014
Minutes

Present: R. Kmiec, K. Young, H. Comerford, S. Patch, N. Noble, S. Krasnecky, J. Shanahan, J. Boisey, J. Ayotte, S. DiSilvestro, G. Judd, M. Gelinas, E. Fleming, D. Anderson, P.J. McDonald, R. Brown, E. Volheim, M. Howe

Call to Order

Selectmen Richard Kmiec called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Raylene Brown (Shore Drive) – Ms. Brown said they are having problems with trash removal. Trash trucks cannot get around the corner to get to her house. Her concern is that if a trash truck can't make the corner, what will happen should there be a fire. Fire trucks can't get there and the town plows are having trouble. Ms. Brown said she is told that it is a private road, not a town road, but if it is not a town road, why is there a street sign. Ms. Brown understands that when the road was first open it was for camps only, but there are people year-round now. Ms. Brown would like to get services and has talked to the Highway Department, Board of Health, Town Administrator and Fire Department.

Mr. Kmiec said he was made aware of the issue today and has not had time to review it in more depth. He read from a Special Town Meeting document from September 1978, that a motion to make temporary repairs on private ways; that was defeated and amended to read "to be basically maintained for normal access to vehicle traffic but not to include drainage work, and the town shall not be answerable for damages caused by such work". Mr. Kmiec asked Mike Howe (Highway Department) concerning the corner in question, how much is town land.

Mr. Howe was unable to answer because it is not a town road and, because it is not a town road, there is no right-of-way. If there was a right-of-way, it would show the layout of the paved surface and the layout of the shoulder work. The problem going in is the fence on the right hand side that goes around the curve, and on the corner there are three red oaks which are getting bigger every year. They plow and sand as best they can.

Ms. Brown asked if they could make it a public road. Ms. Brown was told that before the town can accept it as a public way, it needs to be surveyed and a lot of land taken because of setbacks. Mr. Kmiec suggested they go to the Planning Board.

Ms. Patch has contacted the Building Inspector and will report back when she receives a response.

Department Reports

Police Department –

Chief Ayotte gave report of year-to-date statistics.

Emergency Management -

Eric Vollheim Emergency Management Director advised the board that they are going to start another CERT class, which is set to begin February 24th. The class will be held on Monday nights at the Senior Center for about eight weeks.

Highway Department –

Mike Howe said they have been extremely busy. They fully sanded the town 44 times with a 50/50 mixture. There are 140 tons of salt in the barn and 250 tons of 50/50 mix. The cost for those two products is \$96,826 (not counting labor, snow plow parts, etc.). This year has been tough and extremely cold. He said they will have to file for an emergency snow declaration to spend money in order to get more salt and sand.

FY15 Police Department Budget Presentation –

Chief Ayotte said salaries are based on what was in the contractual agreement between the Union and himself. The Clerk's Salary reflects a 2% increase. Overtime is the same. The Reserve Officer Account went up to reflect the 2% for the Union personnel. The Cruiser Account went up because they need to replace a cruiser. He went with the three-year lease to keep costs down. The car they are looking to replace has 90,000 miles. The Expense Account is up to cover anticipated gym costs. The Uniform Account is the same. Vest Account is the same. Training Account remains the same.

The Chief replied that the department is in good shape because they stepped up a couple years ago and replaced some really bad ones that were really through the roof on expenditures on parts and we were spending \$25,000/year just to keep it running. Now we shifted that money to better serve the town because they are moving equipment around and maintaining them on time to the specs of the manufacturer.

Pathfinder Roof Project –

Pathfinder School Committee representative Julie Quink advised the board that Pathfinder School Committee unanimously voted to go forward with the roof.

Meeting with Finance Committee to Review Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Article #2. The town received a \$415,000 grant for the Patrill Hollow Bridge replacement. The money has to be borrowed, but will be reimbursed by the grant.

Article #1. It has two parts. It is the Eagle Hill extension of the sewer line to Gilbertville. There will be three informational meetings that will go into more detail. This has been going on for 12+ years. Dr. McDonald approached the town with a proposal to put a line in. Our response was that we will consider it if (1) the project will not cost the taxpayers any increase in their property taxes, and (2) user fees will not go up because of the project. There is no guarantee that user fees may go up for other reasons, but it will not be because of the project. Dr. McDonald understood those points and negotiations started. The overall scenario is that Eagle Hill will gift \$2 million dollars towards the project. The remainder of

the cost of the project (which was originally estimated at \$5 million dollars) may be less because of changes made.

Mr. Kmiec said he would like to finish before taking questions. Eagle Hill is putting up front \$2 million for the project and when completed it will be gifted to the town. They are not asking for any repayment on it; not asking for us to pick up the interest on it. Anything over the \$2 million is prepaid in user fees. There will be a credit for any amount over \$2 million. The town is not putting out money for the project which has to be done. The bottom line is it is not costing the town anything out of our pocket to put this line in. The line will go down Old Petersham Road, the original part of Old Petersham Road which is Charlie LaMaitre lawn portion (which is town property), down Rte 32A until it reaches the north end of the common, will split and continue down Rte 32A and wrap around the common over to Common Street and across Barre Road, and join back up. At that point where Barre Road is, that is with Petersham Road (Rte 32A) will continue down to a point where it will join the current system around Bujnevicie Farm area. Some of the points Eagle Hill conceded to was to hook up the five town buildings that are all in failure on the common (Highway Barn, Fire Department, Library, Paige Building, old Town Hall). They are going to pay for those hook-ups entirely. The town will not pay anything to hook up those five buildings. It will be a pressurized system starting at Eagle to a point just before where it joins with the gravity system in town now. There will be a pumping station, but it will be up on Eagle Hill property; nothing on the common (which makes the second part of Article 1 not necessary). There was a process we would have to go through to use the land on the common if we put the pumping station. They will put in a "t" and a valve adjacent to every house on the way down and intersection to allow any resident who wishes to hook up in the future. Because it is a pressure system, if they put that in with the valve, we don't have to shut the whole system down for someone to join. Eagle Hill is picking up the cost to put those in. Anyone who wants to hook up at the time it goes by can. State law says if you have a working system you do not have to join. We have no intention to pursue making someone join or hook up. If you have a system that is in failure and another option is available, State law says you have to join at that time (\$7,000-\$10,000 to hook up vs. \$30,000 for a new system). It is considered a win for the town because eventually DEP will want something done.

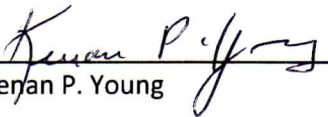
A question was asked if there were any residences in the center of town that are in the danger zone of failure. R. Kmiec said the center of town has a high water table and limited land to install septic systems so there are probably a number of people who are in the same predicament as the town.

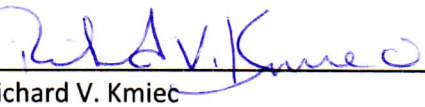
Mr. Kmiec said the Gilbertville plant handles on average 40,000-50,000 gallons a day and is capable of 230,000 gallons/day. A high estimate of what Eagle Hill will be putting in is approximately 10,000 gallons/day. S. Krasnecky asked about the user fees and was told Eagle Hill will pay users fees like everyone else. Mr. Kmiec said Eagle Hill is also guaranteeing 20 additional EDUs for people joining. If we don't get 20 users, they will pay the difference up to the 20.

N. Noble went back to talking about the \$2 million dollars and said that is not what is on the warrant. He said it appears that people don't know what's going on and meetings haven't been conducted. R. Kmiec said that every meeting was conducted as an open meeting; it was published and advertised, and had at least three meetings with Eagle Hill where we discussed everything here in an open meeting. Nothing was done on the side. They were conducted at Selectmen's meeting, there were a number of people in attendance, and a lot of questions were asked. It says in excess of \$2 million dollars; it does not say \$2 million dollars. \$2 million dollars is what they are putting up front for the project. Then they are also paying for the rest of the project. There are also going to be three informational meetings that

will give all this information out. He said he figured out what the usage would be and said it would take 24 years to pay with no fees to the town. He was told Eagle Hill will pay the usage fees up front. N. Noble did not understand that the \$2 million was money that was given to the town to put the line in the ground. Everything on top of the \$2 million dollars goes toward user fees. Eagle Hill will be paying the same user fees. Mr. Kmiec explained the user fees and why they would go up.

Meeting Adjourned.


Keran P. Young


Richard V. Kmiec

Harry T. Comerford