

ROAD COMMITTEE MEETING

December 7, 2022

MINUTES

PRESENT: Shawn Talbot-Selectman's Liaison, Walker Farrey, Marcus Rautiola, Lou Guarino, Peter Goewey-Highway Director, Debbie Deaton-Town Administrator

Also present: Eric Krook

The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm.

Eric Krook expressed an interest in being on the Road Committee.

The Board of Selectmen opened the sealed bids at their meeting last night. The Committee reviewed the bids. Nate isn't able to make the meeting today. Shawn talked to him on the way to the meeting and Nate informed him Jennings and Accura were both good companies.

Walker asked if we should continue with the Collins Road civil scope or use the money for other roads. Do we spend the approximate \$300,000 or spread the money to do roads around the rest of the Town. Lou said the Committee's responsibility is to do as much as they can to benefit the most residents. Walker agreed.

The Committee unanimously decided to spread the money around the remainder of the Town because it would affect the most amount of people. Peter added they would widen the bus turnaround.

Debbie will email the bidders and state the following: "The Town will not be continuing with the project due to budget constraints, all of the bids came in over budget. We may re-visit this project in the future if the prices decrease."

Walker feels the asphalt index seems like it's coming down. He thinks \$88/ton should be safe.

Shawn said he would like to pick the roads to publish them on the ballot. Walker, Marcus and Lou disagreed and preferred not to put the roads on the ballot. Shawn said he has been trying to give more clarity ahead of time to avoid problems from the past.

Peter said we could give an idea of the roads we're doing as a result of a study done by SWRPC at the Deliberative Session. Shawn agreed to this as well as the committee.

Peter said there is \$600,000 from the Highway Block Grant plus \$125,000 in additional funds from the State. The Town has 5 years to spend the Highway Block Grant and it doesn't need to be encumbered.

Walker said the plan so far would total approximately \$579,000 to go with the plan to start down by Mason Road and work our way through that area. We can't do Taylor Road because the bridge is closed in the middle. If we add in Plan B (Finn Hill and Poor Farm), it would bring it to approximately \$674,000. Marcus said we could add topcoat. Walker said he likes the idea of letting it winter over and Marcus added we would have to budget to top everything next year. Walker asked if we should use the remaining \$100,000 for crack sealing. Lou asked how much could be done with that money. Peter replied we could probably crack seal most of the paved roads in Town. Lou said SWRPC recommended crack sealing and thinks we should do that because it's a good bang for the buck. Shawn agreed it would extend the maintenance plan. Walker agreed and said it puts us at \$674,151.

There was some discussion about chip seal pros and cons.

Shawn said we should be in a good way after this year. Walker agreed stating almost all of the red roads would be taken care of with the exception of a couple on the Cedar Ridge side of town. We could possibly finish all red roads.

Eric Krook asked what red roads are. Walker explained we had a survey of all Town roads done by Southwest Regional Planning Commission. They did a map for us color coding all of the roads, red being the worst condition. They need to be pulverized and repaved. He added we spent a fair amount of money paving some dirt roads in Town. Our focus for this year is to concentrate on the red roads.

Eric said the opposition to paving Wilson Hill Road no longer exists. Everyone wants it paved now. They also want the big tree cut. Walker said it would be approximately \$58,000 for base coat and another \$58,000 for top coat. He added if the prices come down, we can try to get to it this year. The Committee agreed.

Peter said we did 4,940 tons of asphalt in 2022.

The plan for 2023 is to prep, grind and base on Blueberry Lane, Mason Road, Nora Court, Andrew Drive, Finn Hill, Poor Farm Road and Hakala Drive, top coat on Collins Road and widen the turnaround, crack seal as many roads as possible and if funds allow, prep and base coat Wilson Hill Road.

The next meeting will be March 29th at 3:00pm.

At 4:06pm, Shawn made a motion to adjourn. Marcus seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Deaton
Town Administrator

Minutes approved by ROAD COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Walker Farrey: _____

Lou Guarino:  _____

Marcus Rautiola:  _____

Nate Sikkila:  _____