

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting
January 22, 2014**

AGENDA: Robert Sturgeon, Road Commissioner
Resident access to sand mix

The Road Commissioner was asked to submit a 5-year plan for the roads. A 2-year plan was submitted in 2013 for the remainder of his term in office. If elected he'd be able to submit a 3-year plan but that's unknown at this time. Dan Sherman was discouraged by the explanation for not providing a 5-year plan.

Five issues that have come before the selectmen were discussed.

1. Ownership of the fence along Route 25 and Cumberland Street that was damaged. Robert indicated the fence has been there as long as he can remember and didn't know who put it up. DOT does not take ownership and will not repair.
2. Status update for DOT turning Route 25 and/or Route 160 over to the town. Robert expects it to happen and agrees with selectmen that the town must pay attention to "issues" with the roads and have DOT address them before they are turned over to the town. The Road Commissioner wrote DOT a year and a half ago about dangerous or safety issues that need to be addressed. Selectmen will write DOT to reaffirm that letter.
3. Road Commissioner was asked to review the bids submitted for the Pike Hall Drainage Project, if he's not planning to submit a bid, and provide comment.
4. David Whitney's two issues, low hanging branches and sand & salt mixture too low; tree requiring pruning in south Cornish. Robert explained that some trees are beyond the town right-of-way; we'd be on private property, and some are in difficult areas to reach; along rock walls. He explained the general maintenance plan is whenever they pave a section of road they also trim trees and brush and correct drainage problems at the same time.

Questioned the quantity of sand and salt mix put up, it was dangerously depleted mid January. The "green" concrete could not withstand the weight on the walls. A second mixing has just been completed and should hold until spring.

Dan stated for the record that he'd like collectively to see a 5-year plan.

Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants along with Minutes of last meeting reviewed and signed.

Abatement letters signed for Bonney Memorial Library Association approved, E. Carpenter U03-028 denied, Dan Salarno R03-029 denied.

Selectmen agreed that an agency requesting funds through town articles be sent a questionnaire to complete and return to the town prior to the Budget Committee meeting in January. Diane hopes it will streamline our budget process for social services. The questionnaire statement "we request a copy of your agency's most recent annual audit/financial statement" changed to "we require a copy of your agency's"

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Nancy had a conversation with Calista Cross to clarify that Colette provided an estimated cost of the monument selected. For the insurance company to provide a quote the monument would have to be town owned and located on town property. None of what Calista requested is for the town accepting ownership. What she's requested in the warrant is location and style of the monument, those are the two questions on the table and those are the two questions to be discussed at the Public Hearing tomorrow night.

Presented with the question "If you are in a public meeting and there are letters from people who are not in attendance do you read them?" The lawyer advised that you do not read letters from people not in attendance. You acknowledge the letters exist and say that they are in a folder at the town hall and if you wish to come in and read the letters during office hours you may.

The School Board has voted to close Cornish Elementary. Once we receive the timeframe from the school we need to set up some meetings with the townspeople. Selectmen need an action plan. Suggestion made the town hire someone to give us a professional evaluation of all the systems so we know the condition of the school. A work session to deal with decisions to be made will be needed.

Vinal was asked to contact Rob Heard to get the 5 towns together to discuss the school budget and the closings.

The renter's insurance has been received along with the lease agreement for the house on the fairgrounds. A suggestion made that selectmen view the house once weather permits.

Dan participated in Monday's conference call with Angus King's representatives concerning Time Warner. Long and short of it, the meeting didn't produce meaningful solutions to our problems. They did have good conversation with Susan Corbett who runs a wireless telecommunications company up in the Machias area that took advantage of Grant monies from Connect ME.

Pat Junkins contacted for status of the grant application with Time Warner and Mike Edgecomb. Dan will provide an update at our next meeting.

Selectmen will write letters to the Watson family members listed on the tax bill to request a meeting with them to determine ownership of the land over the banking once we get the RFQ from ATTAR Engineering, Inc.

Dan reminded them that ATTAR Engineering, Inc. has not been engaged as of yet, we are awaiting answers to questions on advertising submitted from prior meeting. Response received but did not completely answer the question. Suggestion to take the advertising out of the quote completely and assume responsibility our selves. Vinal will research advertising costs and publications used by W L Sturgeon.

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Motion made to meet at 6:30 pm to draft a letter to the Watson property owners to get an initial dialog started and secondly have a conversation with Rob Millard for his thoughts on the drainage project. Seconded and approved.

Multiple calls to the town office questioning availability and access to the sand/salt mix brought to selectmen's meeting. Two individuals looking to do community service will be asked to oversee the distribution from 10 – 12 on Saturdays for a one month trial. Nancy offered to have people give her a call and if she is around she wouldn't mind driving up to unlock the gate. An ad will be put in the Shopping Guide once confirmed with the volunteers.

Elaine MacMaster requested use of the fire station on Thursday, January 30th. Selectmen approved.

Motion made to adjourn meeting.



Vinal Pendexter



Nancy S. Perkins



Daniel Sherman