

**CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2009**

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00PM by Chairman Bob Reagan. Selectman Scott Borthwick, Selectman Tim Lewis and Town Administrator, Michael Capone, were also in attendance. Others present and those who joined the meeting in progress: Phil Salvail, Dave Barney, Zyg Onacki, Joann Onacki, Betsy Hutchins, Carolyn Barney and Chuck Townsend. Chairman Reagan led those in attendance in reciting our pledge of allegiance.

Minutes of November 10, 2009 Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes and voted the following: Selectman Borthwick moved and Selectman Lewis seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the November 10, 2009 meeting as amended. The Board voted 3-0 in favor of the motion.

Goose Pond Winter Maintenance

Dave Barney was present to speak with the Board regarding his concerns with Goose Pond. He commented that he felt he was not getting his money's worth for his tax dollar. He cited the elimination of trash pick up at the boat launch and the cuts in funding for the portable toilet there as well. He also expressed concern with the roadside mowing that was done along Goose Pond this summer noting that it destroyed the protective vegetative barrier around the pond.

He also wanted to make a presentation to the Board outlining his concerns with the continued use of road salt treated with magic salt on Goose Pond Road. He feels that the use of road salt increases the conductivity in the pond and the use of Magic Salt, which contains phosphorous, contributes to the formation of Cyanobacteria. Mr. Barney felt that the use of abrasives only would provide for safe passage along the Road and eliminate the influence of salt and phosphorous on the Pond. He noted that the Town of Hanover used manufactured sand on some of its roads with no problems. Mr. Barney presented the Board with a packet containing a letter dated September 28, 2009 requesting that the Board approve and implement the Goose Pond Road Winter Maintenance Policy recommended by the Road Salt Working Group on November 14, 2006. The packet also included a copy of the original policy, and some articles and information regarding the increased salinization of fresh water in the northeast and information regarding cyanobacteria.

Selectman Lewis commented that the Board needs to be concerned with keeping the Road safe for travel.

Chairman Reagan asked if the Goose Pond Lake Association had done a septic survey similar to what had been done at Canaan Street Lake. He also noted that the Highway crew had been treating Back Bay Road near Canaan Street Lake with magic salt and there had been no adverse effects reported there.

Selectman Lewis asked about the septic systems as well. He was concerned with the old septic systems that might be on properties around the lake. To him this was a greater concern than salt.

Mr. Barney responded that septic was not an easy problem. He thought that since the road salt and magic salt were identified sources which are easy to remove then they should be not be used on the road.

Selectman Lewis asked if Mr. Barney was suggesting that Goose Pond Road be treated with abrasives only. Mr. Barney replied yes.

Chairman Reagan once again expressed his concern with the winter conditions on the road and the question of overall responsibility for public safety. He noted that we are not able to plow as frequently as Hanover which requires the use of materials to keep snow and ice from building up on the roads. He noted that the Road Agent, Bob Scott, always does his best to manage the use of salt while keeping the road clear, but ultimately it is a matter of public safety. There is always the possibility that the road will need to handle school buses as well as cars and trucks. He felt that the need for safe travel necessitates some level of salt being used on the road.

Selectman Borthwick asked why, if salt was really the issue, was the State was still treating route 4A which runs along Mascoma Lake with salt. That is the water supply for Lebanon.

Selectman Borthwick also asked if anyone knew how long the road had been paved. Mr. Barney was not sure, but he felt that an unpaved road would be better as it would eliminate the use of salt on the road.

Selectman Lewis asked the Road Agent, Bob Scott, if he could get an estimate of the cost for using a manufactured sand/salt mix on Goose Pond Road. Mr. Scott replied that he would have to get a number for doing the plow route that includes Goose Pond Road and not just for the one road as it would be too time consuming to refit the trucks during a storm. Mr. Barney asked if we could get an estimate as to how much material was applied to the road.

Selectman Borthwick expressed his concern with paying for manufactured sand when we have already invested funds in equipment to manufacture our own sand.

Well Blending Project – Bid Results and Recommendations

Michael reviewed the information contained in the bid recommendation received from Wright-Pierce. They recommended that the Board accept the bid of \$79,180.00 submitted by Keymont Construction of Laconia, NH. The Board reviewed the materials provided and agreed with the recommendation. A motion was made by Selectman Borthwick to authorize Michael to sign the Notice of Award as soon as the necessary approvals had been obtained from NHDES. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lewis and voted 3-0 in favor.

Michael also supplied the Board with a cash flow projection for their review and comment. He noted that there would be a meeting on Friday, December 4 at 2PM in the Town Office conference room with Keymont, NHDES, Wright-Pierce and the Town to discuss the particulars of moving forward with the project.

Electric Utility Appeal

Michael provided some background information with regard to this topic. The New Hampshire Electric Coop has filed an appeal with the BTLA for their 2008 property tax assessment. Michael had contacted George E. Sansoucy, PE, LLC, the appraisal firm that had done the original assessment, to assist the Town with the appeal. Michael outlined the discussion he had with Mr. Sansoucy regarding the timeline for the appeal process. Mr Sansoucy had prepared an agreement for consulting services for the Board's review and comment. Michael informed the Board that, although no work would be done prior to year end, if they could move forward with the agreement at this time, funds could be encumbered from this year's legal and assessing budget lines to cover the expenses incurred in 2010. After a brief discussion with regard to the contents of the agreement, Selectmen Lewis made a motion that the Board accept the terms contained therein and sign the agreement. The motion was seconded by Selectman Borthwick and voted 3-0 in favor. The Board members then signed the agreement which was witnessed by Philip Salvail.

Boston Post Cane

Michael informed the Board the he had been contacted by Barbara Belloir, the grand daughter of Mary Hazen. Barbara had inquired as to whether of not Mary was the oldest living Canaan resident and therefore entitled to receive the Boston Post Cane. Michael had checked with Town Clerk, Vicky Mc Alister who confirmed that Mary was indeed the oldest living resident.

Selectman Borthwick made a motion that the Board award the Boston Post Cane to Mary Hazen in recognition of her being Canaan's oldest living resident. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lewis and voted 3-0 in favor. Chairman Reagan offered to attend the 100th birthday celebration to be held in Mary's honor on December 12, 2009 to present her with a replica of the cane.

2010 Budget: Continued Discussion

Michael provided an update to the Board with regard to the ongoing 2010 Budget process. Gloria had updated the Police Retirement budget line.

Selectman Borthwick mentioned that during their meeting on November 19, the Budget Committee voted to move the Goose Pond Lake Association and Canaan Street Lake Association budget lines from the regional association section of the budget to recreation section of the budget to more accurately reflect how the funds that support these groups are spent. The Committee proposed that \$1800.00 be awarded to each group for a total increase of \$3600.00 to the recreation budget.

Scott also mentioned that during the discussion of the regional association of the Budget, the charitable groups present were told that they should submit warrant articles for their 2010 funding.

Michael mentioned that he had a brief discussion with Gloria regarding the water and sewer budget line for the Fire Department. He was anticipating that the line would have to be increased to cover some of the fees associated with the hydrant district.

Other Business

Michael informed the Board that he had received some information from National Grid regarding the removal of some of the streetlights in Town. He noted that there were some questions with regard to the tariffs associated with removal costs that would require further review before proceeding.

Michael informed the Board that he had just been notified by Chief Bellion that the schedule for the Fire Department cleaning and painting had been moved up. The change will require the December meetings for the Board and the Budget Committee to be moved. Michael is checking with the Senior Center to be certain that the meetings can be held there.

Michael asked if the Board members had reviewed the information provided with regard to the new cell phone plans under consideration. Not all of the Board members had reviewed the plans so it was decided to revisit this item at the meeting on December 1, 2009.

Michael informed the Board that he and Selectman Lewis had discussed with Fred Hammond the possibility of waiting until the spring of 2010 before having residents bring their C & D directly to his facility. Everyone felt that it would be helpful to take the extra time to allow for a smoother transition. The other Board members agreed that it would be a good idea to wait until everything was in place. Michael will inform Mr. Hammond of the Board's decision.

Michael informed the Board of a discrepancy he had noticed with one of the tax property sales that would require that it be nullified. In preparing the deed for the parcel located at Tax Map 6, Lot 44A, it was discovered that although the property was originally taken for taxes in 1995 and subsequently sold properly in 1998, the individuals who purchased it then gave it back to the Town. This technically makes it Town property and not property taken by tax deed. Michael suggested that the funds received from the buyer be reimbursed at this time and the property resold if the Warrant Article authorizing the Board to sell town owned property passes in the spring of 2010. The Board agreed that it would be okay to return the funds. Michael apologized for not noticing the discrepancy sooner.

Non-Public Session (RSA 91 – A.3-c)

With no further business before the Board, at 9:39 PM Selectman Borthwick moved, Selectman Lewis seconded and the Board voted 3-0 by roll call vote to go into non public session to discuss a personnel matter. At 10:32 PM Selectman Borthwick made a motion to come out of non-public session. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lewis and voted 3-0 by roll call vote. At 10:32 PM Selectman Borthwick made a motion to seal the minutes of the non public session. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lewis and voted 3-0 by roll call vote. At 10:33 PM Selectman Borthwick made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lewis and voted 3-0 by the Board.

Robert Reagan, Chairman

Scott Borthwick

Tim Lewis
Canaan Board of Selectmen