

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm in the main floor of the Town Hall. Present were Mark Pitkin, Road Agent; Leon Holmes Jr, Steve Harms, Jack Downing, and Greta St. Germain, Selectmen's Rep.

Minutes of the May 3, 2010 meeting were reviewed and amended. Downing made the motion to accept as amended, Harms seconded, 5-0 approved.

Talking points for May 17th meeting:

- Routes and Drivers
- Line items added to budget
 - Road Reconstruction
 - Part time-seasonal help
 - Overlay
 - Sand Sealing
- Part time help, to assist in laboring and flagging.
- 2004-2009 Cost comparisons for Road plowing and summer help
- 3.00 per hour additional for vendors who carry worker's compensation insurance
- Need to increase budget for major road work
- Sander for the Town one ton truck
- Backhoe cost and accessories needed

Holmes had presented to the Committee the list of routes and drivers of those routes that currently plow and sand for the Town of Fremont. There was no further discussion concerning this information.

The Committee discussed the final drafted agreements for plowing and sanding. There was question whether Fremont will compensate 1099 vendors that carry their own worker's comp. This was previously discussed as this is the practice of several other towns, Hampstead being one of them. Pitkin respectfully refrained from comment as this decision effects his rates. Downing suggested meeting in the middle of the surrounding towns which are \$ 2.50 to \$ 5.00 more. The addition of 3.00 per hour was added.

The current state statute includes that any person that owns and solely operates (Owner operator) their own vehicle is excluded from Worker's Compensation insurance requirements, however should they or anyone other vendor allow another person (even a family member) to drive their vehicle, then they would be required by law to carry the proper Worker's Compensation Insurance. This currently would affect both Pitkin and Leon Holmes Sr.

St. Germain presented information gathered from the Town Reports from 2004 to 2009, which included winter, summer, and total budgets from 2004 to 2009. This included vendor payments for all plow and sanding drivers. The Committee viewed and discussed the cost compared to the total Highway budget.

There was discussion on the minimal amount of funds left available within the past budgets, and that the failure to plan accordingly has subsequently resulted in our Town's current situation. The Committee discussed that in this down turn economy people are reluctant to spend money. All agreed that the roads are in dire condition and that money must be planned and set aside to do more then just patchwork.

It was discussed that the previous Road Agent made mention that he may have cut the budget too much in an effort to save money. Currently the Highway budget is at \$274,000 which is less than the level it was in 2007 of \$280,000. The Committee agreed that the reconstruction line should be increasing year to year to

allow for growth. St. Germain referenced the surrounding towns and their ongoing road reconstruction that connects to Fremont, there was comparison in the roads in Epping and Brentwood that transition to ours. All agreed that once you cross over into Fremont, our roads are in sad shape.

Downing (also a member of the Planning Board) believes that this was discussed previously with the past Road Agent and should appear in the Capital Improvement Plan or minutes of that meeting. He stated that Meredith Bolduc (Planning Board Secretary) may have the records of these plans. St. Germain will inquire with Meredith for any documentation of these future plans.

The Committee agreed that funds need to be planned for in the future budget to allow for major road reconstruction. Pitkin presented (in a proposal from All State Asphalt, Inc), the cost to sand seal five (5) roads in Fremont that would bring life back into the pavement as an alternative to major road reconstruction: as follows:

Sandown Road	29,375 s.y.	\$ 38,187.50
Abbott Rd	7,155 s.y.	9,301.50
Scribner Road	15,333 s.y.	19,329.90
North Road	26,400 s.y	15,340.00

- Town to supply pre-sweeping, sand, loader and traffic control

In addition, Pitkin presented a cost quote from Brox Industries to reconstruct Beede Hill Road from the Town line to the NH DOT marker, for a cost of \$ 72,450.00. Whereas this money is not in the current budget, Pitkin believes that the sand sealing quote from All State Asphalt, Inc is a sufficient alternative for Beede Hill Road and has presented his quote to the Selectmen for approval.

Pitkin commented on the lack of budget line items to allow for this, he would like to add new line item descriptions for the upcoming 2011 budget. i.e. Road Construction, Part time seasonal help, Overlay, Sand Sealing, etc. St. Germain believes this is possible and will discuss his request with the Town Administrator.

Harms presented data he had collected comparing Fremont's total Highway Budget. Hampstead's 2009 budget amount for Highways totaled \$837,574.53 and \$797,830.00 for the current 2010 year. Danville was included in the comparison and is closer to the same demographics as Fremont. Danville's 2009 budget is \$400,000.00 and \$426,933.00 for 2010. Other town Highway budgets similar to Fremont's size will be researched and presented to the Committee for review.

The Committee discussed the need for a part-time highway laborer to assist Holmes in his day to day projects that would require either a flagger (for safety) or a laborer. Holmes stated that he is getting the work done, however it is taking longer to complete the projects. Pitkin will compile a list of requirement for that position to be posted by the Town Administrator.

Road Agent's Salary and Compensation: Currently the Road agent receives a stipend from the Town of Fremont for his services. Pitkin stated the Road Agents of other Town make a salary or income based on their equipment rental as was the case in our past situation with Guerwood Holmes. Pitkin does not work in Fremont on a full time basis as with our past Road Agent because he can not rely on this stipend alone for income. Pitkin and the Committee believe that if the Town moved in the direction of purchasing their own equipment then the Road Agent's income would need to be modified to warrant his time.

Equipment Purchases: The Committee proceeded to discuss equipment needs, various scenarios where expressed, the group agreed that the basic need for a backhoe would be feasible with what is available in our current Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. The current amount on record is \$ 52,209.00 however Pitkin has priced a sander for the Town one ton which will result in savings to the Town as a 6 wheeler (Contracted Vendor) will no longer be needed to do smaller jobs.

St. Germain presented 3 past quotes dated June 2009 on Backhoe prices. The Committee reviewed them. Holmes and Pitkin will call the dealers for updated price quotes. There was talk of equipment demonstrations and the needed accessories for the backhoe. The Committee would like to see the attachments include: Broom, Snow Plow, Thumb, Grade all with knuckle, Ditch bucket, A/C and Heat.

The Committee will address the Highway shed issues as well as the needed work at the next meeting. Pitkin has obtained quotes for reference.

Information to present at next meeting:

- Copy of previous site plan for Highway shed
- Backhoe prices

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for June14, 2010.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greta St. Germain