

OFFICE OF THE SELECTBOARD
Town of Halifax, Vermont

MINUTES
June 19, 2012-DRAFT

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. Board members in attendance were Lewis Sumner, Edee Edwards, and Earl Holtz. Others in attendance were Brad Rafus, Peggy Webber, Wayne Corse, Craig Stone, Keith Stone, Vickie Stone, Ben Barnett, Travis Briggs, Mike Fournier, Joe Tamburrino, Ray Combs, Margo Avakian, Jesse White, Greg Marguet, Orrin Isles, and Phyllis H. Evanuk.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Edwards moved to accept the minutes of the June 5, 2012, regular meeting with the following corrections: Page 1-under flood work update contacting property owners for riprap issues, it should be bridge, wing wall, and riprap as they are all easement issues; Page 2- just above open bids for riprap project, for clarity the sentence regarding bids being ready to go out should be moved to the paragraph above as it is only Reed Hill bids that are ready. Page 3- regarding executive session a disclaimer should be added "if so voted" to clarify; and Page 4- where it says Sumner moved to bring the Josh Road up to specs, it should also state there was no second to the motion.

Mr. Sumner also noted that under people in attendance it should be Wayne Corse, not Wayne Courser.

Mr. Holtz seconded the motion, the minutes were approved as amended 3-0.

Mr. Holtz moved to accept the minutes of the June 8, 2012 special meeting as written.

Ms. Edwards seconded the motion which carried 3-0 and the minutes were approved.

Ms. Edwards moved to accept the minutes of the June 14, 2014 special meeting as written.

Mr. Holtz seconded the motion which carried 3-0 and the minutes were approved.

New Business

Opening Bids on Fuel, Sand, Chloride, and Roadside Mowing

<u>Fuel</u> Guy E. Nido	#2 Heating Oil prepaid in full by August 17, 2012 - 3.16/gal.	
	Summer Diesel - July 1-Oct.31, 2012 and	
	April 1 - June 13, 2013	3.21/gal
	Winter Diesel - Nov 1, 2012 - March 31, 2012	3.37/gal

This was the only bid received for fuel.

Mr. Sumner moved to accept the bid as stated from Guy E. Nido.

Mr. Holtz seconded the motion, which carried 3-0.

<u>Sand</u>	Corse Excavating	Beaman Pit, Hinsdale 4000yds	FOB @ 7.35/yd.
		Fletcher Pit, W. Brattleboro	FOB @ 9.50/yd.
	Lane Construction		
	Cersosimo	River Rd. Pit	FOB @ 9.45/yd.
		Chesterfield	FOB @ 7.50/yd.

Mr. Holtz moved to accept the bid from Corse Excavating for the Beaman Pit quote.

Mr. Rafus asked to speak. He advised that given the location of the pits, it is easier for them to access the Cersosimo pit on River Road than it is to access the Beaman Pit in Hinsdale. Hinsdale requires going through Brattleboro and five miles into Hinsdale. For Chesterfield they can take I-91 and it is just a short distance to River Road. Considering the time and distance it seems to him it would be more cost effective to use Cersosimo.

Ms. Edwards calculated the difference in bid price between the two is about \$600.

Mr. Rafus advised it was a shorter distance so that it would save on gas and they know the quality of the product because they have used it in the past.

Ms. Edwards advised there was a motion on the floor, but no second. Therefore she moved to accept the Cersosimo bid @ 7.50/yd. from the River Rd Pit in Chesterfield, NH.

<u>Chloride</u>	All State Asphalt	Sunderland, MA	10,000 gal @ .86/gal
	Gorman Group	Albany, NY	10,000 gal @ .88 gal
	Innovative	Glenmont, NY	10,000 gal @ .86/gal

Ms. Edwards moved to accept the bid for chloride from All State Asphalt at .86 gal.

Mr. Sumner seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Roadside Mowing

Only one bid was received from Andrew Rockwell with an hourly rate of \$56.

Keith Stone asked if they had looked into an over the guardrail mower. He advised that the current way roadside mowing is done leaves brush and that means the road crew has to go back and cut what the roadside mowing person didn't take care of. It would be more cost effective to have one of the road crew use a rented over the guardrail mower do the project, than to pay for a roadside mower and then have members of the road crew have to go over the same areas. He further advised that a number of area towns rent the equipment and it could probably be done for approximately the same amount that the Board has allotted for roadside mowing. Mr. Rafus advised he would check into pricing and sources to rent an over the guardrail mower.

Mr. Holtz moved to table a decision on the roadside mowing bid until the next regular meeting.

Ms. Edwards seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Discussion of 40 hour work week

Mr. Sumner asked for suggestions or comments from the road crew. They advised they were waiting to hear what the Board had to say. Mr. Tambourine advised that he felt it was very unfair to cut their hours without bringing their hourly wage up to match or exceed the amount they are now making. Mr. Sumner advised that while the other board members might not agree, he would like to see them follow the schedule Wilmington uses. Raise the wage for 40 hours in the summer and then put it back down and increase the hours to 45 in the winter. Mr. Holtz advised they were trying to reach an equitable solution. Ms. Edwards advised from her perspective it was not being considered as a cost saving measure but to make the system simpler to administer and budget for. They are aware that the current wage scale is lower than most other towns of their size, and this was an attempt to try to bring them more in line with other towns while still being fair to the employees and the taxpayers. Mr. Marguet suggested that the savings from changing to forty hours could be used to hire a couple of part time employees to do the work and cover for vacations. He advised he knew a couple of qualified people who would be happy for the work. Mr. Tambourine advised that would be cutting their pay. Mr. Fournier advised that they are always available, when the flood hit they all had plans to be away for the Labor Day weekend, which they canceled. They were here working. Is this the way they are thanked for all they do? If so, next time they might not be available. Mr. Holtz advised that they are attempting to make this equitable. Mr. Fournier replied that after five years he is making \$13.00 an hour, considering all the required training is not good pay. Mr. K. Stone advised that when he came back five years ago he was not looking for a job; he already had one and made good money. The town came to him and asked him to work even though they could not match his current salary they could come close. He brought all his own equipment with him and now he sees things being taken away, uniforms, overtime and it's not a good feeling. Mr. Rafus advised that all of the current road crew were told that while the hourly wage was low they were guaranteed forty-five hours and that would help even out the weekly pay. Forty-five hours is their base pay. Now to say that we might have to take some of that away and you might make it up at the other end of the year, flies in the face of all they give up. Not just during the flood, they give up a lot all throughout the year. Craig Stone advised that there is a saying that you should learn history and learn from it or you'll repeat it. He reminded them that back in the 1970's there was an energy crisis and CVPS cut back their regular employees to 32 hours per week. The effect this had was that some employees left the company and they had to hire contractors to get the work done that the former employees had gotten done during the 40 hour week. He asked them to please not go down that road. He further voiced support for the road crew and the sacrifices they make to maintain their jobs.

After more discussion it was generally concluded that at this time no changes will be made. It will be listed under old business in the event new information is available.

River Debris Cleanup

Mr. Holtz gave an update: Has been in contact with Dean Adam regarding river debris and there may be USDA grant money available. He plans an additional walk around Route 112 to see if any areas there qualify. No final figures or areas covered have been established yet.

Update on Flood Work

Paving on Green River Road is finished except for the shoulder work. There is more riprap to be installed. The town has received \$181,000. + another payment expected soon.

Reed Hill Bridge

Bid packages for the Reed Hill Bridge cost \$100. with \$75 refundable if the bidders return the drawings. There will be a pre-bid meeting at 9:00 AM on site on July 2, 2012. Bids will be opened at the July 17, 2012 Select board meeting.

Bridge #37 – Old County Road North

Engineering for the Old County Road North Bridge is almost ready. Two options are being offered – precast concrete and wooden deck. Each will include projected costs.

Old Business

Josh Road Bridge: Cost for materials to fix the bridge to bring up to standards = \$1,157.60. The other option is to post it for 6,000 pounds limit. If it is just posted and nothing is done, it could end up requiring a more expensive fix when the next inspection is done.

Ms. Edwards moved to post it for 6,000 pound limit.

Mr. Holtz seconded the motion.

The motion carried 2-1. Mr. Sumner vote no, indicating he felt it should be repaired.

Other Business

Communications/Mail

Whitingham Ambulance is considering merging with Deerfield Valley Ambulance. Both groups will have representatives at the Whitingham Select board meeting on Wednesday, June 27, 2012 and the Halifax Select board has been invited to attend.

Municipal Planning Grants for 2013: The Planning Commission is seeking a grant for assistance with the Town Plan. Ms. Edwards was the assistant M/AO (Municipal Authorizing Official) last year and will be the M/AO this year. The grant applications are online and will be due by September 28, 2012.

One easement has been received for the Reed Hill Road Bridge, two are still pending.

VLCT-PACIF Insurance has notified the town that liability insurance may be changing. They will no longer insure uncertified constables. The Board will look into the ramifications of this decision as neither of the elected constables are certified at this point.

The new EOC Radio couldn't be installed because an upgraded electrical system is needed. Vermont Emergency Management was informed of this deficiency and Mr. Sumner was authorized to order the necessary electrical components.

The Windham Solid Waste Management District was pleased by the turnout of Halifax participants at the recent hazardous waste collection day – 16 people.

Ms. Edwards suggested they should discuss and somehow formalize the construction oversight process and requested it be on the next agenda for consideration.

The mail was reviewed and appropriately filed.

Selectmen's Order to Town Treasurer for bill payment

The order for payment of bills was completed and signed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary