

FINANCE COMMITTEE ON ROADS  
MINUTES  
March 7, 2011  
7:30 AM @ TOWN GARAGE

ATTENDANCE – Carl Akins, Scott Mayfield, Jack Walsh  
Superintendent of Streets – Craig Hughes  
Warrant Committee’s Liaison – Peter Smith  
Selectmen’s Liaison – Joe Melican

MINUTES – The minutes of the January 18, 2011 meeting were approved as written.

UPDATE ON SNOW & ICE – Craig Hughes provided an update on the town’s snow and ice budget given the severity and number of winter storms. To date, snow and ice expenditures have totaled approximately \$380,000, including \$78,000 for overtime, \$72,000 for hired equipment, \$110,000 for salt and sand, and \$23,000 for fuel. The original budgeted amount was \$230,000. Craig has already asked for and received additional funds to cover these excess expenditures. FEMA has declared the January 11-12, 2011 blizzard a disaster. Craig also provided a status report on road conditions resulting from the unusually harsh winter. Roads are generally in good shape. The worst areas are Pleasant Street and Route 109. The relative lack of potholes is primarily due to the superior condition of the underlying road base and general lack of underground utilities. Culverts are flowing well, including Claybrook Road. Chipping of downed tree limbs is currently underway. The street sweeper is working well. The committee asked about damage to mailboxes and to describe the repair policy. Craig explained that the highway department repairs damaged mailboxes in lieu of reimbursement. Craig also noted that many mailboxes are also damaged by driveway contractors and that many homeowners repair the mailboxes themselves.

SIDEWALKS – The Dedham Street sidewalk project was discussed. Joe Melican reported that the Board of Selectmen had proposed to study the sidewalk project as part of a broader study of the Caryl Park area. Residents did not feel that it was necessary to combine the two and argued that the merits of the sidewalk were independent of other issues related to Caryl Park. The Committee reiterated that the Master Plan should include town-wide guidelines that could be applied generally to assess the potential need/merits of these types of projects, instead of addressing each separate project in a one-off fashion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- (a) WILLOW STREET BRIDGE – Work on Willow Street Bridge has started. Crews are working when there are breaks in the weather. Work is expected to take 8 to 10 months to complete.

- (b) TOWN ENGINEER – Selectmen have approved the hiring of a town engineer to fill the vacated position. The position will be advertised during the coming months with the goal of filling the position for the summer.
- (c) TOWN WARRANT – The Committee discussed Article 17 (Long Range Planning Committee) and found it odd that the Long Range Planning Committee would not “consider any capital improvement project that impacts the Town’s debt service.” It was the general sense of the Committee that the town’s debt service would be one of the most important aspects of the town’s long-term planning.

NEXT MEETING – April 19, 2011 at 7:30 am at the Town Garage.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Mayfield