

TOWN OF DEERING

762 Deering Center Road
Deering, NH 03244

Board of Selectmen Final Special Workshop Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 11, 2023

6:00 P.M.

Members Present: Chair Jill Smith, Selectman Roy Watson and Selectman Steve Diers
Also Present: Town Administrator Peter Flynn, Road Agent Brian Houghton and Recording Secretary Wendy Baker

Opening of the Meeting by the Chair at 6:00pm

Chair Smith reminded everyone that a workshop is a less formalized meeting of the Board, generally conducted for the purpose of providing the Board members a more detailed understanding of a limited number of issues or to permit discussion in greater depth and is not intended to make motions or decisions.

Chair Smith stated the order of business today is a tour of the Highway Department buildings including the lot and discussion on the Highway Department's needs.

Road Agent Brian Houghton gave a tour of the main Highway Department garage. He said there has been some re-wiring completed when they installed the light covered metal walls as well as putting in LED lights. They bay doors are 30 years old and new doors are being priced out currently. There are water issues because there are no drains in the floor, just a pump. There is a separate oil room that also stores extra parts for many things. They have an outdoor welder that acts as a generator for the building if needed. The Town owns a good set of mechanics tools. Exhaust equipment is needed which could be a whole garage system built into the wall or a less expensive cost option would be 4 smaller systems for each bay that exhausts out of the bay door. The town insurance company advises that vehicles do not remain in the garage for long periods and that they are not all lined up together outside.

Selectman Watson asked how many vehicles there are?

Brian answered five, 2008 F-350, 1998 6-Wheeler, 2005 10-wheeler, 2010 Kenworth and 2018 dump truck. These all come out of the vehicle budget line and the backhoe, grader and loader come out of the equipment budget line.

Brian showed the office, breakroom and bathroom which are part of an addition on the original building. He said they had to do some extensive roof repairs when he took over.

There is a garage in the back that was the old salt shed, it now houses miscellaneous items and needs a door. On the salt shed/garage another bay would be useful to add on. The plows are kept at the back of the site. There is a 20-yard dumpster that collects steel and a company called Schnitzer hauls it out. There is an open covered area in the front that houses extra equipment such as sanders, portable gas tank and more plows.

Chair Smith asked if there is any security/cameras. Brian answered no.

Water for the building comes from Town Hall and the septic is located next to the old salt shed building.

Chair Smith paused the meeting at 6:49pm.

Chair Smith reconvened the meeting at 6:53pm at the Town Hall conference room..

Chair Smith asked Brian how the road plan is coming along?

Brian presented his 5-year paved road plan as follows and said that gravel roads get stone every year:

Year 1 – Fisher Road: Reclaim 1,900' of pavement, replace (3) culverts, install 1,600' of underdrain on the north side of the road, add 1' of 1.5" gravel, 3" base pavement and 1.5" of top. 150' paved apron down Zoski Road and 50' paved apron on the gravel portion of Fisher Road. Replace the first two failed culverts on dirt part. This road is in the worst shape in town.

Year 2 -Bennington Depot Road: Reclaim 4,000' of pavement, replacement of 12" metal culvert and inspect the two 36" culverts, add 6" of 3" crushed gravel and 6" of 1.5" crushed gravel, 3" base pavement and 1.5" of top. Install 50' paved apron going up Blueberry Hill Road. This is the 2nd worst road in town. The road is currently 18' wide and will be 20' wide when finished.

Year 3 -Ridgeview Road: Dig up the first 500' of the right half of the road that has failed. Install 3" and 1.5" of gravel. Install 3" base pavement where repaired and install 1.5" top to the whole 1,600' of road. This is a newer road but the gravel was not correct when it was put down.

Pine Knoll Road: Install 1.5" top coat of pavement on the 1,000' of road.

Year 4 & 5 -Second NH Turnpike: Reclaim roughly 11,000' (2 miles) of pavement, replace all culverts. Install 200' of underdrain north of Donovan Road and 60' of under drain south of Donovan Road, install 1' of 1.5" crushed gravel to the entire length, 3" base pavement and 1.5" of top. Install 60' paved apron on Donovan Road. This is a 2 or 3 year project.

TA Flynn asked if a project like Second NH Turnpike is put out to bid?

Brian answered yes for the trucking, the town does the culvert work, spreading and compacting and hire out for final grade and paving.

Chair Smith said we do have the money for the first project so that can be sent out to bid now.

Brian said the pricing for the first project will be \$4,100 for grinding, \$3,900 for final grade and \$49,000 for paving.

Selectman Diers asked what section of Zoski has drainage issues?

Brian answered that 15 years ago there was an issue with pipes and catch basins and they now have a truck that comes and cleans them out. He said the dirt roads are not freezing like they used to which causes many issues.

Selectman Watson said he is happy to see progress on the buildings and likes the written road plan.

Brian said he was disappointed in the last plan that was done by Central NH Regional Planning Commission and that he was not asked to help. He said it was a plan that is not commonly used in this area of the United States.

TA Flynn said there are 40 miles of dirt road and 20 miles of paved road in Deering.

Chair Smith likes that a road plan gives residents comfort and would like to continue to provide that.

Selectman Diers agrees with Brian about the last road plan and is happy to now have something from him to tell residents that ask.

Brian said Second NH Turnpike and Sky Farm Road will be ditched.

Selectman Diers said he'd like to see non-paved roads in the list as well as a monthly report for the Highway Department.

Brian said yes he would provide a monthly Highway Department report.

Selectman Diers asked Brian what his top three priorities are?

Brian answered finding a 4th employee, finding a mechanic and to do something each day that makes the roads more passable.

Chair Smith asked Brian what he needs more of, funds or people?

Brian answered more people.

Chair Smith asked why Verizon Connect is not on all of the vehicles?

Brian answered because it was done as a trial and they are good when they work to find if they are stolen and it tracks vehicle mileage but he can also track all of that easier on the computer.

Chair Smith asked if he can provide a maintenance log in his report. Brian answered yes.

Chair Smith asked to see the Winter Maintenance Policy. Brian said he will locate it and send it to everyone.

Chair Smith asked about training.

Brian said they all do different types of training through Primex and UNH.

Chair Smith asked if the exhaust fan will be going out for bid since it is due this year on the Capital Improvements Plan?

Brian answered yes they will be going out to bid for the exhaust system.

TA Flynn said they recently learned from Central Regional Planning that there is other grant money out there for needs like that.

Chair Smith asked about bridges and the fund we keep for that.

Brian said there are 5 bridges in town and none are on the red list. One bridge is co-owned with Antrim and they split the maintenance costs.

TA Flynn said the state funds 80% when a major repair is needed on a bridge.

Chair Smith asked Brian if there is anything more that he wants to bring to the Board's attention.

Brian said no, and he thinks this workshop has been very productive. He is working with TA Flynn on making the department better and it is nice to have a focused discussion with the Selectmen.

Chair Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43pm. Seconded by Selectman Diers. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Baker

Wendy Baker
Recording Secretary