

Brookline Selectboard Minutes
July 1, 2009

1. Chairman Archie Clark called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Present were board members David Ryder, Mike Winot, Alicia Dest, and Doug Wellman. Road Foreman Mark Bills was also in attendance. Guests attending were Lisa Birmingham (Comcast Cable), Suzanne Groenewold (President, Falls Area Community Television (FACT)), and Michael Obuchowski (FACT Board Member and our State Representative). Also present were members of the public Shawn Nordlund, Brad Cassella, Gary and Julie Lavorgna, Norm Solomon, Linda Boal, Marie Tattersall, Joyce Meehl, and Sherry Greene.

2. The minutes of the June 17th meeting were reviewed. Doug motioned they be approved as written. Seconded, all voted in favor.

3. Members of the Public:

a. Brad voiced his concerns with the dumping of ditching materials near the Putney Mountain and Grassy Brook Road intersection. The material was dumped on his land near the bridge to cover the exposed rocks and has not yet been graded. Dave assured him the area would be worked on and made presentable. He was also concerned with the change in road signs that made it confusing who has the right-of-way at that intersection. Dave will check to see if we can put the yield to bridge traffic sign back up without affecting the grant.

b. Suzanne Groenewold talked about FACT and the services they could provide to the town. They offer a variety of public service and public access programming. Their board consists of members from most member towns and they would like representation from Brookline should we decide to join. Funding is provided through user fees (about 5% of cable bill), fund raising, and sponsors.

c. Lisa Birmingham talked about the status of the Comcast installation. They are currently working with CVPS and Fairpoint to prepare the poles for start of installation. Once the poles are ready (telephone or power line placement and possible replacement of some poles) the actual Comcast installation will take just a couple of weeks with a start date in late summer. They would like to start turning on service in September or October. Video and Internet will be available as soon as the service is activated. They are still working on some issues concerning telephone service. Sometime next year the Internet speeds will be increased. She offered to have another public meeting along with sales people to answer questions concerning services. The homes on Purple Mountain Road and Banning Road will not be connected. She then answered questions from the board and members of the public.

d. Michael Obuchowski said the state revenue projections have improved somewhat from previous projections. There are still some large differences between legislative and executive branches. He is on a committee looking for potential \$30 million in spending

cuts. In fiscal year 2011 the state is looking at a potential deficit of \$67 million. He offered to return to a future meeting.

e. Marie volunteered her and Chuck's services to help complete the drywall and painting in the older section of the town office. Thanks to both of them.

4. **Old Business:** The contract from the Vermont State Police was reviewed. Doug motioned that the entire \$3,600 voted at town meeting for Law Enforcement be authorized for the contract. Seconded, all voted in favor.

5. **Road Report:**

a. Current work orders include tree work in several locations. CVPS will take care of the tree by the school. Most of the signs were installed by Putney Mountain Road. The gravel for Bennett Road and the emergency stockpile at the town garage has been delivered. We are still waiting on the gravel that will be spread directly on the roads.

b. Dave checked on some possible temporary funding for the Grassy Brook Road bridge. We may be able to shift up to \$50,000 from other funds to temporarily fund part of our obligation prior to receiving the grant. Doug recommended that we request authority to borrow the entire amount of the project when the time comes to prevent any potential problems caused should the grant payment be delayed.

c. The ditching on Grassy Brook Road is progressing well. Work has not yet begun on the culverts. An additional culvert has been found that needs to be replaced on Putney Mountain Road. Dave will also order a 48" culvert for Ellen Ware Road. Dave will talk to the contractor and arrange a start date for the work on Ellen Ware Road.

d. At their next meeting Newfane will be opening the roadside mowing bids.

e. Mark asked again about renting a backhoe for cleaning culverts. Mike motion we rent a backhoe for two weeks, when Mark is available to operate it. Seconded, all voted in favor. Dave will check on availability.

6. **New Business:**

a. Newfane sent us a notice that they will be holding a hearing concerning mass discontinuance of their ancient roads on July 23rd. Our committee has pretty much ceased to function. Archie asked permission to look into the discontinuance process. Shawn expressed some interest into looking into the roads. Doug will try to attend Newfane's meeting.

b. \$2773.50 (out of monies remaining in fiscal year (FY) 2009) was paid to Windham County Solid Waste Management District (WCSWMD) as payment for the first two quarters of FY 2010 as authorized at the June 17th meeting.

c. \$1,047.27 (out of monies remaining in (FY) 2009) was used to prepay for heating oil as authorized at the June 17th meeting.

d. The Board of Listers completed the 2010 Grand List (\$639,344) and forwarded it to the Town Treasurer. She used this and the total amount voted at town meeting (\$190,204) to calculate a town tax rate of \$0.1249 and highway tax rate of \$0.1726. Doug motioned these rates be approved. Seconded, all voted in favor. The Treasurer still does not have a final education tax rate from the State but as soon as it is available tax bills will be prepared and sent to all property owners.

7. **Other Business:** Despite contact with several prospective individuals, the position of town Health Officer is still vacant. Archie asked permission from the board to write a letter to Dr. Tim Schauer, the Health Officer for both Newfane and Townshend, asking him if he would be interested in serving Brookline as well. The board gave its approval for Archie to make the request.

8. **Correspondence:** Correspondence was reviewed.

9. **Pay Orders:** Pay orders were reviewed. Accounts payable warrants #21, \$5,064.61 and #22, \$675.06; and payroll warrants #24, \$2,437.72 and #24A, \$1,034.44. Mike motioned they be approved. Seconded. All voted in favor, approved.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 PM. The next meeting will be July 15th at 7:00 PM in the town office.

Respectively submitted
Douglas Wellman
Clerk of the Board