

Submitted By:
JMY

TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES

Approved By:

December 22, 2004

Meeting called to order at 6:04 p.m. with Selectman Wells, Rice and Douglass present.

1. Review and Sign:

- Accounts payable, payroll warrants and minutes.
- Committee appointments (CATV and reappointments)

Items reviewed and signed.

2. Meetings and Hearings:

- Meet with the Road Commissioner for an update on the icing problem on Parker Head Road (village section) and maintenance of Cranberry Point Road.

Parker Head Road - Meeting held. The Road Commissioner, Curtis Doughty, reported that he has started ditching in the village, but has more to do on southern end.

Les Smith, Chair of the Road Committee and Mr. Doughty discussed removing ledge across from the Town Landing coming up the hill, and several pieces on the southern end after winter. There is some ledge that can be pounded out in front of several houses. Ken Hodgkins has shown Mr. Doughty where water is coming down his driveway and into the road. Some ledge could be removed to alleviate this problem. Mr. Hodgkins has requested that several trees be saved.

A culvert, which has a pipe going through it, had dirt in it and was partially crushed. Mr. Doughty will jack it up and clean it. He has not inspected the culvert at the Town Landing but will do so. Mr. Doughty feels that ledge on the northern section of the road and in the vicinity of the Town Landing can be pounded, but ledge along the southern section should be blasted. The culvert work will help the icing situation but the road is still lower than the sides.

The overall plan is to schedule some near term pounding and then complete blasting during the spring of 2005. The Selectmen, Road Commissioner and Road Committee will establish a long term plan, schedule and estimated cost. If a large expenditure is expected then it would require Town Meeting approval. Mr. Doughty mentioned that it may require core sampling similar to that completed on Stoneybrook Road. An easement will be needed to pound ledge along Mr. Hodgkin's driveway. The Road Commissioner will discuss the ledge pounding with GAC since the company will have a pounder on site to install the Parker Head septic system. The T/A will check on the legal requirements for obtaining easements.

Cranberry Point Road – The Road Commissioner didn't see any issue with rutting, but will take another look after the next rain. There are potholes by one of the driveways. The road needs to be built up and ditched which will be done

during the summertime. Selectman Rice had driven the road and noted a problem at the intersection of the asphalt and gravel where there is a height difference and a vehicle can bottom out. Mr. Doughty will level the pot holes as a temporarily fix, but the road will need further repairs. Selectman Douglass stated that he had discussed gravel repairs with another contractor who had informed him that this is not the best time of year to do gravel repairs because the gravel won't pack down, it will tear up with plowing, and will heave up in spring. Selectman Douglass stated that we can work on the potholes now and bring in fill during the springtime. Jack Hood mentioned that he had brought in two loads of gravel for his driveway over last two years and there is a drainage problem on the road. Mr. Doughty said his plan is to fix the potholes now and ditch later. Mr. Hood said that he has put more money into the road than the Town. Selectman Douglass informed him that he should not be expending his personal money on a public road.

Mr. Hood brought up the issue of the Ventry's apartments and Chairman Wells cut off discussion.

Josh Bate stated that he has been discussing the condition of Cranberry Point Road for months and years and it is nice to see that it is finally going to be worked on. He also stated that in the spring the Road Committee told him that the road was going to be graded three times a year. Les Smith, Road Committee Chair, stated that he never said that. Mr. Bate mentioned that the apron needs to be cleaned off when grading and the road needs regular maintenance.

The Selectmen reiterated that the potholes would be filled in and the road would be ditched and fill brought in at a later date.

3. Discuss the following issues:

- New committee appointments to Historic Preservation Commission and Planning Board.

Selectmen voted (3-0) to appoint Frank Roberts to the Historic Preservation Commission to fill out the remainder of Janet Totman's term. The T/A informed the Selectmen that there would be an opening for a full member on the Planning Board sometime within the next two months. Selectman Rice recommended that committee positions not filled be listed in the Town report and mentioned at Town Meeting.

4. Review the following items:

- Letter from Phippsburg Congregational Church describing "Grandma's Closet" program.

The letter was read by Selectman Rice. "Grandma's Closet" is a program started by the Church to help out those in need. Copies of the letter are available at Town Hall.

5. Discuss attendance at the following meetings, courses, and seminars:

- None.

Miscellaneous

- **The Selectmen reviewed an e-mail from Rob Morris, Supervisor for the County Communications Center, concerning an upcoming Board meeting which Mr. Rice will attend. Selectman Rice gave a short update on the Town of Topsham joining the Communications Center.**
- **The Selectmen reviewed an appreciation letter to the Chief of Police from the McKenney family.**
- **Jack Hood stated that he would like to see a special assessment on apartments and also that he would like to at least see short sections of Cranberry Point Road repaired. The Road Commissioner stated that he will be ditching the North side of the road in the future and will be reviewing the road survey. He reiterated that he will fill the potholes now and will do the major work in summer of 2005, which will include the entrance. Mr. Bate asked why the property owners have to wait until 2010 to get a major rebuild. Mr. Smith informed him that the date was just a proposal for the Comprehensive Plan, which has not even gone to Public Hearing. Mr. Hood asked if the Town would pay for damages to his vehicle caused by the road. Selectman Wells requested that Mr. Bate not try to run the meeting from behind his camera – or he would be asked to leave. Selectman Rice stated that only road funding for FY 2005 has been approved and that some good questions have been asked. He also mentioned that the Road Committee and Road Commissioner established a Capital Improvement Plan for the first time last year, the Town fixed a standing problem at Wallace Circle several years ago and are now going to attend to Parker Head Road, and that the funding for any major upgrade must be voted on at Town meeting. Mr. Bate asked if this speaks to general condition of the roads in town or of our data. Selectman Wells explained the Road Committee's purpose for existing. Josh stated that Selectman Wells did not answer his question to which Selectman Wells stated that he did.**
- **Selectman Rice asked that those attending the meeting take a moment of reflection and wish those well who are serving in Iraq.**

Adjourned: 6:40 p.m.