

Kingston, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of November 26, 2018
Draft MINUTES

The Selectmen met in Meeting Room at the Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:17 PM.

PRESENT: Mark Heitz, Chairman; Phillip Coombs, and Donald Briggs, Jr., Selectmen.

ABSENT: George Korn and Kevin St. James, Selectmen (Selectman St. James arrived at 6:50 PM).

Non-Public Session

MOTION: Upon motion of Chairman Heitz, **SECOND** of Selectman Coombs, it was voted by roll call to adjourn to Non-Public session under the provisions of NH RSA 91-A:3,II (d), Acquisition or sale of property.

In Favor: Heitz, Briggs, Coombs; Motion passed.

The Board adjourned at 6:18 PM.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Coombs, **SECOND** of Selectman Briggs, it was voted by roll call to return to public session at 6:59 PM.

In Favor: Heitz, Briggs, Coombs, St. James; Motion passed.

APPOINTMENTS:

Sandra Maida, Concannon Road

Ms. Maida (a resident of Concannon Road) addressed the Selectmen, saying she had two issues to discuss: the condition of Concannon Road, and the manner in which it is plowed.

Explaining that Concannon Road is a circle, beginning and ending on roads in the Town of Newton, with a wooded area in the middle, Ms. Maida said that the road is very narrow, and paved only on the portion including addresses 1-20. She distributed photographs and described in detail the bad condition of the road, saying that there are potholes, pavement is broken and missing in areas, and patched areas are breaking up and large chunks of pavement material are being plowed into residents' driveways. She noted that her own snowblower has been damaged by chunks of pavement, and that elderly neighbors should not have to contend with this.

Ms. Maida said that this is a safety issue as well, as she has observed a runner tripping and falling in a large pothole, and a child on a bike also falling there.

Chairman Heitz said he had talked to Road Agent Rich St. Hilaire, who agreed that the road is in need of repair and is not sure if it will be done this year. Ms. Maida said it is beyond patching and needs to be removed and repaved. Chairman Heitz said that there are access issues due to the width of the road and ownership of some parcels.

Selectman St. James said that the Town has a good maintenance program, but the Highway department is just catching up with other areas after three years of paving for the New Boston Road bridge.

There was a discussion of the width of the road, being very narrow especially on one end, which makes access difficult especially in winter. The lack of room to widen the road was also discussed. Chairman Heitz said that the portion owned by the town varies depending on the road, and that when the road is narrow, vehicles drive on the edge of the pavement which causes failure. Ms. Maida said that there is vacant land on one side of the narrow portion, and that maybe the owners could be approached.

Discussion turned to the method of plowing the road, which Ms. Maida said is done in a manner which pushes the snow and pavement chunks into the driveways. She asked why the plows could not come in from the other side and plow against the wooded area in the middle. Selectman Briggs pointed out that there are a lot of trees close to the road in the wooded area, and stumps where some have been removed. Chairman Heitz said that also, with a flat plow blade, the driver wants the bad road area on the following edge rather than hitting it with the front edge.

The Selectmen agreed to pass the concerns on to the Road Agent to see if changing the plow direction is a viable option.

OLD BUSINESS:

Credit card processing

Chairman Heitz said that the Town Clerk and Finance Officer had been asked to follow up with the company that processes the Clerk/Tax Collector's credit card payments after complaints about fees had been brought by a resident. Mr. Heitz read the response from Interware, which gave pricing for PIN pads (from \$375 to \$575) and said they "would have no effect on the 2.95%" fee. The emailed response also said that the "visa and government program... allows the convenience fees as long as you are abiding by the rules set forth, and I assure you, you are."

NEW BUSINESS:

Cell Phone Service for First Responders: Fire Chief Bill Seaman

Chief Seaman gave the Selectmen an overview of the cell phone usage by police and fire personnel, which since 9/11 has been on a first responder bandwidth which has priority in times of heavy usage. Additionally, AT&T has won the national contract for First Net, which is in use by first responders in all 50 states, New Hampshire being the last to adopt it.

Chief Seaman said he has met with an account representative of AT&T as well as with the Seacoast Chiefs group, and researched the price and service availability versus the current service provided by Verizon. Service availability was tested and found to be as good or better than with Verizon. He said currently the Fire and Police departments have 10 cell phones, 3 air cards, 2 pads and a hotspot with 25 shared gigabites at a cost of \$453 per month. The AT&T representative looked at the usage and said 15 gigabites would be enough, and quoted a price per month of \$325. In addition they will upgrade flip phones to iPhone 7s for 99 cents apiece. There is no contract with Verizon, so the change can be made immediately.

After a discussion of details the Selectmen agreed that the change makes sense, and Chief Seaman will work with Finance Director Cindy Kenerson to fill out paperwork and make the changes. Ms. Kenerson will be the contact with AT&T.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

November 19, 2018, Public and Non-public

MOTION: by Selectman Coombs, to approve both the public and non-public session minutes of November 19, 2018 as written.

SECOND: by Selectman St. James

In favor: St. James, Coombs, Briggs; **Abstain:** Heitz; **Motion carried.**

HIGHWAY:

Concannon Road - cont.

Road Agent Rich St. Hilaire joined the meeting at this time and was asked for his input on the state of repair and plowing problems at Concannon Road. He acknowledged that the road is in need of repair and has width and access issues. Asked about the vacant lots on one side and options there for widening the road, Mr. St. Hilaire said that there may be reluctance on the part of the owners as they had not been allowed to put garages on those lots. As for the direction the plows take, he said that trees, stumps and elevation make it difficult to push snow toward the vacant side.

ADMINISTRATIVE: APPLICATIONS, PURCHASE ORDERS, CORRESPONDENCE:

- Two tax abatement forms were signed.
- An application for a Solar Energy Exemption was approved and signed.
- Purchase orders were reviewed and signed.

Non-Public Session

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Briggs, **SECOND** of Selectman St. James, it was voted by roll call to adjourn to Non-Public session under the provisions of NH RSA 91-A:3,II (e), Legal, and RSA 91-A:3, II(d), Consideration of acquisition or sale of property.

In Favor: Heitz, Briggs, Coombs, St. James; **Motion passed.**

The Board adjourned at 8:13 PM.

MOTION: Upon motion of Selectman Briggs, **SECOND** of Selectman Coombs, it was voted by roll call to return to public session at 9:05 PM.

In Favor: Heitz, Briggs, Coombs, Korn, St. James; **Motion passed.**

Adjournment

MOTION: by Selectman Coombs, to adjourn at 9:05 PM

SECOND: by Selectman Briggs

All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Ayer

Administrative Assistant