

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MAY 3, 2016

PRESENT: Becky Doyle, Chairman, David Lage, Tim Johnson, Joanne Meshna

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Office.

2016 Paving Bids: The Board opened the following bids for paving:

Vermont Roadworks, LLC: asphalt with rap price per ton \$60.07, reclaiming \$1.48/square yard for a total of \$535,477.55; asphalt without rap price per ton \$65.32, reclaiming \$1.48 for a total of \$577,713.80.

Asphalt Excavating and Paving, Inc.: asphalt with rap price per ton \$60.50, reclaiming \$1.35/square yard, total \$534,350.59; without rap price per ton \$68.50, reclaiming \$1.35/square yard, total \$598,710.50.

R&D Paving, Inc.: price per ton in place \$48.50; price per ton without rap in place \$62.20, reclaiming \$1.08/square yard; total cost \$506,321.40.

United Construction Corp.: price per ton in-place \$53.00; price per ton without rap in-place \$66.00; reclaiming \$1.36/square yard; total cost \$554,815.80 with rap and \$578,950.80 without rap.

Brox Industries Inc.: price per ton in-place \$66.40; price per ton without rap in-place \$71.90; reclaiming per square yard \$1.39; total cost \$583,227.20 with rap and \$627,474.70 without rap.

P.J. Keating Company: price per ton in-place \$60.00; price per ton without rap in-place \$64.00; reclaiming per square yard \$1.00; total cost \$517,980.00.

GMI Asphalt, LLC: price per ton in-place \$62.30; price per ton without rap in-place \$65.30; reclaiming per square yard \$1.10; total cost \$540,011.50 with rap and \$564,146.50 without rap.

2016 Crushing Gravel Bids: The Board opened the following bids for crushing gravel:

C&C Trucking, LLC: unit price of \$5.00 for a total price of \$30,000.

Fuzzy Brothers, LLC: unit price of \$5.00 for a total price of \$30,000.

All the bids will be reviewed by Director of Public Works Goewey and a recommendation of the award made to the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Lage recommended Director Goewey contact UNH where they do material testing and get an opinion from them on with or without rap.

Director Goewey reported the street light has been removed at the Fire Station. He received a quote of \$3,200 to move the power and do motion detectors. Selectman Lage asked Director Goewey to figure

out the payback figure. Director Goewey recommended putting motion detectors on the three flood lights and where the Eversource light was put a LED flood light with a motion sensor. Selectman Johnson will discuss with Chief Lund if the siren is used/needed and also the status of the flashing caution light on Turnpike Road.

The Board discussed with Director Goewey and Director of Emergency Management Jim Hicks the trailers and their location. The Hazmat trailer and the Command trailer are in the Highway Department by the Green Center. Director Hicks would like to put the CERT trailer and public health trailer in the Old School House. They can be placed side by side which makes it easier to get them in and out. There is some old Fire Department equipment in the building that needs to be looked at by the Fire Chief. There are flags being stored in the building as well and they will remain there. Director Hicks noted there will be a meeting on May 17 with the Fire Chief, Police Chief and himself to discuss trailers. The Selectmen agreed to allow Director Hicks to place the two trailers in the Old School House.

Health Officer Hicks was referred to 168 Willard Road to determine if the trash in the yard was of a hazardous nature.

The Board and Director Goewey discussed the Highway Department working four days a week at ten hours per day. Selectman Johnson and Doyle agreed it was Director Goewey's responsibility to work out a work schedule and manage the hours of the Department. Selectman Lage noted he had asked Director Goewey for information on how working ten hour days would be more productive. Director Goewey gave an example of how a longer working day would be more productive for putting in culverts. Selectman Lage also stated he would like to see a way to schedule hours when winter storms are predicted to allow personnel to take off hours prior to the storm to help keep overtime hours down. Selectman Doyle agreed and added that is also something where Director Goewey should be setting the schedule. The Selectmen agreed the Department could work four days a week and Director Goewey is responsible for managing the hours.

Parks and Recreation Department: Director Buxton had submitted an email regarding the mowing of the Smithville ball field. She asked the Board reconsider adding the field to the lawn contract. Selectman Johnson mowed the field last week. He stated he was in favor of adding it to the lawn contract as long as it does not go over budget. Selectman Lage noted originally the field was to be mowed by the baseball group. Further he stated they only use the field until the middle of June. Selectman Johnson stated the person who mowed the field in the past mowed into the fall. Selectman Lage noted the baseball program does not go through the summer. Joanne will contact Director Buxton for the mowing schedule.

Hawkers and Peddler's Ordinance and Ordinance Governing Work in Public Ways: Joanne noted the Ordinances are ready for public hearing. Selectman Johnson had indicated the permit fee of \$50.00 was too high. Selectman Lage made a motion to leave the fee as is. Selectman Doyle seconded the motion and it passed with two in favor and one opposed. Joanne will schedule the public hearing on the ordinances for May 24, 2016.

Junkyard: Selectman Lage asked the Selectmen to take a look at the property located at the corner of Turnpike and Peterson Road. There are close to 15 vehicles scattered throughout the property. There also appears to be some building going on. Joanne will check for permits.

At 7:15 p.m. Selectman Doyle made a motion to enter into a nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3II(d) regarding 11 Temple Road and the strategy for selling the property. Selectman Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

At 7:30 p.m. the Board returned to public session. Selectman Johnson made a motion to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session. Selectman Lage seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Solar Panels: Matt Oliveira and several others met with the Board to discuss the assessment of solar panels and proposed solar tax from the Board of Assessors. He stated the Board had sent out letters to those who had installed solar panels noting they were going to be taxed. The group met last week with the Assessors stating their opposition to the tax. An RSA passed in 2015 allows municipalities the option to exempt the value of the solar system from the tax value. Mr. Oliveira referred to a 1991 warrant article that passed and directs the Selectmen to direct the Board of Assessors to not tax solar but the Board of Assessors forgot about that. Selectman Doyle stated the warrant article encourages the Selectmen to refrain from taxing solar panels but the Selectmen do not assess taxes. The Selectmen do not have any control over what is taxed. Selectman Lage noted the Selectmen set the tax rate based on several factors. However, the RSA states the exemption has to be voted on by the public. The 1991 article appears to be a non-binding article.

Whether or not the solar systems need to be assessed was discussed. Mr. Greg Blake from Peterborough and who installs solar panels stated he had spoken to the Town Manager of Peterborough who checked with the DRA and there is no directive from them to assess the solar. Peterborough has chosen not to assess the solar. They regard solar as an appliance. New Ipswich can decide not to assess solar. He referred to a list of 103 towns and out of those 18 have acted on the amendment; they have all chosen to exempt solar 100%. Assessor Coffey stated he had spoken with a Deputy Director and with municipal attorneys and the Town has to assess solar. Selectman Lage referred to RSA 72:6 which states all real estate whether improved or unimproved shall be taxed except as otherwise provided and the solar panels are part of the real estate.

Selectman Lage asked if the Town has not been taxing solar was there a reason not to wait another year until we do a warrant article and see if the voters agree and how much the exemption will be, and once that decision is made go from there. Assessor Coffey stated if the Town is going to follow the law, they should be assessed now. There was a flurry of building permits in 2015. Assessor Danisienka noted the letter was sent out to those who did solar as a heads up that they would be assessed.

Assessor Danisienka submitted a list of 103 towns and the exemption amount. He included how the exemptions are determined either by assessed value or cost of system. In summary, 52 of the 79 towns have 100% exemption without limits and 27 of the 79 towns have an exemption with some type of limit. Selectman Doyle asked what the group was asking of the Selectmen and Mr. Oliveira responded to make the issue go away before it starts and to make it permanent unlike the 1991 warrant article. Selectman

Doyle noted the Board of Assessors has determined the solar will be assessed as the law requires. The group disagreed that it had to be assessed, stating there is no law that states that. Assessor Coffey stated the Board's decision is consistent with the Department of Revenue. He continued that the Board of Assessors' job is to follow the rules and they have to be fair to the entire Town. Solar systems have to be assessed and then if there is an exemption, it would be applied.

Whether to put the question forward as a petitioned warrant article or a warrant article from the Selectmen was discussed. Selectman Lage stated he would like to see the Boards and the group work together to come up with a warrant article. Selectman Doyle added the Board of Assessors and the Selectmen need to have a discussion and the Assessors need to make a recommendation for the exemption.

The Board was asked if they would be willing to work on a warrant article to eliminate the tax. Selectman Lage stated he would. Selectman Doyle stated she was not convinced it was in the best interest of all the taxpayers and not just a select few. She did not believe it should be a 100% exemption. She was willing to work on a warrant article. Mr. Oliveira stated they were looking for an exemption of 100%. Selectman Johnson stated if the group is looking for an exemption of 100% they should put a petitioned warrant article forward.

At 8:40 p.m. Selectman Doyle made a motion to enter into a nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3II(c). Selectman Lage seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

At 8:50 p.m. Selectman Doyle made a motion to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session. Selectman Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Trustees of the Trust Funds: Selectman Johnson made a motion to withdrawn \$300.00 from the Stearns Burton Lecture Fund to deliver payment to the Town of New Ipswich for the program at the New Ipswich Library entitled 12,000 Years Ago in the Granite State. Selectman Lage seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Meshna, Town Administrator

May 3, 2016 Board of Selectmen minutes approved by:

Rebecca M. Doyle, Chairman

David S. Lage

Timothy Johnson II

