

**Board of Selectmen
July 18, 2012**

Present: Kenneth S. Paul, Chairperson; Peter M. Kasprzyk; Richard C. Edwards; Teresa A. Williams, Town Administrator; and Toni Bodah, Secretary.

Also present were Tom Beeler, *Granite State News*; Steve Brown; and Ed Comeau (videotaping). Fred Clough joined the session in progress.

Mr. Paul called the posted meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Payment Manifests – The Board executed an AP warrant for voided checks, totaling \$2566.69.

2. Town Administrator

--The Transportation Coordinator for the SAU #64 confirmed to Ms. Williams that the Milton school buses will be moved from the Wakefield Highway Department property by today.

--Ms. Williams spoke with Kate Miller of DTC regarding the Time Warner Cable issues discussed at the last meeting. Ms. Miller suggests scheduling a meeting, to include Mike Edgecombe of TWC, for either August 1 or 15, to discuss both Channel 9 as well as contract renegotiations. Mr. Edwards questioned whether we have contacted Metrocast again. Ms. Miller noted to Ms. Williams that we received no response from Metrocast when we wrote to them last year. She also noted it is very costly to take over another company's lines.

--We have received the audit for FY 2011. The auditors suggest that we clarify use of the "grandfathered" banked time in our revised personnel policy.

--At the last meeting, the Board agreed to charge interest at 12% on unpaid invoices to septage haulers after 30 days; however, there was some confusion as to when this would take effect. The Board agreed by consensus that as of September 1, 2012, interest will be assessed on all outstanding amounts due. Notification will be sent to the haulers prior to August 1.

--Cindy Bickford is checking with Cartographics regarding the cost to produce a town map that could be used to track plowing routes.

3. Other

Mr. Paul suggested the Board consider nominating an individual for the Volunteer of the Year through LGC.

4. Fred Clough

The Board is in receipt of a list of Mr. Clough's wants and needs for the Highway Department. Perhaps we should consider purchase of a chipper to dispose of debris resulting from cutting firewood. Mr. Edwards saw a used one that looks good. Mr. Paul suggested it would be more cost-effective to hire out that type of work and referred to the diminished number of staff at the Highway Department. He also suggested we consider isolating several plowing routes to subcontract. Mr. Paul added that we are still waiting for the MRI report; however, we expect them to recommend the trend towards privatizing. Mr. Kasprzyk noted that if we decide to replace the position of mechanic, the School would be willing to absorb some of that cost. Discussed the pros and cons to such a situation.

Mr. Edwards noted the outlying routes should be first to be privatized. Mr. Clough stated that the difficulty is not having inadequate equipment at this time; rather, his concern is finding someone competent and dependable. Mr. Kasprzyk stated that if we do hire an individual to plow, perhaps that individual could assist in maintaining lawns during the summer. Several scenarios were considered. Smaller trucks could keep the roads open, with the larger trucks to provide the cleanup.

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Mr. Kasprzyk believes it is necessary to determine who gets the sand and salt and at what cost. Mr. Paul suggested that the various road associations should submit a written request, in which they identify their contractor. Mr. Edwards added that we should keep track of how many loads each contractor takes. Mr. Kasprzyk stated that those contractors should get their trucks loaded prior to the storm, as Town staff has other duties during the storm. Ms. Williams noted we should get a letter out to the associations if the Board decides to go in that direction. She also noted the Board will likely need to make this decision by mid-September, regardless of whether we have received the MRI report. It is possible that we have not budgeted sufficient funds to privatize. Mr. Kasprzyk wonders whether MRI would be willing to meet with and advise the Board on this issue, even if the entire report is not available. Ms. Williams will check.

Mr. Clough advised he is working to repair the truck and expects it to be ready before winter. He suggested that next year we could appropriate funds to address additional repairs to extend the life of the vehicles, and added that the Kenworth would be more valuable for trade-in than a truck with a damaged frame. Ms. Williams will determine whether the Town vote can amend the wording of the original warrant article for the capital reserve fund.

Discussion followed regarding routes and drivers. Mr. Kasprzyk suggested parking a truck in East Wakefield (at the fire station) to reduce the miles and travel time. Mr. Clough explained the route allows for plowing and sanding, ending near to town for reloading. Perhaps it would make sense to utilize material closer to East Wakefield, or perhaps this is the route that should be outsourced.

Mr. Clough has a backhoe to show the Board, as well as other equipment to view. Discussed the need for a flagger for the Brackett Road project. At 4:25 p.m. the Board and Ms. Williams (and interested members of the public) accompanied Mr. Clough to the Highway Garage. At the garage, all viewed the truck being repaired, the existing excavator and a borrowed backhoe from NH DOT and the salt shed. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Bodah, Secretary

Approval of Minutes:

Kenneth S. Paul, Chairperson

Peter M. Kasprzyk

Richard C. Edwards