

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 6:00 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common

Present: Selectboard members John Warshow, Chris Martin, and Helen Ducharme; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Visitors: Jim Brimblecombe, Joseph Mangan; Jenna Pizzi (Times Argus); Will Walters (Hardwick Gazette)

At 6:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin.

Stranahan Stewardship Committee: Jim Brimblecombe addressed the Selectboard to ask permission to suspend a temporary mainline over the Thompson Road for this season, and bury it under the Thompson Road next year. The Board agreed.

The logger has finished and paid the Town \$5,226.41. He has asked for his performance bond back. Chris noted that he chose a good location for his landing. The Stranahan Stewardship Committee was very happy with the work that he did and the way he left the property. The Board authorized Bobbi to return his performance bond and deposit. They noted the payment was much higher than anticipated.

Cemeteries: Joseph Mangan addressed the Selectboard about the prices of cemetery lots and burials. He is recommending increasing the fee for a full burial. He is recommending increasing the price of a lot, and he also suggested making the lots a different price for residents vs. nonresidents, because residents pay taxes for the upkeep of the cemeteries. He suggested making a rule that corner markers and foundations have to be installed by the Sexton or the Sexton needs to oversee the installation, because there are some instances where a foundation is crumbling on a fairly new stone, and the Town may have to incur the cost to repair the stone in the future. He recommended setting a standard for the headstone foundation, specifying depth and width of the concrete, to save the Town money in the long run. The Board approved changes to the cemetery bylaws to include the foundation standards and increases to fees. They increased the fee for cremation burials to \$225, regular burials to \$600, and lots will be \$500 for residents, \$600 for non-residents. The Sexton's work will be billed at \$20 per hour. The new pricing will not take effect until after Town Meeting. The Board authorized Bobbi to try out cemetery software for indexing the lots and burials.

Dog Complaint: The Board received a response from Vivian Davis disputing the allegations against her dogs, and stating that her neighbors coax her dogs off of her property. Bobbi will invite the Celleys and Mrs. Davis to the next Selectboard meeting.

George Jewett Road: The Board received a letter from Jerome Thaler objecting to the Town's decision not to maintain the George Jewett Road in the winter. The Board instructed Bobbi to send him a letter explaining that the Town is not changing its policy but that Class 4 roads are not maintained in the winter.

Bid: The Selectboard received an unsolicited bid for mowing at the Old Schoolhouse Common and the Martin Covered Bridge. The current mowing contract is a 2-year contract that runs through this summer. Bobbi will send the bidder a letter explaining that the mowing will come up again next

year.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll. They approved the minutes of the December 31, January 3 and January 17 meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the February 7, 2012 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
