

TOWN OF HILL  
MINTUES OF PUBLIC HEARING  
FEBRUARY 6, 2007

Officials in attendance: John Nesteruk, Steve Farris, Mike Brady, Linda Henry, Matt Desrochers, Gerry Desrochers, Mark Dow

Public in attendance: Paul and Betty Meyerhoeffler

Public hearing opened at 7:10PM

ROAD BOND ARTICLE: Questions were asked regarding the payment schedule for the bond. Selectmen responded that it has not yet been looked into, but it is expected that the payment would be approximately \$65,000 per year. It was also stated that the bond payment is expected to come from the Highway Block Grant and the capital reserve fund created for road improvements. Steve said that the cost per mile of complete reclamation currently stands at \$180,000 and that we need to start attending to the paved roads as the longer we wait the higher the cost. He explained what is happening to the roads due to lack of maintenance. Concern was expressed that the Block Grant could at some point end. Matt asked about possibly fixing "Coca Cola hill" and was told that it is a state road and is currently being looked into.

FIRE TANKER ARTICLE: Questions were asked regarding the possibility of obtaining a grant for this purchase. Matt replied that there is a very slim chance for this due to Homeland security grants going for other purposes. He stated that the vehicle that they want to replace, which is a "1977", vehicle should have been replaced 5 years ago and that parts are no longer available for it. The new tanker will hold 2500 gallons of water and is the second line of defense. Steve stated that the Board is trying to get approval at town meeting to sell town land to help offset the cost of these expensive items. When asked about housing the new vehicle, Matt replied that it would fit into the current building, but that they are looking into obtaining a grant to build a new safety building.

WATER IMPROVEMENTS: Concern was expressed about the wording of the warrant article. Betty said that all the taxpayers should be helping with the cost of these improvements and not the water users only. The reply was that the town is paying their share for water, as they pay a monthly fee for the town office, highway and fire station just as the residents do in addition to paying the cost for fire hydrant maintenance. Gerry said that the bond would be for 30 years at a rate of 5.5% interest (estimated conservatively) with payments estimated at \$30-35,000 a year. If they are able to borrow from the State revolving loan fund the rate would be around 4%. Installing meters is estimated to cost \$50,000. Gerry also said that if the grant money is not available, the scope of the project would change, as they could not afford to borrow that much money. He said that the mains have been in the ground for 65 years and need to be replaced, but that this money does not end the cost of improvements. It was stated that Pennichuck is not interested in buying the system and that the water rates would be increased if that was to happen.

For the record, Gerry questioned if the notice of the hearing was published in the time required by (RSA 33:8, a) which states that it needs to be published within 7 days of the hearing. Linda will confirm that the law does not require 7 "clear" days, but is sure that it does not specify this in the RSA.

Respectively Submitted,  
Linda J. Henry

John Nesteruk, Chair

Steve Farris

Mike Brady