

**Meeting of the Finance Committee
February 18, 2004**

Attending: John Carter, Brenda Edgerly, Denise Everest, Mark Rogers, Paul Verrel

Also Attending: Clint Andrews, David Benton, Willis Lorc

Not Attending: Todd Abbott, David Fedrizzi

David Benton addressed the committee and answered several questions regarding roads in town. He indicated that invitational bids for paving had been received from three companies: F. R. Carroll, Dayton Sand and Gravel, and Blue Rock. The successful bidder was F. R. Carroll. His bid was less than a dollar from the bid received from Dayton. There was no bid submitted from Blue Rock. The paving contract will continue until the end of June and will repeat the bid process to begin work next July (2004- June 2005). The question was asked inquiring how this year's budget could be exactly the same as last year's submission. Answering, Dave said that they know exactly how much ditching or brush cutting can be done for a specified amount of money. They work within those parameters. Brush cutting also includes mowing, Dave added. He addressed the sand / salt stockpile. Each winter has differing requirements. This winter has required more salt than sand due to the icing conditions during the extremely cold but not snowy season. Dave addressed the replacement of road signs as indicated in the Article # 63 (\$4,000.00). He said that road signs are being stolen. Many acts of vandalism are being committed by destroying the sign poles which also need to be replaced. This cannot be done until the soil is softened to allow for the installation of new posts too. Article #64 (\$6,000.00) for a plow for the town tractor. Dave explained that this will be used exclusively at the Transfer Station to keep the area clear for loading trucks with sand and salt. Committee members asked why this is not an item for the Transfer Station budget instead of including it on the budget items for the Road Commissioner. Article #65 (No monies indicated) Dave said that he was unaware that this was submitted as he did not make this a request. It was further discussed and no explanation of a 'Winter Maintenance Account' was determined. Regarding the salary of the Road Commissioner, this is not listed as a line item under any account heading. He explained how he is paid and that it comes from a number of accounts, depending on the work done. Sometimes he is acting as an agent of the town (Road Commissioner) and at other times Dave is a sub-contractor. He receives a 1099 for the work for which the town is billed and he also receives W2 forms for income / wages received. Brenda made a motion that the Road Commissioner's salary come from a Public Works account and be so listed. This was seconded and voted 4-0-0. Article #62 (\$517,481.00), specifically "crushing" (\$25,000.00) this is put out for a public bid but Foglio is the only contractor who responded by requesting details on the job and then submitting a bid. Article #69, overlay on the following roads: Middle Road, Chadbourne Ridge, Hooper Hill, James Road and Hilltop Lane. Dave explained that a new layer of overlay is needed for these streets now. The roads will deteriorate to the point that a great deal of additional and expensive work will be needed to bring the roads

back to serviceable condition. The committee was satisfied with the answers to their questions.

Clint Andrews, manager of the Transfer Station discussed some of the questions posed to him. Initially, it was difficult to determine the amount of his proposed budget as a variety of figures had been submitted and discussed. The committee assumed the larger figure of \$566,200.00 which includes fines and fees. Wendy Warren is the representative of Waterboro to RWS. Willis and Clint indicated that fees to RWS have increased dramatically (over 50%) this year and all participating towns have been required to assume the difference. Clint indicated that Waterboro's increase is largely based on the fact that we have not had a significant increase in our town's %age of recycling. There has been a verbal contract with a company to pay the town \$20.00/ton for steel and remove it. Committee members asked why there is just a verbal agreement and not a written one. It was agreed that this needs to be corrected. The management of the Transfer Station expects to receive about \$100,000.00 from fees at that facility this year ('03-'04). A present the town is considering the purchase of the compactor from Hazel Stevens for \$24,500.00. These funds will be taken from that collected this year in fees and fines.

The committee adjourned at 8:45. pm.

The next meeting of this committee will be Wednesday, February 25 at 7:00pm. The Fire Department and Selectmen will meet to discuss their budget submissions.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy L. Carter, Secretary