

**Minutes of the
Special MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, February 10, 2020 @6:00 p.m.
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING**

First Selectwoman Catherine Iino called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:03 pm. In attendance were Selectman Lou Annino, Jr., Selectman Eileen Blewett. Visitors: Finance Director Regina Regolo and Highway Foreman Walter Adametz.

Highway Foreman Adametz reviewed his operating requests for FY20/21. Proposed wage increases are either contractual or proposed at a level at the contract. The snow budget is lower but still falls in line with the 5-year average. Highway Other reflects an overall increase over the current year's budget of \$331,559. This includes significant increases in Roadside Mowing, Tree Work, and Spot Paving & Curbing. The \$65,000 request for Roadside Mowing would cover the cost of outsourcing the work including a machine. Adametz noted that we would be discussing his request for capital equipment and additional staff that, if endorsed, would allow the Roadside Mowing line to be reduced. The year-to-date expenses relating to tree removal are already in excess of the \$40,000 allocated. Dead trees continue to present concerns both for safety and for the budget. Spot Paving & Curbing includes sectional overlay for Emanuel Church Rd (\$58,700); Chestnut Hill Rd (\$34,000); Center Roast Meat Hill Rd (\$204,255); and Cow Hill Rd (\$17,500). The board agreed that it made sense move the two larger projects from the operating to the capital budget. This will reduce the \$331,559 request down to \$51,500.

With regard to capital requests for the Transfer Station FY20/21, Adametz said that we could push off the replacement of the Center Compactor (\$35,000) to FY21/22. He is requesting two roll-off containers (\$20,000) for FY20/21.

Capital equipment requests for the Highway Department include: John Deere 524 Loader (\$200,000); Pickup and plow (\$70,000); and an upgrade to Guard Rail Mower attachment that will fit on the payloader (\$80,000), for a total of \$350,000. Adametz and the board of selectmen discussed various configurations of equipment, employees, and outside contracting as approaches to roadside mowing.

Based up the town engineer's updated road survey results, Adametz proposed the following road projects: Road Reclaiming & Paving \$571,225; Bethke Culvert \$587,000; County Road Bridge \$157,000; Chip Sealing \$593,000. With the transfer of the Sectional Overlays for Emanuel Church Rd (\$58,700) and Center Roast Meat Rd (\$204,255); the total capital request is \$2,021,180. We expect a 75% reimbursement of the expenses related to the Bethke Culvert

project. Following some discussions regarding the likelihood of this reimbursement, lino went on to say that while she's confident that we will eventually receive this funding, initially we would need to fund the entire project. Regolo asked lino to explain the problem that has recently developed with regard to the Green Hill Road Project. lino explained that in order for the town to receive the anticipated emergency repair funds, the town would need to bring the road up to federal standards, requiring us to spend an additional \$250,000. The board agreed that the road repairs had already substantially improved the safety of the road and that the \$207k cost to the town for further repairs might not be warranted.

There was a general discussion about chip sealing. Blewett expressed her disappointment in the quality of the work performed on Clarkson Lane and her concern about the accumulation of materials on the roadsides and in the culverts. Adametz reviewed the timing of the sweeping that follows chip sealing. He explained that he is considering reducing the size of the process stone used in chip sealing less-traveled roads such as cul-de-sacs..

Regolo reminded the group that the regular Board of Selectmen's meeting is scheduled to begin shortly. lino asked Adametz to stay so that we might continue the review of his requests during the next meeting.

lino moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Annino and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Regolo
Acting Recording Secretary