

**Board of Selectmen
October 20, 2014**

Present: Kenneth S. Paul, Chairperson; Richard C. Edwards; Connie M. Twombly; Teresa A. Williams, Town Administrator; and Toni Bodah, Secretary.

Mr. Paul called the posted meeting to order at 5 p.m. Fred Clough, Road Agent, joined the session as indicated below.

Mr. Clough stated that he is waiting for estimates on his proposed road projects for 2015 (CRF appropriation). In addition, he may need to increase the Outside Hire line by \$3000 in order to utilize a vacuum truck to clean culverts and detention ponds on Brackett Road (as part of the grant requirements).

Mr. Clough proposes increasing the Training line by \$1000. Several staff members are very interested in receiving additional training. He also is interested in having someone crush the material piling up in the yard (asphalt, concrete, gravel). The finished product could be used on the edges of roads, repairing washouts, etc. Mr. Clough estimated this would cost in the vicinity of \$20,000.

Discussed the need for a mower. We currently rent one and can only use it for 2 weeks.

Mr. Paul moved to increase the Outside Hire line (01-43121-810) to \$33,000. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Paul moved to increase the Training line (01-43122-330) to \$2000. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

In response to a question from Mr. Edwards, Mr. Clough estimated that the High Street project will take another 10 days. The trucks can be ready for plowing within 1-2 days should the need arise; however, Mr. Clough hopes to accomplish this by November 1. The Board reviewed a list of projects that need to be accomplished within the Highway Department within the next several weeks. Reviewed anticipated plow routes and the need for a part-time plow operator. Mr. Clough advised that the new truck is nearly ready.

Mr. Clough suggested appropriating \$50,000 for the Highway Truck CRF, with no appropriation for the Heavy Equipment CRF. He is looking for a used excavator and believes there are sufficient funds available. He would prefer to obtain a backhoe as he believes it would be more mobile. Mr. Clough questioned whether the Board would consider a separate warrant article for \$25,000 for purchase of a mower. Mowing occurs within the Town's rights-of-way. Perhaps we should consider purchase of a backhoe/excavator with a mowing attachment. Mr. Clough will investigate. He would also suggest a warrant article for \$10,000 for purchase of a chipper.

Mr. Edwards moved to recommend \$50,000 for the Highway Truck CRF. Ms. Twombly seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Edwards moved to support a separate warrant article for \$25,000 for purchase of a mower. Ms. Twombly seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Edwards moved to support a separate warrant article for \$10,000 for purchase of a chipper. Ms. Twombly seconded the motion. Mr. Paul noted that purchase of a chipper would involve maintenance. Mr. Clough referred to the inconvenience of picking up and returning the rented chipper each day. Eventually, Mr. Clough hopes to construct lean-tos to cover various equipment. **Mr. Edwards withdrew his motion; and Ms. Twombly withdrew her second of that motion.**

Mr. Clough's list for potential 2015 road projects includes overlay of Summer Street, rebuild of White Birch, overlay of Cosmar (if the SWP replaces water lines), and surface for a section of Oak Hill. This work easily totals \$100,000; however, Mr. Clough is waiting for final estimates. It is possible that there will be sufficient 2014 funds to cover Summer Street this year. Discussed work to be done on Bonnyman Road; however, AWWA is still working in that area. A final decision on this appropriation will be made once final figures are available.

Mr. Clough has received a call from the Town of Wolfeboro, who would like to view our new salt sheds!

Outside Agencies – The Board reviewed the list of requested appropriations. **Ms. Twombly moved the section total at \$111,173. Mr. Paul seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

Unemployment Insurance (01-41961-250) – Ms. Williams has determined the cost for 2015 will be \$5121. **Mr. Paul moved the line at \$5121. Ms. Twombly seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

Workers Compensation (01-41961-260) – Ms. Williams has determined the cost for 2015 will be \$41,808. **Mr. Paul moved the line at \$41,808. Ms. Twombly seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

Ms. Williams is still waiting for figure for PLT Insurance. She has discussed options for health insurance with Department Heads, some of whom are in favor of the Board establishing a definitive percentage of increase to be paid by employees. The Board has no control over rates and, therefore, cannot limit what the percentage may be in the future. The Board had asked Ms. Williams to calculate several scenarios, which she has done. In 2014, an employee paid \$53.14 per pay period (7%) of the cost of a family plan. In 2015, 7% of the family plan would be \$56.60 per pay period, with the Town paying an additional \$67,000. At 10% in 2015, an employee would pay \$80.85 per pay period, with an increase to the Town's share of \$53,000. In 2015 at 14%, the employee would pay \$113.19 per pay period for a family plan, with the Town's increase being \$35,000. Increasing the deductible would not result in a significant savings. **Mr. Edwards moved to increase to 14% the employees contribution to the cost of health insurance for 2015. Ms. Twombly seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

Ms. Williams advised that at the Department Head meeting there was much discussion regarding wages. She believes it is important to develop a wage/class chart for Wakefield and to have work sessions on it to accurately place all employees (by position) on the chart. Eventually, this should include a meeting with all employees. It was agreed to schedule a work session on this matter for November 12 at 5:30 p.m.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Bodah, Secretary

Approval of Minutes:

Kenneth S. Paul, Chairperson

Richard C. Edwards

Connie M. Twombly