

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

March 3, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice Chairman Dennis Senibaldi, Bruce Breton and Margaret Crisler were present. Meeting commenced at 9:13 am while a meeting was underway involving State Representative Charlie McMahon, Ed Murdough from the State Department of Education ("DOE"), Fire Chief Tom McPherson, Assistant Chief Robert Leuci, Superintendent Dr. Frank Bass, School Board Chairman Al Letizio, Asst Town Administrator Dana Call, Police Sergeant Mike Caron and several members of the public.

The meeting was requested by Mr. McMahon, in order to address recent correspondence between the DOE, the School District and the Town's Fire Chief in regards to a proposed second access to the Windham High School site. After a brief discussion regarding the purpose of the meeting, Glenn Davis, Owners' Representative for the School District, clarified that the question to be addressed by the parties is what scope of second access road will qualify for the State 30% school aid and, further, that there is a difference between a main entrance road built to DOT or Town standards versus a secondary access road built strictly for emergency use. Mr. Murdough indicated that the State will provide aid for a road built to the standards required by the State Fire Code and would leave it up to certified engineers to determine what type of road will meet that standard when taking into consideration the Town's emergency apparatus. There was discussion regarding the width of such road as well as whether it would be paved or gravel based. Mr. Murdough indicated that such specifics would need to be based on engineering plans, and if those plans call for a paved road, that would qualify for aid. However, if the road is built to standards beyond the minimum required by the Fire code, the entire road project would not qualify and there would be no state aid.

The discussion then turned to the road at some point becoming a public, Town road and Mr. Murdough indicated that if that were the case, funding would need to be returned to the State. Mr. Murdough indicated that the expectation of the State is that the road would never be used. Mr. Senibaldi inquired as to whether the school district, as part of the high school project, could complete a road extending access from the high school to the future athletic fields, assuming the Gage land swap article passes, and Mr. Murdough indicated that this would likely qualify for the 30% aid. Chief McPherson indicated that it has always been the position of the Public Safety departments that the road would be built to both (1) meet the needs of the second access requirements of the high school and (2) provide a more direct access for emergency vehicles to get to the western side of the town. Mrs. Crisler then asked about the use of the road by emergency vehicles to access West Windham, and not necessarily for a school emergency, and Mr. Murdough indicated that this would not endanger the State aid, if that is the best route for emergency vehicles to get to that part of Town. Discussion ensued regarding whether the access road would need to be gated and Mr.

Murdough indicated that this would not be required, and that if the school made a concerted effort to limit the use through appropriate signage, that would meet the requirements.

Mrs. Crisler reiterated that it has always been the intention of the Board of Selectmen, in conjunction with the Town's master plan, to make London Bridge Road a through town road, built to town standards. Mr. Letizio suggested that the Board of Selectmen recess the meeting, to allow Mr. Murdough to leave, and continue a discussion among the rest of the group as to how to proceed. Meeting recessed at 10:00 am.

The Board reconvened the meeting at 10:10 am and Mr. Letizio summarized the results of the previous discussion that in his opinion, the consensus of all parties speaking was that a second access road should be built and that the group should be in support of the petitioned warrant article. Discussion then turned to the warrant article providing enough funding to build the road, with or without any state aid. Therefore, Mr. Letizio suggested the Board of Selectmen plan to jointly meet with the School Board at their regularly scheduled meeting on March 4, to discuss whether the road should be built with the intention of using it as a public access-way and defer accepting any school aid. In addition, Mr. Breton indicated that the Board of Selectmen began the layout process of this portion of the road based on a citizen's petition received in July 2007 to layout London Bridge Road as a town road. Mr. Senibaldi reiterated that the boards should consider having the school district build the road up to the Gage lands and then have the Town continue it out to Castle Hill Road. He also wanted to clarify that everyone understood that it was always the intention that the new road be turned over to the Town as a town road.

Mr. Letizio reiterated that this topic will be discussed at the March 4th School Board meeting so that the entire School Board could weigh in. The consensus of the Board of Selectmen was to post a meeting for March 4th, as part of the School Board agenda.

Mr. Breton motioned to adjourn at 10:35 am and Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Call
Asst Town Administrator-Finance

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