

Tuesday, November 13, 1984, Selectmen's Meeting

Present: John J. Jones, Rachel C. Reinstein.

Meeting was called to order by John Jones.

Clark Craig, Jr. gave his report on the finishing of West St., and White Birch Point Bridge. Selectmen asked what insurance the Town has that the roads will hold up over winters since the temperature is down and was down when the hot patch was laid. Whitcomb Const. Co. guaranteed the job and reassured Clark that there would be no problem with laying the hot patch at this time. Jim Hammond and Clark Craig worked on the holiday to see the Roads were ready for the hot patch when the trucks arrived.

Brian Brown, police chief gave his weekly report. Problem with dispatch and receiving calls has been taken care of. By re-locating their equipment they will clear the problem of poor reception.

Mr. Don Thibeault and Hank Cutter met with the Selectmen to talk over the notices sent in regard to the false alarms. Mr. Thibeault represented Hawthorne College. False alarms were received in Sept., causing concern for the safety of the men on the fire dept. Mr. Thibeault explained the problems were checked out and it is possible they have been corrected. Smoking in the halls under the alarms have caused the faulty signals. Mr. Thibeault felt that the College is a large tax payer of the Town and should be covered for false alarms as well as actual fire coverage. If the alarms were set off by someone at the College, the College would fine them as well as expel the student and take them to court. Town would also be able to take them to court. Being new systems seems to have been the cause of the alarms. It was learning how and what would set them off. There is a time delay before the fire trucks would be called out. In the three minute delay, someone would check to see if there is in fact the need for the equipment and get a call to the station to stop the trucks from rolling. Hank was concerned over a three minute delay. What if the trucks are called back to the station and there was in fact a fire? Any time there is a doubt as to the reason for the alarm going off, the fire company would not be called back. Hank explained when a call comes from a school, all trucks move as well as adjoining Towns. All parties expressed appreciation for the opportunity to discuss the problem and know that their concerns are shared. Hank asked if someone stays at the pull stations to direct the equipment when it arrives. Mr. Thibeault appreciated this suggestion and will incorporate it into their booklet.

Hugh Giffin and Charles Richmond displayed and IBM computer with the software available for Town business to the selectmen. With the needed software and hardware, the cost would come to about the \$10,000 allowed under the warrant article. No decisions were made at this time.

Meeting adjourned 11:30

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Selectmen met with Dave Edkins to talk over a possible Federal Grant to help aid in making Town buildings accessible to the handicapped.

Present: John Jones, chairman, Katherine Ring, Rachel Reinstein and Richard Pleasants.

Dave Edkins explained that a grant must benefit the moderate and low income families. 51% of the money must go for this purpose. Selectmen asked about sidewalks. If it benefits low income or handicapped it might be one area to receive a grant for. With two Workshop homes and the elderly housing, sidewalks might very well be an area to look into.

Mr. Pleasants would like to see some parking in the rear of the library as well as ramps to aid the handicapped getting into the library.

Selectmen are concerned about access to the Town Buildings and bathroom facilities. Ramps as well as a chair lift are acceptable uses for the grant.

Selectmen asked about the schools in Antrim. If the Selectmen can work with the Schools and they are interested, this would also be acceptable.

Towns will be granted up to \$350,000 in a year to make improvements to aid the handicapped and or the low & moderate income families. One application should be made out through the Town, since it is the Towns that are to receive the grant, this application can include improvements to the School, Library and the Town Buildings.

Mr. Edkins believes that showing there is money from other ~~areas~~ *sources* to be used to make the improvements, although not necessary, it looks good on the application. Mr. Pleasants spoke of ~~possible~~ *difficulty of* money from the State Library Association to help with the improvements at the Town Library.

Mr. Edkins pointed out that most grants have been for housing rehabilitation. Other grants are for economic development. This one is hard to come by since to apply you must have a business ready to come in. Grants can be used to open roads for a new business and extending the sewer or water systems to encourage business. The third project which the grants are used for is the one the Town is interested in at this time. Public facility projects.

Although the Town does not have to budget for part of the project, if they have a warrant item, the vote must show the approval of the warrant.

Before a grant can be awarded, the Town must have a public hearing to inform the public of the grant request and the use to which it is to be put if it is received.

Mr. Edkins will contact the Monadnock Workshop and see what information he can gain to help with an application for the Town. Selectmen will have to acquire cost estimates before applying. Cost of final plans can come out of the grant money. How many feet of sidewalk are needed of repair to aid the handicapped? Will sidewalks need repaired or new ones put in? This information will also be needed.

A new requirment to obtain a grant, is to have a Housing ^{and} Community Dvelopment Plan. This can be in the form of a "wish we had" list to cover several years.

If the Town is granted funds, someone from CDGB would help the first year of funding to do the paper-work. Once funds are granted, work must be done and invoices sent to cover the cost. Request must be made to receive that portion of the grant. The money must then be put in an interest-free account and be drawn out of the account to pay the invoice. No money is given to the Town before the request from the Town to pay the invoice for completed work.

Once the Town shows a good record of use for the money, it is easier to acquire another grant in future years to cover cost of the "wish we had" projects.

It would not look good if too much money were requested and not used, nor would underestimating the needed amount. This would be an important part of the application.