

## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

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Tuesday, November 20, 2012, 6:00 p.m., Old Schoolhouse Common

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

At 6:05 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin.

**Cemeteries:** Joe Mangan presented the Board with Road Foreman Dan Tetreault's estimate of work that needs to be done to install a catch basin and another driveway in the Eaton Cemetery. He got an estimate from Nicko Rubin and from Elmore Roots nursery for shrubs that could be used to make a hedge along the drive. The Board discussed plants and fencing. They also discussed fencing at the Wooster cemetery. The Board reviewed the cemetery finances. The cemetery fund balance is approximately 180,000 before this year's expenses. The Town has spent approximately \$37,000 this year. Chris noted that much of the work that has been done and is being discussed for next year is work that has been deferred from quite some time. The Board is in favor of finishing up the work that needs to be done in Eaton. They will then start on the Wooster Cemetery.

Joe has asked that the Board put the mowing and burials out to bid now rather than waiting until spring. John suggested negotiating with Joe rather than putting it out to bid, in light of all of the work that he has done with Ronald. They like the idea of having someone who is vested in the cemeteries. Joe suggested \$400 for full burials and \$100 for ashes, and \$20 per hour for additional work as needed. These rates are the same as we have been paying. He suggested \$8,000 for mowing unless gas goes over \$5 per gallon, and then a 2% increase if gas goes above \$5 per gallon. The mowing cost \$7,500 in 2010 and 2011. These prices would remain in effect for two years. John moved to accept his proposal; Chris seconded. All in favor.

**Martin Covered Bridge:** The Board noted that when they have put the mowing out to bid and taken the lowest bid, it hasn't always worked out. Joe offered to do the mowing for \$1,500. Chris moved to agree to that price for two years. Helen seconded. All in favor.

**Cars Parking in Road:** The Town received a complaint about cars parking in Hollister Hill Road. Chris thinks the contractors may be finished working because he hasn't seen any cars lately.

**Health Insurance:** The Board reviewed the rate increase for the current health insurance (9.3%) and the rates for other plans. The Board noted that this is the last year of this system before the exchange takes effect in 2014.

**Sidewalks:** Chris moved to accept Josh Gouge's proposal to clear the sidewalks for \$2,600 for the season. Helen seconded – all in favor. The price was \$2,500 per season for the last three seasons.

**Commuter Bus:** The Board received a request from GMTA to place an article on the warning for town meeting, to ask voters to pay \$8,333 for our share. Bobbi noted that the original request was for the towns to pay for three years, but now the towns will be asked to continue to pay every year.

**Abandoned Cars:** The Town received a complaint about abandoned cars behind the house on SASS Ave. Chris noted that the property still belongs to Dwight and Linda Duke. Chris encouraged the constable to talk to Dwight.

**Stranahan Town Forest:** Helen has spoken with Russ Barrett, County Forester, about marking the town forest for logging. He will be willing to do it this winter if the snow is not too deep, or in the spring in the case of too much snow. He would only charge us the cost of the paint. He has looked at the property and noted that some of the trees are low quality and could only be chipped. She suggested that he might have a better idea of what there is after he does the marking, and he might come in to a meeting and give his recommendations.

**Expenses, Permits & Payroll:** Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll. They approved the minutes of October 16<sup>th</sup>, November 1<sup>st</sup>, November 6<sup>th</sup>, and the special town meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the November 20, 2012 Selectboard Meeting.  
A True Record. Attest, \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

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