

**TOWN OF ACTON
STAFF MEETING FEBRUARY 28, 2008**

Mike opened the meeting and stated that since there were so many people present who wished to speak on issues, he would open up the meeting to discussion after the staff meeting.

SIGN WARRANT: Mike said selectmen will sign the warrant during the latter portion of the meeting.

TREASURER: Vicki announce that she would be conducting a Financial Workshop tonight and she needs at least 7 people to register to make it worthwhile. Mike asked if those attending can ask questions. Vickie said she will answer questions at the workshop. If it is a question that needs researching, she will do so at a later date and return the information to the person who asks. The budget deadline is tomorrow.

Auditor Ron Smith will be in the office on Tuesday at 11 am to discuss Town finances.

Vicki said she went to Nancy on February 20 and told her there were errors in the memo that the selectmen had sent out and requested that those errors be corrected. So far, this has not been done.

Vicki noted that she has received two request from Debbie Rix for information. She has sent a letter to Debbie including the policy for furnishing information. One request is simple enough so it will take little time and Debbie will only need to pay for the copies. She will make an estimate of the time it will take to assemble the other information and the cost for copies. There is a \$50 deposit required.

TOWN CLERK: Jennifer passed out copies of a list Nancy gave her of the jobs required for the support work .

She asked what the status was of the job description that the selectmen had on their agenda, so that she could put it on the web site. Mike said to wait at least another week so selectmen could further discuss this.

Jennifer said she has passed out a memo that Trio will be at the Town Hall on Monday at 9 am for the installation and training for the new program.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS: No action. Selectmen skimmed through the agenda for the February 26 meeting which was canceled due to a storm, and discussed the following topics:

1. WARRANT: Selectmen signed the warrant.

2. OLD BUSINESS

a. ASSESSING/ABATEMENTS: Status of contacting Assessors: Nancy has made two calls. – **Status of Abatements-** Those that were signed were mailed yesterday. **Status of assessing files:** Jennifer said Shelly is no longer working on them. Lorraine will continue with filing the Trio property cards.

b. CABLE CONTRACT: Mike said maybe one more week. Dick said he feels this negotiation has gone on too long.

c. FLAT GROUND ROAD BID: Ads have been placed in three papers. Minimum bid \$2,500. Bids to be opened March 11, 7 pm.

f. NOTIFICATION OF FORCLOSURE FOR GREG ROY: Dick thinks he has a valid address and will draft a letter to him.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

(A) MILTON MILLS ROAD: Selectmen have asked for letters regarding the condition of the road from the School Superintendent, Bus Company, Road Commissioners, Fire Chief and Rescue Chief. Mike plans to go to Augusta with a plea for that road to be repaired or reconstructed.

PUBLIC FORUM: Pam McAlinden said that the road near Patti Dutil's was eroded as the result of run-off from a culvert located on the Town's portion of Buzzell Road. She gave Mike pictures of the damage. Mike said he will give the photos to the Code Enforcement Officer.

Dennis Long complained about the notice on the Town's web site about the Town plowing private roads. There was a lot of mis-information and the web site contained the same information as has been printed in Jim Driscoll's letter in the Observer. Jennifer said when she heard about it she took the notice off the newsletter section of the web site. She apologized and said she had not read it before putting it in the newsletter. Mike said that the newsletter should be shut down or we need to establish a trail of when and who sends news for the newsletter – maybe a request form should be created.

Selectmen explained that after the ice storm there was a power outage on the Red Gate section and Lakeside Drive. Central Maine Power Company called and said they could not get to the area because of the ice coated road. Selectmen contacted Road Commissioner Scott Mooney and requested that that road be sanded on a one-time-only-emergency basis. Mooney apparently sub-contracted the job. The bill has not been paid. Pam McAlinden said if the selectmen do not feel comfortable with addressing the problem with the Observer publishing untrue information and the problems that have resulted, she will.

Dick Neal read the following statement: “ Good Morning – This is my 7th week in office. It has also been the worst 7 weeks of my life. When I ran for office I did so because I felt that I could contribute in a positive way To be honest, I had no idea what I was getting into. I am not sure who is running the Town. The Selectmen should be, but we seem to be sidetracked by too many extraneous distractions. We are constantly being told what we cannot do. Why don't people leave us alone and let us get our job done. We have many real problems that need our attention. A few weeks ago I made a decision to help CMP during the ice storm and power outage. I considered it to be an emergency and requested one of our Road Commissioners for his assistance in sanding a private road. I assured him that this was a one time deal under emergency conditions. Well, it turned into a fiasco and has the whole Town in a stir because of all the rumors and untruths being spread around town just to make the selectmen look bad. If any of you citizens out there feel that you have a concern or problem and you would like to speak with the Selectmen in private, there are those out there who try to tell us “Oh, you can't do that. It is illegal.” Why don't people leave us alone and let us do our job. Things have to change or the Town will never recover and I will not be here to help.”

Dick Neal said he feels the Road Commissioners need to remove snow from the intersections. The banks are so high motorists have to pull out onto the highway to see if any cars are coming, creating a dangerous situation. A discussion followed these remarks..

Debbie Rix said she feels the Town should hire a retired Town Manager. She is willing to make phone calls to find the availability of such a person.

Debbie also wanted to address the fact that the Town Clerk was being paid for 40 hours and she does not believe she is working that many hours. Jennifer said she is on salary, not hour pay and she explained the work her job entails. Discussion continued and the meeting was then adjourned.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Conway, Dick Neal

OTHERS PRESENT: Roger Roy, Pam McAlinden, Debbie and Mark Rix, Barbara Seckar, Davey Winchell, Percy Lowell, Bob Cronin, Dennis Long, Holly Mooney, Mary Yeaton, Joe Ruma, Jennifer Roux, Vicki Ridlon, Jennifer Roux, Lorraine Yeaton.