

## Chichester Board of Selectmen

### Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday October 17, 2023

**Members Present:** Edward Millette, Stephen MacCleery, Richard Bouchard, and Jodi Pinard Town Administrator, Kristy Jobin Administrative Assistant

**Others Present:** Tom Downey, Barbra Sweet, Kathy Doult, Tony Sanborn, Amy King  
and other members of the public.

**Call to Order:** Mr. Millette called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

#### **Anthony Sanborn-Roads in Town**

Mr. Sanborn came before the Board to discuss the issues with gravel roads in town, including the one he resides on, Hutchinson Road. He stated that it seems to be deteriorating over the past 8 years, and it has gone from tolerable to impassable at times. He asked the Board what the Town has planned for fixing and maintaining the roads. He stated that drainage, mud, and dust is a huge issue. He stated that he was led to believe when he bought the house Hutchinson would be paved and since moving in, the road has dropped 4-5 inches in height. He stated that the old Road Agent used to put calcium on the road to help dust and put down bigger rock, and now it's just dirt. He stated that they filled a pothole recently and by the end of the day the dirt was gone, and the pothole was back. He also mentioned that there is a Culvert that has had steel plates over it the entire summer. He would like to get answers on how the roads will be improved.

Mr. Millette stated that everything comes down to resources, whether its money or manpower. He stated that our Town is lacking in both. The Towns people have to buy into what is proposed. He stated that there was a proposal to pave Hutchinson Road and it failed miserably at Town meeting. Mr. Millette stated that he agrees our Town needs to improve roads, but it comes down to allocation of resources.

Mr. Sanborn asked what residents need to do to get the roads fixed. He stated that he understands manpower and money is an issue, but the longer the Town puts everything off, the more expensive it gets. He stated that he was upset that Fredwood Road was paved for only 3 houses, and that the money should have been allocated somewhere else. He stated that it was his opinion that Smith Sanborn should have been done first.

Mr. Millette stated that the Highway Department has been down a person for 11 weeks but is now back to being fully staffed. There are three culverts that need immediate attention in Town which the Board just approved to fix. He stated that there is an obligation to maintain paved roads, not just gravel roads. He stated that the Road Agent would like to pave it, but the Town doesn't have the resources. It's not the Road Agent's fault. Hutchinson Road has water and ledge issues that require engineering and rebuilding the road. It still comes down to resources and priority of resources.

The Board suggested that he could do a petition warrant article which is how paving Hutchinson Road got on the warrant the last time.

Mr. Sanborn stated that the Road is neglected and has not been graded since May. He stated that Merrill Construction is constantly running up and down the road, Live and Let Live creates a lot of traffic, along with others passing through

from other communities, which is a lot of traffic for a gravel road. He doesn't agree with the idea that it will slow people down to keep it gravel or take away from the rural feel.

Mr. MacCleery stated that part of the reason dirt roads has not improved more is because the Town started on the path of majorly reconstructing the paved roads which will end in the next few years. At that time there may be more resources available, and they can possibly look at the gravel roads and not just allocate money for maintenance. He stated there is only so much money to work with

Mr. Millette stated that he is hoping to add a new highway employee, full-time. He stated that the population is growing, and the Town needs to grow resources as well.

Mr. Sanborn stated that he will submit a petition for a warrant article to pave Hutchinson Road.

Mrs. Pinard stated that 25 signatures from registered voters are due to the Selectmen's Office by February 6, 2023.

The Board also stated that he could also put together a petition to start a committee for gravel roads.

Mrs. King stated that it would be more palatable for residents to have a study to determine what should be paved and People would be more open to the cost.

Ms. Doult stated if the Road Advisory Committee was put back into play, it should be a holistic one and not just for paved roads.

The Board Invites everyone to attend budget process so that residents can be involved and know what's going on and listen to how the Boards get to where the budget ends up.

#### **Library Trustees-MOU (Memorandum of Understanding)**

Mrs. Pinard stated that the Mou was sent to the Town Attorney, which found no issues.

The Trustees asked that the removal of dead trees on the property be added to the MOU under lawn-tree removal and pruning.

Mr. Millette still doesn't understand why an MOU is needed. It's a town building and the MOU is above and beyond normal maintenance.

Mrs. Sweet stated that the MOU helps the Trustees understand what they need to budget for because there has been confusion in the past. It puts in obvious things and not so obvious things.

Mr. Millette stated that there is a maintenance line in the budget for the furnace, so it becomes an argument of why there is a line for it, which then becomes discussion over cost.

He stated that the Safety Building doesn't have its own lines for maintenance, it comes out of town facilities maintenance lines. There cannot be any double dipping. He would rather see the Library treated like any other Town building, but to do that the Trustees would need to agree that money would have to be taken out of Library budget to pay for that. He stated that the building and grounds are the Towns responsibility.

Mrs. Pinard stated that in the 4194- budget line, each building has its own lines. She stated that doing this would not take over complete management of the building. The Library would still be responsible for calling for repairs.

Mr. MacCleery stated that accounting has been an issue for the library. At the Town Meeting the Library is given money, but it would have to be changed to add lines for the Library to account for it.

Mr. MacCleery referenced the RSA that governs the Library Trustees and that they are supposed to have entire custody of management and asked about the legality of this and if the Town can do what the MOU is looking to do. After looking at the legality, it may be an issue.

Ms. Doult stated that they choose to look at the Library as part of the Town, but it's a little Library. Historically the people that have done the budget have paid for things by the library that should have been paid by the town. They are trying to clarify what the Town is willing to pay for. It's an understanding.

Mr. Millette stated that it's a way to supplement the RSA or go around the RSA. The Library would be able to use Town Trusts to augment the budget, which the MOU has allowed the town to do, but this strikes him as redundant.

Ms. Doult stated that Mrs. Pinard said they used to have a Trust, but it was done away with.

Mrs. Pinard stated that the BOS did not do away with the capital reserve for the Library. She stated that the other Trustees asked for it to be discontinued and it was voted on in 2015 and discontinued.

Mr. Millette stated that they are trying to limit liability for the Library to \$500.

Mrs. Pinard stated that the limits are \$500 so JP pest control should not be on the MOU. This is asking Town to pay for things under \$500.

Mr. Millette stated that some things that should be covered by the Trustees are pest control and water testing, which should be included in the operating budget. He would like those removed from the MOU.

The Trustees discussed spring cleanup. The Board stated that the Highway Department can pick up debris.

Mr. Bouchard stated that the septic should be moved over to septic maintenance in the Town budget.

Mrs. Pinard stated that the State should be inspecting the boiler/furnace. She will add this under Town, and it will be added to the list of Town buildings for inspection.

The MOU will be updated and brought back for signature at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

#### **Asphalt-**

The Board opened the 3 quotes received for the lower driveway at Town Hall.

Cooper                \$31,500.00

Harris                \$ 45,000.00

Capital city        \$49,000.00

Mr. Sykes recommends Cooper and Sons.

The Board held a discussion on the 3 quotes.

Mr. MacCleery made a motion and Mr. Millette seconded to award the bid for the paving the lower parking lot at Town Hall in the amount of \$31,500.00 to be paid out of the Town Owned Parking Lot Capital Reserve Fund. Roll call vote.

MacCleery, aye. Millette, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

### **Amy King-Parks and Recreation**

Mrs. King came to discuss the ATV that is being given to them wanted to make sure it's still insured. She stated that clean up on November 4<sup>th</sup> and they were hoping to use it.

The Board discussed that she should speak with Chief Quimby as it needed repair that he was working on.

Mrs. King will touch base with the Chief to discuss further.

### **Asphalt-**

Mrs. Pinard stated that the asphalt quotes received are still valid and will be honored if the projects are down individually.

Mr. Sykes would like to get approved to do Higgins and Preve for \$107,390.00 and utilize the crack sealing line to supplement the cost.

Mr. MacCleery asked if ARPA funds could be utilized for Roads.

Mrs. Pinard stated they could, but there is only \$8,000.00 left.

Mr. MacCleery stated that he wished that the Town didn't purchase the chipper. He stated that it is his opinion that large purchases should not be made during the year and that the Town should wait for a Town meeting. He stated that the Roads are more important than the chipper. It seemed like a good proposal, but he is regretting it now.

Mr. Millette stated that they need to decide if crack sealing money should be utilized.

Mr. MacCleery stated that it skews the budget and the maintenance plan. He stated that the crack sealing should have been planned for.

Mr. Millette stated that if they cannot use ARPA funds and it's too late to crack seal, then it should be utilized. Crack sealing should have been completed in July.

Mr. MacCleery stated that money needs to be freed up to repair West Road also. He stated that this needs to be addressed before winter, even if the ditches need to be filled with rock or riprap.

Mr. MacCleery stated that he would like to stick with the plan to do two roads and encumber crack sealing for next year, because it's very important to the of the life cycle.

The Board discussed which roads to repair, keeping in mind that Mr. Sykes would prefer to complete Higgins Road and Preve lane.

Mr. Bouchard made a motion and Mr. MacCleery seconded to award the bid to Busby to complete Higgins Road and Preve Lane for shim and overlay to be paid out of the asphalt line. Roll call vote. MacCleery, aye. Millette, aye. Bouchard, aye. **Motion passes.**

### **Septic-**

Mrs. Pinard reported that the Bids came in the replacement of the septic system at the Safety Center.

Piedmont	\$32,750.00
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DI Docko and Sons, LLC.	\$32,200.00
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