Meeting convened at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Marj Roy, Town Administrator; Vicky Mishcon, Select Board Chair; Dave Blinn and Chuck Keyser, Select Board Members, and Police Officer Dan Shaw. Arch Weathers, Budget Committee; John Thompson, Road Agent, and Mary Anne Broshek, Conservation Commission

Also present were: Steve Miano, Joan Wallen, Cindy Benson, Brad Hardie, Peter Southwick, Corbett Leith**,** Timothy Wright, Jim Delaney and Andy Guptill

SHIRLEY STREET DRAINAGE ISSUE

John Thompson spoke to the people who came to discuss the water drainage issues in the neighborhood of Lawrence, Poplar, and Shirley Streets. Several residents voiced their concerns of the ongoing water issues in this area. Thompson told the group that this project is on the list for 2019. There are several places that need to be addressed in this area. Thompson believes there is probably a broken pipe underneath that is the cause of the water issues Thompson made a drawing on the white board to help show what he believes is the issue and how to repair it. Thompson noted that the engineers can find the broken pipe and suggested working on it in the spring. According to Thompson, the estimated cost is approximately $10, 000 to repair including the engineering. If the 100-year old system is replaced, the project could cost approximately $100, 000.

Mishcon would like the Water Village District Commissioners to meet with the Select Board to discuss it and work out a solution. The next meeting for the commissioners is on March 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION by Mary Anne Broshek

Bog Pond Conservation Easement - Broshek spoke with the Board about the Conservation Commission obtaining an easement on Bog Pond on the Town owned Transfer Station property. Broshek asked the Board if they supported the Conservation Commission obtaining an easement on this property. Please see attached.

The Board explained that the property was taken by eminent domain for the purpose of using it as the Transfer Station many years ago.

John Thompson asked how much money it would cost for the Town to put an easement on it. Broshek indicated that a survey would cost approximately $5, 000 to $10, 000 and approximately $3, 000 to $5, 000 for the stewardship. Thompson is not in agreement with an easement because it is already owned by the Town and the cost involved.

Andy Guptill stated that when the Town took the property by eminent domain it was for the purpose of taking gravel from the property. Guptill stated that because the property was taken by eminent domain that it cannot be sold.

Bradley Lake Conservation Easements - Broshek indicated Bradley Lake is the Town’s drinking water supply and that there are two properties up there owned by the Town. The Conservation Commission would like to put easements on those properties. The lots are both unbuildable. Broshek indicated that there are possible grants that would cover 50% of the cost involved.

ROAD AGENT REPORT by John Thompson

Thompson indicated that the Highway Department is battling the storms. The storms this year have been particularly difficult because initially it snows, then it rains on top of the snow, and then it freezes making it hard to maintain. There is another storm predicted for tomorrow.

Last Street Bridge – Thompson has confirmation that the bridge pieces will be coming, but no confirmation as to exactly when to expect them. Tomorrow, one of the department’s workers will head to Lebanon and Newport to pick up the epoxy grout and other items needed for the bridge.

Highway Department Budget – Arch Weathers and Thompson discussed the Highway Department budget. Thompson disagreed with the Budget Committee’s proposed budget. Weathers explained that the Budget Committee did their job by scrutinizing the budgets presented to them. This year, the Budget Committee focused on safety budgets because those are essential budgets and they believe that is the direction the Town wants to go in. The Highway Department budget is always debated because it is the largest budget for the Town. One concern is that people don’t have a good idea of what Highway Department costs are. It was suggested that it might be time for an appointed road agent instead of an elected road agent. With the Budget Committee and Select Board’s work completed on the budget, Town meeting will be the place to further debate it with the town residents.

Thompson felt that the Budget Committee was very irresponsible with the cuts they made to the highway budget. Thompson explained that the budget he presented were actual cost numbers. Thompson further stated that the Select Board approves all planned projects; it is debated ahead of time. There is not enough money in most year’s budgets for the work that needs to be done.

Mishcon noted that the Highway Department overspent its budget every year due to inadequate funding since 2014. Approximately $25, 000 yearly of that the budget is overspent. The Select Board is not recommending the budget the Budget Committee presents to the Town.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mishcon made the motion to approve the minutes of February 4, 2019 as amended. Blinn seconded the motion. All in favor. The February 4, 2019 minutes are approved.

Mishcon made the motion to approve the January 28, 2019 Public Hearing minutes as amended. Keyser seconded the motion. All in favor. The January 29, 2019 Public Hearing minutes are approved.

CORRESPONDENCE AND SIGNATURES

* Letter from NH Electric Coop – tree work at 76 Bridge Road

ADJOURNMENT

Mishcon made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Keyser seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Patricia Moyer, Select Board Secretary