

**Town of Auburn
Board of Selectmen
November 13, 2015**

Selectmen Present: James Headd, Richard Eaton & Dale Phillips

Also Present: Deputy Tax Collector Susan Jenkins, Road Agent Michael Dross, Residents Dennis Vieira, Mickey Rolfe, Jennifer Hashem and Kurt & Susan Tompkins; Town Administrator William Herman

Mr. Headd called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

Non-Public Session:

Mr. Eaton moved to enter into Non-Public Session at 9:04 am pursuant to the provisions of RSA 91-A: 3, II (a) to discuss a personnel matter. Second by Mrs. Phillips. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Headd – yes; Mr. Eaton – yes; Mrs. Phillips – yes. The motion passed.

Meeting in Non-Public Session with the Selectmen were Deputy Tax Collector Susan Jenkins and Town Administrator Herman.

Mr. Eaton moved to come out of Non-Public Session at 9:30 am. Second by Mrs. Phillips. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Headd – yes; Mr. Eaton – yes; Mrs. Phillips – yes. The motion passed.

Mrs. Phillips moved to seal the minutes of the Non-Public Session. Second by Mr. Eaton. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

The Chairman recessed the meeting at 9:30 am. The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 9:35 am.

2016 Road Reconstruction Budget:

The Board met with Road Agent Mike Dross to discuss potential road reconstruction projects for 2016. The Road Agent felt the number one priority should be to complete the remaining approximately one-mile section of Dearborn Road from approximately Raymond Road to the Candia town line. The Road Agent felt there would be relatively easy construction work with good material through most of the project. But he warned he thought there was some ledge near the intersection with Cricket Lane and that there

would need to be attention paid to drainage and underdrains in the area of 515 Dearborn Road to ensure water is appropriately channeled and pulled from the road.

With funds remaining, he noted the Town could look at reconstructing Nutt Road and complete that entire area; finish reconstructing the remainder of Lovers Lane to the intersection with Bunker Hill Road; or work on Hills Road.

The Road Agent indicated that would be contingent upon the Board's intentions with the Griffin Mill Bridge, and if that was a project to move forward in the next year.

Mr. Eaton indicated he didn't think the Town was ready to move forward on Griffin Mill Bridge in 2016. He noted State funding was not available until 2022, but that things seem to be stabilized and are not at a critical issue now. Mrs. Phillips also noted the Town has provided emergency access to further assist. All of the Board members were in agreement Griffin Mill Bridge was not a project planned for 2016.

Mr. Eaton felt if the Town could get on Dearborn Road as early as possible in the spring, it would be good to finish that section of road as described. He felt that with what funds are left, it made sense to go back and completed Nutt Road, and then move to either Lovers Lane or Hills Road if funds are available.

The Road Agent noted he also had a culvert project to do on Old Candia Road with Hazard Mitigation Funds as well in 2016. Mr. Herman indicated they would review the authorization time frame as the Town has 18 months from the point of Governor and Council approval of the grant to complete the work, and that project may need to be the first one done in the spring to meet the grant obligations. The Selectmen agreed to perform the culvert work first if needed and then commence work on Dearborn Road.

The Road Agent indicated he had approximately \$132,000 remaining in this year's Road Reconstruction budget. He indicated he could continue some of the work on Dearborn Road, but he was concerned about opening up too much of the road and then getting stuck with bad weather. He indicated he would prefer to shim and overlay a portion of Pingree Hill Road from intersection with Vici Drive up to intersection of Steam Mill Road. He felt this would help to save the road from worsening. Another alternative would be to shim and overlay Bunker Hill Road from Dearborn Road to Route 121.

Mr. Eaton noted the driveway access to Wayne Eddows Field had recently been approved for a wetlands permit by the NH Department of Environmental Services, and perhaps it made sense to get in there now and finish it up instead of dragging it out over time. He also wondered if it might be possible to finish up the expanded parking lot there to assist the Parks & Recreation Commission. The Road Agent felt it made sense to do the driveway access with the box culvert as approved. He felt less comfortable moving to complete the expanded parking lot at this time.

The Board overall was in agreement with moving on the driveway access at this time and completing that in November if possible.

The Board also was in consensus agreement that the Town's road construction projects for 2016 would be the completion of Dearborn Road, followed by the reconstruction of Nutt Road. If funds were still available, working on either the final portion of Lovers Lane or Hills Road.

Mr. Eaton made a motion to approve level funding of the Road Reconstruction account in 2016 at \$800,000. Seconded by Mrs. Phillips. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Other Business:

Soccer Field Issues:

In follow-up to discussions from the Board's November 9th meeting, Mr. Eaton reported he met on site of the soccer field at Wayne Eddows Field with representatives of Highway Quality Lawn Care of Auburn to inspect the existing conditions and seek additional input on prospective fixes. Mr. Eaton provided the Board with a proposal from Highest Quality Lawn Care that addressed work to be done immediately in 2015 and then longer term work to be considered in 2016.

The immediate work for November 2015 would be to perform core aeration and limestone application, in addition to a winterizer fertilizer application. The core aeration and limestone application is slightly lower than the \$2,700 price previously received, but the winterizer fertilizer application is an additional \$450. The total price is \$3,000. Mr. Herman indicated there is \$3,000 available in the Selectmen's budget if this is a direction the Board wants to go.

The Board in general agreed they should attempt to do what they can now, and then share the information with the Parks & Recreation Commission for the proposed work in 2016 so they can consider it. The Board would like to meet with the Commission and then work through some planning and budget issues. Mr. Eaton felt we should try to get the fields up to shape in order to maintain them moving forward.

Mr. Eaton also mentioned the Recreation Improvements line item of \$52,000. With the proposal to add dug outs to Town property, he suggested the Board consider funding that expense from the Town Building Fund instead of the FY 2016 budget. The Board and the Commission could then focus attention on the parking lot project, in addition to potential improvements to the irrigation system.

Mrs. Phillips indicated she is in agreement with this general discussion and direction, but reiterated that before any further work is done, she wants the Selectmen to see a full plan for the development of the remaining Eddows Field property and make some long-term decisions.

Mr. Eaton moved to accept the price of \$3,000 from Highest Quality Lawn Care for core aeration and limestone application & winterizer fertilizer application on the soccer field. Seconded by Mrs. Phillips. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Collective Bargaining:

Mr. Herman reported to the Board that earlier this week a tentative agreement was reached on a three-year contract with the Auburn Police Union. The next step is for the agreement to be presented to the membership of the union for their consideration. If they vote their approval, the next step would be for a joint meeting of the Police Commissioners and the Board of Selectmen to enable both boards to consider the agreement and vote. If either side does not approve the agreement, the negotiations resume. If both sides agree to the contract, then it is presented to the Budget Committee for their recommendation on the cost items, and would then be presented to the voters in the form of a warrant article in March.

Command Vehicle:

Mrs. Phillips reported she had spoken to the Fire Chief and the new Tahoe to serve as the Command Vehicle has been received by the Town. Following past practice, it is currently being lettered which should be completed today or tomorrow. The vehicle will then go to the Pingree Hill Fire Station where members of the department will be installing the lights, communications equipment and other equipment to complete the vehicle before it is formally put into service.

Dennis Vieira felt the Town was fortunate to have this work done by the members of the department. He indicated outfitting such a vehicle could add thousands of dollars of cost, and the Fire Department members are saving the taxpayers that expense.

Hills Road:

Susan Tompkins expressed her disappointment with the Board of Selectmen and what has been going on with the extension of Hills Road, particularly now that it appeared the road was open. Mr. Headd interjected that the Board was not here to discuss Hills Road and would not allow the conversation to continue, particularly with some of the residents being represented by legal counsel.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:10 am.