

## UNDERHILL SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Thursday, April 5, 2007

Present: Steve Walkerman, Dan Steinbauer Steve Owen Selectmen, Peter Duval, Guest Rod Fuller Town Highway Foreman, Sherri Morin Town Clerk, Chris Murphy Town Administrator.

6:00 PM: **Meeting Called to Order**

- **Town Office Bids:** The Board opens sealed bids from MB Construction, NSP Contracting, and Tom Moore Builders. They will review the bids and meet early next week to award the contract.
- **Letter from Feerers, 20 Stevensville Road:** Chris reads a letter from the Feerers thanking the Town Road crew for doing work on their property on March 14, 2007. Rod Fuller was called by the UJFD to respond to the Feerer's flooding. A concern is raised about the Town's liability when doing work on private property, and the cost of Town employees working overtime and the wear and tear on Town equipment vs. the UJFD contacting a private contractor to do this kind of work. The UJFD has called out the Town to sand private roads as well. Chris will check with VLCT to determine the liability issue and get back to the Board.
- **Range Road Signs, Don Porter, Guest:** Don asks for permission to post signs in the town right-of way requesting that people slow down. The Board grants this request.
- **Signatures for VTRANS Annual Financial Plan:** The Board signs the Annual Financial Plan for Town Highways.
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- **Blakey Road:** Rod discusses the problem on Blakey Road. Last fall the Board agreed at the request of Ken Hall, 4 Blakey Road to redirect the water drainage on his property into the Town R-O-W. Rod reports that this has caused the road to erode and develop sinkholes as the water seeped in under the road and froze this winter. Rod notes that in general, it is never a good idea for the Town to accept water into the roads as it almost always creates long-term maintenance problems for the Town and drives up the expense of maintaining the roads. Rod mentions that another example of this is Downs Road, where a drainage swale was changed by the Selectboard years ago at the request of a homeowner with the same results, the water instead of dissipating over the homeowners land is now directed into the town R-O-W and making a mess of the road.

The Board discusses possible remedies for Blakey Road, including returning things to the way they originally were. Concern is raised that Hall paid for a culvert, there is brief discussion of whether it would be better for the Town to reimburse for the cost of the culvert rather than take on the long-term maintenance cost. No decision is reached; Rod will keep the Board informed of any problems.

- **Ethan Allen Firing Range:** Chris will get in touch with Rob Gingras to set up a meeting to discuss future activities on the Range.
- **Land Contract:** A land contract for 224 Pleasant Valley Road is signed.
- **Signatures for VTRANS Annual Financial Plan:** The Board signs the Annual Financial Plan for Town Highways.
- **FOG Update:** Steve Walkerman updates the Board on the fiber optic workgroup's progress. Currently the FOG is drafting an interlocal agreement between Westford, Jericho, and Underhill that will outline how the Towns will cooperate to build the network; a financial plan; and a financial model. The next step would be a formal presentation to the three Selectboards about the agreement and the financial plans. Before any leasing agreement is signed, there will be public hearings.

**6:25 PM: Dan Steinbauer leaves for another meeting.**

- **Jericho-Underhill Water District Letter:** Chris reads a letter from Peter Mitchell, President to the Board, requesting that the Board to help the Water District enforce their regulations and state mandates. After discussion, the Board agrees that the burden of enforcing other municipality's regulations/mandates should not fall on the town. Building permits are always available for public inspection, and are routinely examined by members of the public. The Water District, as part of the state potable water supply permitting process currently receives notice of new construction that requires water permitting. After a brief discussion with Rod Fuller, the Board decides not to require notice of public work projects prior to the start of a project. The Board will send a letter to Mr. Mitchell.
- **Deane Road Letter:** The Board reads and approves the letter to the Deane Road abutters regarding roadside mowing, and the request of Duncan McLane, Trustee for the Squabetty Trust.
- **Town Hall Repair:** The Town Clerk's Office will move to the District 5 Schoolhouse, and a work station will also be set up there if it gets too noisy at the Town Hall for Chris and the Listers during construction. Joan has opted to work from her house on River Road. Chris has

contacted Verizon and Comcast to get service installed at the Schoolhouse.

- **Schedule:** The Board will meet in May on Thursday, May 3, Tuesday, May 15, and Thursday May 31.

7:40 PM:      **The Board Adjourns**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Chris Murphy  
Town Administrator  
Read and Approved as presented/as amended

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Steve Walkerman, Chair

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Date