

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Workshop of August 1, 2005**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Roger Hohenberger called the workshop to order at 7:05 PM. Selectmen Galen Stearns and Margaret Crisler were present. Selectman Breton was delayed, and arrived at 7:15 PM. Selectman Carpenter was excused. David Sullivan, Town Administrator, was also in attendance, as was Highway Agent Jack McCartney. Mr. Hohenberger announced that this was to be a workshop session with Mr. McCartney.

*Roadway Projects:* Mr. McCartney updated the Board on several roadway projects, including work which is ongoing regarding Castle Hill Road and Marblehead Road, planned for later this year. Also, Barker, Brown, and Colchester Roads have been shimmed and overlaid, and Roulston Road pulverized and re-paved. Mr. McCartney also advised the Board that Golden Brook Road and the culvert on Old Mill Road have been done.

Mr. McCartney noted that Searles Road was planned for this year, however, at this time he would prefer to delay this project due to the amount of construction occurring in the area. He indicated would prefer to wait until the heavy construction is completed, and then proceed to do Searles Road. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to hold off on Searles Road until next year and look at the West Shore/Johnson Road area instead.

*Paver Software:* The software has been used and data from this report have been combined with other factors such as accident data, traffic volumes and drainage issues to calculate which roadways should have priority when determining road projects from year to year.

*Bid Process:* Mr. McCartney sought clarification on how the Board wishes him to proceed in the future with placing projects out to bid. He cited the recent Esty Road project, and the disparity in the bids. After some discussion, it was the consensus that all projects be bid with as much detail in the specifications as possible.

*Compost:* Mr. McCartney requested that, in light of the withdrawal of Bowes Landscaping's offer to take over the Town's compost program, the Highway Department be allowed to mix the existing compost with the loam on hand, screen the material and utilize it where necessary. The Board agreed to allow Mr. McCartney to proceed.

*By-Pass Project:* Mr. McCartney advised the Board the State is willing to provide the excess fill from the by-pass project to the Town, and to haul it within an 8 mile distance at no charge, provided the Town has sufficient land to store the material. Further, he noted it is expected to be good, solid, dirt fill and blasting debris which could be further ground down.

A discussion ensued regarding possible locations, including adjacent to the Transfer Station, the old landfill, and the Gage lands. Mr. McCartney indicated that approximately 400,000 yards of material would be available through the following winter and into spring. Mr. Stearns suggested he advise the School Board of this offer, as good fill will be needed for the High School project.

It was the consensus of the Board that a possible location be explored, as this was, overall, a good opportunity for the Town.

*Plow Rates:* Mr. McCartney expressed concerns that the current plowing/sanding contract rates may need to be adjusted once again. He noted that, last winter, he lost three contractors and, due to fuel costs and competing rates, he may likely lose additional operators if the rates are not adjusted.

*Plow Bids:* Mr. McCartney advised the Board of his intent to go out to bid for two (2) 11' plows, similar to those purchased last year.

*Vehicle Auction:* Mr. Sullivan and Mr. McCartney advised the Board that several vehicles/plows will be available for sale in the next few months, including surplus cruisers and the maintenance truck. After a brief discussion comparing the state auction success versus private sale, the Board consensus was to support private sale of these items.

*Salt Shed Committee:* Mr. Hohenberger raised the possibility of establishing the Salt Shed Committee as discussed in 2004. He wondered if it weren't time to do so, as sufficient funding for this project will be available in the next three years.

Mr. McCartney indicated he was working with Assistant Planner Becky Way to obtain a map of all town-owned land to use toward establishing potential locations.

A brief discussion ensued regarding future needs in relation to the land search, and the possibility of utilizing State surplus land, as well.

Mr. Sullivan suggested waiting to establish the committee until the Strategic Planning Steering Committee could progress further along and have some input to the issue. The Board agreed to hold off for the time being and await some comments from the Steering Committee.

*FEMA Reimbursement:* Mr. Sullivan advised the Board that the Town had submitted a request for \$50,000 reimbursement, and had been approved to receive 75% of that in Federal reimbursement for two of the more severe storms of last winter. Mr. Sullivan indicated that additional reimbursement may be available from the state, and all such funds will go back into the General fund as revenue.

*Langdon Road:* Mrs. Crisler, on behalf of the Cemetery Trustees, inquired if Mr. McCartney had had any contact with the contractors at the Langdon Road project, as the Trustees had concerns regarding the wall and roadway at the Cemetery on the Hill. Mr. McCartney replied he had spoken to the State about the overall project, but not incidentals such as the wall. Mr. Sullivan advised he will contact Bob Berry, Project Manager, to convey the Trustees' concerns.

*Brine Project:* Mr. Stearns inquired about the State's use of brine as a pre-treatment and whether it could prove of help to towns within watershed areas. Mr. McCartney responded he had heard of no positive results from the State's use, as of yet, and noted it must be utilized in a very precise way subject to many variables.

The Board extended their thanks to Mr. McCartney for his time.

*Mr. Sullivan* raised the ongoing issue of the well at Griffin Park. Mr. Breton elaborated by stating it does not appear that the well, which is the original Tara Farm well, is functioning any longer which is rendering the bathrooms in the multi-purpose building unusable. A discussion ensued regarding possible causes such as area blasting/development and the three (3) additional wells drilled for irrigation as the Park was constructed.

Mr. Breton will be meeting with Mr. Barlow and a representative of Hillside Landscaping to explore methods of correcting the issues, and Mr. Sullivan indicated that the porta-potties at the Park had been extended for an additional month and twice weekly cleanings scheduled.

*Mr. Sullivan* advised the Board that a proposal to complete the drainage area had been received, including paving of the center walkway, however it was over the \$1000 threshold for the bid process. He inquired whether the Board wished him to proceed with the project or obtain further proposals. A discussion ensued regarding ADA requirements to be met, a possible emergency access to the soccer field, and postponing the completion until the well issue has been resolved. It was the consensus of the Board that Mr. Sullivan proceed to obtain further proposals.

*Mr. Al Barlow* approached to clarify the location/type of pumps at Griffin Park as they pertain to the well problem, noting that it may be impossible to tap into the irrigation line as a temporary solution given the HP and zone-specific workings of the utility building pump.

*Mr. Stearns* inquired about the status of the raking/sifting of the Town Beach sand. Mr. Sullivan replied he had advised Mr. Barlow to proceed to coordinate the project with the vendor, and that Mrs. Cheryl Haas, Recreation Coordinator, had advised the Recreation Committee to hold off on installing the new sand.

Mr. Breton moved and Mr. Stearns seconded to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendi Devlin, Administrative Assistant

*Note: These minutes are in draft form and have not been submitted to the Board for approval.*