

Selectmen's Meeting, Monday, December 18, 1989

Present: Edwin Rowehl, Chairman, Rachel Reinstein, William Suydam, Madeleine Henley, AA & Betty Shaw, Secretary.

Meeting called to order at 7:30.

Phil Dwight, Treasurer, discussed refinancing of the TAN at 7 3/4% and Minimum investment at 8 1/4% Rachel moved to refinance, second, Ed Rowehl, all in favor. So moved.

Bob Varnum, Road Agent, requested the no parking restrictions on all streets be placed in the paper. The plows cannot get around parked vehicles.

Bob has been noticing Main St., 202 and 31 which are State Roads are not getting cleaned soon after the storms. The last ice storm, traffic was backed up to Bennington requiring the road crew to come down and clean the road up in order to allow for vehicles to get up the hill. When the State does not clear the roads timely, the Antrim crew can not do the sidewalks. Other towns have voiced the same concerns. Many people have complained to Bob thinking it is the road crew's responsibility, any assistance from the selectmen in getting the State to respond will be appreciated.

The road agents main concern for 1990 is to replace the international. Most of the other equipment is holding up. The crew will have to wing back before another storm. He will be moving some snow back by Goodell Co. as it is difficult to see getting onto the road.

Bob reviewed his proposed budget for 1990 and explained his road salt budget is lower than 1989 since last year was very icy requiring a lot of salt. If the selectmen want to raise any item Bob pointed out that was up to the selectmen but since he has every item at rock bottom, there is no room to reduce portions of the budget.

Although he had planned to put up a salt shed, he would rather not add that to his budget at this time.

Bob will meet with the Selectmen Feb. 6th. If there are any problems, he will contact the selectmen or they can contact him.

Dave Barrett is having problems with a zoning violation. Mr. Barrett has taken over Roger Croteau's store. At the time there was a neon sign in the window, when Mr. Barrett changed the sign from a Marlboro to a Pizza sign it is no longer grandfathered. The ordinance was written with the intention of allowing existing signs to be grandfathered and phasing them out as they are removed. With the economy the way it is Mr. Barrett is trying to attract business and the he thinks the sign would help. The sign cost him \$175. and there is no way to get a refund on his sign.

Selectmen reviewed the new ordinances and found there was nothing they can do to assist Mr. Barrett. The wording of the ordinance relating to neon signs makes it difficult but not impossible to appeal to the ZBA. Mr. Barrett believes since one neon sign was grandfathered, changing the wording to replace the sign should be allowed. Mr. Barrett will make a Plexiglass sign and shine a light on it if he can not have the neon sign. Selectmen asked that he check to be sure if he will need a permit before he starts making another sign to be sure what he plans is allowable rather than spend more money uselessly.

Bill Suydam moved to go into executive session to discuss personal, second, Rachel Reinstein, Ed Rowehl, so moved.

Reconvened meeting. No information from the executive session.

Rachel read the minutes of the past two weeks.

A correction in the wording of the minutes of 12/4/89 to show the Planning Board will be requested to rescind the sub division approval for Maja Gamitri not the permits.

With the above correction, the minutes were approved.

Bill Suydam moved to accept the minutes of 12/11/89, second, Ed Rowehl. So moved.

Ed Rowehl signed a lien on a property whose owner received assistance from the town.

A land release was signed on the Lundgree Jones property.

A call will have to be made to Lucia Cate to see if her mother will accept the gold post cane as being the oldest resident. She is now 99 years old.

Don Phelps and Mary Allen have volunteered to do the perambulation at no cost to the town. Selectmen are in agreement with Don Phelps doing the perambulation.

The Conval school board (Keith Burke) will be meeting with Bennington Wednesday and asked that whoever is responsible for payment of the school bill to meet with the committee to clear up the misunderstanding over the payment schedule.

The selectmen once again agreed to pay on the reduced schedule.

The lease proposal for Shea field was reviewed. Rachel questioned if it gives the Town enough control in the event the town wanted to use it during the day. Madeleine pointed out since there is some questions on the Gym lease, it may be best to combine the gym with the field lease and make changes now as to the control over both. A completed lease will have to be posted in order to have a vote at town meeting.

The school advisory committee was discussed. Jan Boatright will be called to see if she will attend the scheduled meeting.

A letter from Bart Mayer regarding the proposed Class VI policy was received. He forwarded a new waver in place of the old one which the selectmen may choose to use.

A warrant to extend the conservation commission was received by the Planning Board.

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Jan. 2 at 10:00 AM.

Meeting adjourned 10:00

ems