

**Town of Auburn
Board of Selectmen
Workshop Meeting
June 27, 2016**

Selectmen Present: James Headd, Richard Eaton & Dale Phillips

Also Present: Road Agent Mike Dross, Dan Tatem of Stantec Consulting, and Town Administrator William Herman

Mr. Headd called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

Discussion of History & Status of Hooksett Road:

Mr. Herman advised in recent years questions have arisen between the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) and the Town of Auburn concerning the ownership and maintenance responsibilities for various sections of Hooksett Road. To date, the Town of Auburn has not been able to locate a clear record or history regarding ownership versus right-of-way, and what portions of Hooksett Road is Auburn responsible to maintain.

In the past two years, some drainage infrastructure maintenance in the immediate area of the underpass at Exit 2 was brought to the Road Agent's attention by NHDOT. Although the drainage was installed by NHDOT, they informed him the repair work is the responsibility of Auburn. However, the Road Agent indicated that he is personally aware, dating back to Cliff Stacey, that NHDOT has maintained the infrastructure for this particular section of road.

At the present time, NHDOT contents the maintenance responsibility for Hooksett Road is divided up as follows:

- From NH 121 northerly to approximately 0.25 miles north of Depot Road (NHDOT)
- From 0.25 miles north of Depot Road northerly to Rockingham Road (Auburn)
- From Rockingham Road northerly for 0.75 miles -- 563 Hooksett Road (NHDOT)
- From 563 Hooksett Road northerly to Hooksett town line (Auburn).

Because Auburn does not have any historical documentation clearly delineating the ownership / maintenance responsibilities for the various sections of the road, Mr. Herman had requested Stantec Consulting to research the historical records of

Hooksett Road in hopes of determining the ownership of each section and who has maintenance responsibilities for those sections of road, which has led to this meeting.

Mr. Tatem indicated that work would need to be done by researching records at the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, the NH State Archives and archives at the NHDOT in order to potentially arrive at an answer. He indicated this could cost approximately \$2,000 to \$2,500 and, based on past similar research activities, may result in no definitive answer or potentially complete information that may benefit the Town or the NHDOT.

Mike Dross indicated for more than 35 years of his recollection of time with Cliff Stacey, Joe Stacey, John Rolfe and his own time as Road Agent, the NHDOT has painted the lines in that section of road; mowed; maintained the traffic islands; performed drainage maintenance and repairs; pumped out catch basins, placed traffic signs and the like. He indicated the immediate drainage issue at this time is a catch basin under the overpass near the off-ramp adjacent to Myles Travel Plaza. It is a barrel block installation that is beginning to rot out and fall apart.

Rick Eaton didn't understand why the Town was even having this discussion. He felt it was clear that at any major intersection of a road like Route 101, there was no question but it was NHDOT ownership and/or responsibility.

Mr. Herman indicated it is not so much a question of ownership, but maintenance responsibilities. His personal belief is the NHDOT does not own Hooksett Road, but would either have a right-of-way easement or a drainage & maintenance easement over portions of it that would establish responsibility for sections of the road. Depending what level of responsibility is in place, it could be by easement, it could be by formal layout that went through the Governor and Council, it could have been by a legislative act, or by some other means.

Mr. Tatem indicated the NHDOT is scheduled to re-build the two sections of Hooksett Road it indicates are its responsibility this construction season. He had understood they would be removing the current black top and replacing it with three-inches of pavement, which they will let traffic pack down for a month or so, and then place a one-inch top coat. Mr. Dross also understood they would be replacing all existing culverts in those sections of road as part of their efforts.

As the Board discussed and reviewed the potential issues and responsibilities, they collectively came to the conclusion the Town should perform its due diligence and try to determine what documentation is in place that formalizes respective areas of responsibility.

Mr. Eaton moved to authorize Stantec Consulting to perform the appropriate research concerning the ownership and maintenance responsibilities for Hooksett Road. Mrs. Phillips seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Tatem indicated he believed the research work would be performed in early July and the Board should be able to have the results in relatively short order.

Other Business:

Mr. Herman provided the Board with a recommendation from Stantec Consulting to release the present surety held by the Town for the Long Meadow Subdivision, which is in the amount of \$21,682.80. Mr. Tatem noted the funds had been retained for an additional year to deal with road items found a year ago in the road acceptance process. He noted the issue had been a "wavy" pavement condition, which was addressed by the developer with the installation of 800-feet of underdrain and outlets. He has inspected everything and reports all repairs have been made and are working. The Road Agent had no concerns with the recommendation.

Mrs. Phillips moved to release the present surety of \$21,682.80 held by the Town for the Long Meadow Subdivision based on the recommendation of Stantec Consulting. Mr. Eaton seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn:

Mr. Headd moved to adjourn; Mr. Eaton seconded the motion. All were in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 AM.