

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 28, 2008
WARREN SELECTBOARD
WARREN MUNICIPAL BUILDING
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andy Cunningham, Burt Bauchner, Chair, Erin Russell-Story, Kirstin Reilly (7:10PM).

OTHERS PRESENT: Fred LaRock, Dennis Bache, Richard Whitworth, Louise McDougal, Tom McHugh, TV 44, Tori Pesak, Cindi Hartshorn-Jones, Patty Sue Carter.

7:06 PM – Meeting Called to order by Mr. Bauchner.

7:07PM – Approval of Minutes for October 25, 2008 – Motion by Mr. Cunningham to approve the Minutes of October 25, 2008, second by Ms. Russell-Story. All in Favor:
VOTE: 3-0.

**7:08 PM – PUBLIC HEARING ON WINTER MAINTENANCE
DISCONTINUANCE OF SELECTED ROADS.**

Whitworth Road, TH 42, Class 4 - .15 miles – Mr. Whitworth started the discussion by saying that it is an active farm with a lot of meadow land. Whitworth Road is the main access to the property with Shepard Hill as a secondary access to the upper land. It is no steeper than the Dump Road, or parts along Sugarbush Access Road. They have never complained about the damage done by the town in past years and there is 5 acres to turn around. If it is not maintained then the family will be forced to sell the property.

Mr. Cunningham stated that the problems with the road is that it is very narrow and the way it is laid out makes it difficult to plow snow and sometimes the trucks can only make it half way up and have to back down into Ellen Lane. Ms. Russell-Story commented that the turn around gets very soft and muddy in the late and early spring making the turn around spot very soft.

Mr. Whitworth asked if it would be possible to move the road further down towards Shepard Hill so that it was not as steep and narrow. Mr. Bauchner indicated that it was a good solution to look at for the next year coming up. It was left that Mr. Whitworth, and Ms. Pesak, would meet Mr. Simpson at 8:00AM on Wednesday and relook at this road.

7:20 PM – Shepard Hill, TH 17, Class 3 - .40 miles – Mr. Bache and Mr. LaRock represented the owners and were ok with compromise as agreed on October 25, 2008 at the site visit. The town would stop plowing just below the last gate, and make a turn around to the cow fence. The town would cuff off the sod and leave it for the owner and would bring in some gravel to make an adequate turn around. The owners would remove the barbed wire fence.

Motion by Mr. Cunningham to accept the compromise as agreed with the representatives, second by Ms. Russell-Story. All in Favor: VOTE: 3-0.

7:30 PM – Sugar Loaf Hill Farm, TH 19, Class 3 - .20 miles – As presented on site visit and follow-up email with Mr. Crandall and Mr. McHugh the compromise as follows: The Crandall's will cut down and remove 3 maple trees and that the town will be responsible for adding gravel and grading the turn-around as needed. The Crandall's will also plow a pull-off with an existing culvert located approximately 150' up the road, for over flow parking during the winter months. Also a new bollard will be installed to mark the well head.

Motion by Mr. Bauchner to approve the compromise solution as proposed and that the town will bring in gravel and level it off and the Crandall's will supervise the parking of their guests, second by Ms. Russell-Story. All in Favor: VOTE: 3-0.

7:40 PM – Blueberry Lake Road, TH 28, Class 3, - .28 Miles – The Burkes could not be present at the public hearing but were in contact with Ms. Jones earlier in the day. They were in agreement with the compromise of plowing the road to the lake. They were also notified that they needed to park off the town highway and that the stone sculpture needed to be removed and were ok with this decision.

7:50 PM – Applewood Road, TH 13, Class 3, - .20 miles - A compromise was reached with Mr. Wadhams that he would smooth off the corner by the septic field, mark the location, and he will also make a dump zone for snow across from his driveway. Mr. Norstom and Ms. McDougle were present as residents who live on the private section of Woods Road. Mr. Norstrom asked why the town did not plow to the polo field and felt that the town was not plowing all the .20 miles. Mr. Cunningham explained that the Applewood Road ended to where the old barn once was. Ms. Jones also commented that in large storms Mr. White does plow to the polo field and turn around to make so that the road does not get to narrow.

8:00 PM – Roth Road (VERY END) TH 14, Class 4, - .19 miles – During the site visit on October 25, 2008, the Roth's (Jenny and John) had agreed with compromise that if there were no vehicles in the driveway the town would plow it. The town would also back in and plow the first 10' to help with big snow banks.

8:10 PM – Cockleburr Farm Road, TH 8, Class 3, - .14 miles – Mr. Gerili had been in contact with Ms. Jones earlier in the day concerning his road. Mr. Gerili was aware of the problems on his road. Mr. Gerili agreed with the site visit findings and is okay about not plowing the road this winter. He would like to retain the right if at anytime in the future if the problems are taken care of, that he may come back to the board to request plowing of the town road.

Motion by Mr. Cunningham to accept the compromise, second by Ms. Russell-Story. All in Favor. VOTE: 3-0.

8:40 PM – ROAD CREW CHECK IN – Raemon Weston, Barry Simpson – Mr. Weston was not present due to in climate weather coming in. Mr. Bauchner wanted to acknowledge a letter from Vermont Local Roads on the attendance of Mr. Simpson, Mr. Weston and Mr. White to the Winter Maintenance Class. Mr. Weston and Mr. White also attended a very worthwhile Roads & Rivers Class. Mr. Simpson started the discussion by saying that the crushing has been completed and there is a total of 9800 yards. They are short by 200 yards but Tucker said he would stay with the price as agreed \$3.50 yard for gravel and \$3.75 a yard for 2” minus stone. (1,000 yards).

The road crew has spent considerable time cleaning ditches of leaves that lawn maintenance care people and residents are raking and blowing into the ditches. The roadcrew spent a couple of hours cleaning the ditch along West Hill/Ellen Lane bordering Pignatello's. Mr. Simpson made a public statement on TV 44 asking for Lawn Care Services and residents not to rake or dump their leaves in town ditches as this causes problems in the winter and spring with runoff from the roads.

Mr. Simpson also has been working on communications for accurate weather reports. He

Knotweed Storage Problem – Mr. Simpson reported that there are about 60 bags of Knotweed presently at the pit that need to be moved. The road crew does not have a burn pile as they have been chipping most all of the roadside brush and will not be burning. Mr. Simpson estimated it would take about 2-3 hours for the road crew to move the bags out of the way of plowing. Suggestions were load them up in the town truck and take to the landfill or get permit to burn them. Mr. Bauchner indicated that the Conservation Commission was adding a line item to the budget concerning knotweed. Currently expense of the RC loading and taking to the landfill will be paid out of Selectboard Contingency fund.

8:05 PM – CONSERVATION COMMISSION CHECK IN - Ms. Wade had called to cancel as she could not attend. Mr. Bauchner did state that the Town Garage Brownsfield Report came back and the site is clean of any contamination. Discussion deferred to next meeting with the PC.

8:10 PM – APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 14, 2008 – Motion by Ms. Russell-Story to approve the Minutes of October 14, 2008, second by Mr. Cunningham. All in Favor: VOTE: 4-0.

8:15 PM – VALLEY HOUSE LIQUOR LICENSE – Motion by Mr. Cunningham to approve the Liquor License from the Valley House, second by Ms. Russell-Story. All in Favor: VOTE: 4-0.

8:15 PM – LOCAL HIGHWAY AID RESOLUTION – A resolution presented to the town by VLCT's to oppose the proposed cuts in funding for local highway aid programs was presented to the Selectboard for signature. Warren currently receives about \$117,000 for highway road maintenance and the 7.4% cut would mean that Warren would lose about \$8,000-\$9,000 that the town would have to make up on the local level. After some discussion the board agreed to sign the resolution amending the following paragraph: Changing the word from its priority to a priority.

Resolved: That the town/city calls upon the state administration and legislature to return in January and make a top priority the resolution of Vermont's Transportation funding crisis in a comprehensive and strategic manner after consideration of all the potential remedies.

Motion by Mr. Cunningham to approve the resolution for highway aid with the correction, second by Ms. Russell-Story. All in Favor: VOTE: 4-0.

8:25 PM – Green Mountain Power Petition for installing 3 new underground Facilities on Brook Road – Motion by Ms. Russell-Story to approve the proposed plan as presented by GMP, second by Ms. Reilly. All in Favor: VOTE: 4-0.

8:26 PM – PLANNING GRANT APPROVAL – Motion by Ms. Russell-Story to approve the Planning Grant as prepared by Mr. Malboeuf, second by Ms. Reilly. All in Favor: VOTE: 4-0.

8:28 PM – Conditional Use Permit for the Ruby Blair Property – Mr. Simpson presented the application for signature to the Selectboard. The permit is to convert the use of building by the public for office space for the DPW and the possible office use for the Constables Association. The 3 bottom apartments would be used by town personnel.

Motion by Mr. Cunningham to approve the application for Conditional Use for the Ruby Blair House, second by Ms. Russell-Story. All in Favor: VOTE: 4-0.

8:35 PM – OTHER BUSINESS:

By way sign site – Mr. Bauchner had met with Mr. Simpson on the corner of Fuller Hill looking across the road at the proposed site of the byway sign. The location is very good as you get a picture of the Cover Bridge, visitors can see the stone archway and it was the former site of an old creamery. However, there is a steep drop issue to the river; there is an old retaining wall from the creamery that is part of the grass surface that is supported by wire mesh. There is also a deep hollow with a hole. There was general agreement that the most viable solution might be a small viewing platform, with rails and the ByWays sign incorporated, as suggested by Ms. Reilly..

Mr. Simpson also indicated that the town should look at engineering costs for a solution of the sand/silt running down the ditch from Fuller Hill across Main Street. This would be a very expensive and extensive engineering plan to solve this issue.

No Parking Signs – Mr. Simpson discussed that Raemon and the RC had looked at possible site locations for 4 “no parking signs from 1:00am-8:00AM on Main Street. Possible locations were starting at the entrance of the village from the North, Main Street/Flat Iron, and at Flat Iron/Brook Road. One could go by the Gazebo, one by Perot and Mobis’s and one near the base of Fuller Hill Road.

8:40 PM – Halloween Road Closure - Ms. Reilly made the announcement that Warren Village Roads will be closed form 6:00-8:00PM for Halloween. So that the little tick or treaters would be safe to cross the roads.

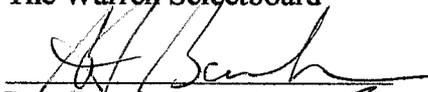
8:45 PM – Motion by Mr. Bauchner to go into executive session to discuss real estate and invite Ms. Jones and Mr. Simpson, second by Mr. Cunningham. All in Favor. VOTE: 4-0.

9:05 PM – Motion by Mr. Cunningham to come out of executive session, second by Ms. Russell-Story. All in Favor: VOTE: 4-0.

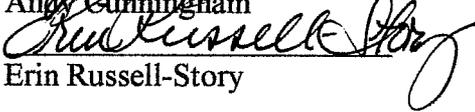
9:10 PM – Motion by Mr. Bauchner to adjourn, second by Mr. Cunningham. All in Favor: VOTE: 4-0.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,
Cindi Hartshorn-Jones
Town Administrator

The Warren Selectboard


Burt Bauchner


Andy Cunningham


Erin Russell-Story

Kirstin Reilly