

Selectmen/Assessor's Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2015

Board Present: Greg Grotton, Elmer Savage, James Justice and John Shepard.

Absent: Lyle Cramer.

Also Present: Jay Feyler, Holly Savage, Curtis Adolphsen, Joseph Patricia and Sybil Wentworth.

1. **Call Selectmen Meeting to Order:** by Chair at 6:30PM.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** given by all who wished.
3. **Open Public Hearing on Permanent Road Posting amendment:** James Justice Motioned to open Public Hearing at 6:32PM. Seconded John Shepard. Unanimous. Jay explained the Public Hearing is to basically remove the word THRU in the Ordinance. He acknowledged he removed the word throughout in the Road Ordinance but when he finished cut and paste the word ended up back in the Ordinance. No objections were heard. Mr. Adolphsen said he didn't know that the Thru Traffic was the Original intent of the Selectmen and asked could you basically keep the gravel trucks from traveling through there and the shortcut people and if that was your original intent he would like to see the Selectmen retain that original idea of thru traffic only. He thinks that is adequate for what goes on our road. If it's a temporary posting until the road gets surfaced to make it ok for trucks, he can understand that. Greg noted the Board has gone through this over and over again in about four different meetings and asked Curtis if he has an issue with us changing this word? Mr. Adolphsen said he would like to see the word thru left in. It would be adequate for the road itself. Greg stated we are complying with what the original intent was otherwise it wouldn't be happening. Greg also noted we are not trying to cause problems for the residents on that road as a matter of fact we are trying to protect what they have on that road that they have

been screaming about for years on end. Greg would stand up along with the Town Manager and not allow some logging truck to tear that road all up unless he's going to be responsible and pay for the repairs. Greg asks Board members if they have anything to say. Elmer asked Jay to explain where the thru was. Jay said there is a different legal way to post the roads if you have thru truck traffic than if you have a total weight limit on the roads, he would have to keep changing the signs periodically and resigning them and re-date it's similar to the temporary signs you see. When you take the word thru out you are permanently posting the road to 5 tons all the way across the road it prevents commercial operation. It will prevent a gravel pit from coming up without getting a permit or providing insurance to protect the road. Otherwise someone could open a gravel pit on his side of the road where there is gravel and run across that road legally and not have any penalties. Elmer said he is still confused with what Jay just said. Jay said thru in their only prevents trucks from going from one end to the other, coming from the Hope side all the way down through. It does not, never did prevent oil trucks, delivery trucks etc. Without the word thru people can do an operation on their property, they can literally put tri axels that are 20/25 ton and cross that road and then you defeat the purpose of protecting that road because that will tear that road apart in the condition it is now. There is absolutely no doubt about it. Jay has no doubt if you use a logging truck it will tear the edges of that road apart. Without the word thru they have to get a permit if they are over five ton. Jay noted if you think you really want to change it to THRU eventually he suggests the Board not do it until after its paved next summer. Greg said he does not want to see stuff going over there that's going to hurt the road. He would take the THRU out so it stays at 5 ton. If you feel extremely strong about this then Greg suggests Curtis get a petition started with all the owners on that road and we'll see how many Owners feel the same way you do. Next year after the road has been completed we have the option of going back and looking at this Ordinance again and decide whether we want to change something or not. Jim noted we have discussed this for hours and hours we came to a conclusion and everybody was happy when we finalized it. Anyone who lives on that street can get deliveries anytime, this is a temporary thing we'll put the final coating on and bring it up again. All the residents Jim has spoken to down there are happy with the way it is. John supports the proposal it makes good sense to him.

4. **Close Public Hearing on Permanent Road Posting amendment:** Motion James Justice to close Public Hearing at 6:50PM. Seconded John Shepard. Unanimous.

5. **Vote on Permanent Road Posting on Davis and Cole Roads amendment:** Motion John Shepard to approve Permanent Road Posting Amendment. Seconded James Justice. Unanimous.

6. **Public Comment:** there was none.

7. **Approve minutes of December 15, 2015:** James Justice motioned to approve minutes as written. Seconded John Shepard. Unanimous.

8. **Set Town Meeting and Election Dates:**

Town Meeting
Monday June 20, 2016 7:00PM

Election
Tuesday June 14, 2016 8:00AM to 8:00PM

Availability of Nomination Papers Monday March 21, 2016

Filing Deadline for Nomination Papers Monday May 2, 2016 at 4:00PM

Deadline for Warrant Articles Monday April 1, 2016 at 4:00PM

Motion James Justice to approve Town Meeting and Election Dates. Seconded John Shepard. Unanimous.

9. **Discussion on flashing beacon, DOT request Wottons Mill Road:** Jay reported we have a request from the State of Maine to sign an agreement regarding the light on Wottons Mill Road. Wottons Mill is a State road the Town did not request this, Jay believes a resident back in 2013 asked for them to look into it and they apparently found it to be a dangerous Intersection. According to DOT when a Town makes a request they put it up and the Town pays for maintenance. Jay told him but we didn't do that, the Board has never voted to ask you to put a light there. If we didn't request this why is DOT asking us to pay for this? If it's two Town roads and a state road Jay could understand why they are asking for a cost share but it's a State road and eternity is a long time. Jay asked them about a short term five/10 years they said they have never done that. Forever is forever and it's a lot of money. They say \$200.00 for Electricity if they are LED's it makes sense \$100.00 per year average for repairs (5-6 years before you have to do anything). The Town is responsible for all repairs. Electrical costs they will pay \$27,500 to put the light up. The light is probably \$2,000 why it costs so much Jay doesn't know. If the DOT determines that the road is dangerous they put themselves into a situation where they own the roads, if there's an accident they have already determined that it's dangerous and they haven't done anything about it because we won't pay for it. Jay's other concern other than the forever is the costs. If the light goes out it's our responsibility and if somebody goes through it are we responsible liability wise. There are other alternatives like Radar stop signs the lights flash as you approach them it gets people's attention far less than \$27,500 and those run on solar so there are no electrical costs. Jim said he is dead set against it he's tired of the State throwing things back to the Towns. Greg suggests where it's a State Road we go along with Jay's suggestion of short term five/ten

year. They are the ones who have identified it as an issue. Elmer agrees they should do it and we should put the pressure on them to just foot the bill. They determined the safety hazard, there are four state roads coming together it's there deal why are they asking us to foot the Bill. Jay added a flashing stop sign would be less intrusive for the neighbors than a light blinking all the time. John suggested negotiating with the DOT about alternatives. Motion Elmer Savage the Board respond by saying we are not going to pay for the Maintenance of the light but we would encourage them to go ahead with the project and maintain it themselves or seek alternatives. Seconded James Justice. Unanimous.

10. **Update on Comprehensive Plan Committee:** there was none.

11. **Vote to amend the VALIC retirement plan agreement:** Jay said the IRS requires this. The Board needs to make a motion that you allow the Administrator who is Jay to sign this new Agreement. Motion James Justice to allow the Administrator to sign new Valic Agreement. Seconded John Shepard. Unanimous.

12. **Sign Treasurers Warrant dated January 5, 2016:** Motion James Justice to sign Treasurer's Warrant. Seconded John Shepard. Unanimous.

13. **Other Business:** there was none.

14. **Town Manager's Report:** Jay reported on a meeting in Hope regarding their Ambulance Service. They have to notify us by year end if they are going to opt out. They voted to opt out of using Union Ambulance next year. They asked Jay if they got more figures together could they come back in. Jay told them it is up to my Board whether they come back in or not. My Board was not really happy with that last minute stuff with Animal Control. We don't do stuff in the third week of December. Jay got the impression they had already made up their minds that they wanted to go with Northeast. They are not getting any direction from their Administrator, they are just everywhere. Right now we are planning our Budget without them. Jay pretty much told them we are not going to jump through hoops just for them.

15. **Selectmen's Report:** John gave a short update from Tri-County Management. We are still trying to come to terms with what's the best deal Perc or signing on with MRC. There's a lot more to know about this. He is going to a meeting in Belfast tomorrow night to learn more details.

16. **Future Agenda Items:** there was none.

17. **Adjourn:** Motion John Shepard to adjourn at 8:00PM. Seconded James Justice.
Unanimous.

These minutes were approved on January 19, 2016 with the following amendments.