

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
AUGUST 25, 2015**

I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN

The August 25, 2015, Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to Order by Mr. Bramwell, Chairman, at 7:00 P.M., held in the First Floor Conference Room.

- A. ROLL CALL: Mr. Bradford Bramwell, Chairman; Mr. Timothy R. Giblin, Vice-Chair; Mr. Robert W. Kimball, Jr.; Mr. Robert S. Salvo, Sr., and Mrs. Mary T. Steele were present. Mr. Michael Yunits, Town Manager, was also present.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Bramwell stated this meeting was to obtain an update regarding 274 East Main Street.

Dave Eastridge of Thorndike Development said he had just returned from vacation and not having the full breadth of info, would try to provide the best update he could to the Board. He understood the issues were with the quality of roadway and the patch over water main in terms of it not being smooth and also problems with driving over it and driving in opposing lanes to avoid it. Mr. Eastridge said they are in process of plan to address it which is underway as of today. He said they are committed to making it a safe environment. He added a key element to overall schedule is the participation of gas company.

Mr. Eastridge stated he was accompanied by Brendan Gilmore, Project Manager of Campanelli, and oversees building work. Also, Dan DeMarco, President of Campanelli, was present this evening as well.

Mr. Gilmore indicated he met with Mr. Yunits, Mr. Salvo, and Mr. Silver last Tuesday regarding concern of roadway and arrived at a good agreement regarding improvements regarding milling of road and placing binder down on road. Today road was milled and will be paved tomorrow addressing all the concerns. He said they intended to do gas line and lower at same time as water main work, however, due to constraints with gas company, they were not able to do that. They will need to rip up road in future again and patch at some point. They will need allowance from gas company to lower road four or five feet.

Mr. Eastridge stated what changed when originally presented for the work schedule is that they had gas work going on in parallel with water main work. However, now the update is the gas company can start on Monday; they were ready for them to start three weeks ago which would have been helpful. There will be some detours just for the gas line to go in, so increase in number of days for one lane closure for them to work will need to happen. He hoped they could also do work at the same time for other work like basins, etc.

Mr. Gilmore referenced the Chief of Police's recommendation, if the Board of Selectmen accepts this, without having to do detour roadblocks at each side and police officers can stop traffic at each end. This will fall on Police Department if this is safe to do this.

Mr. Eastridge said once gas company lowers line they can start with lowering the road. There will be a full road closure in that four day range.

Mr. Bramwell said when this process was first started, the Town received more updates.

Mr. Eastridge said they will start that update process again and noted he was out of the country for a couple of weeks.

Mr. Giblin said the residents and the Board of Selectmen need to have updates and that was a promised to them.

Mr. Gilmore stated that was his responsibility and said emails did not go out as often.

Mr. Giblin said this meeting should not be held regarding safety concerns after the start of this project; they should have been addressed previously.

Mr. Gilmore said safety is their number one concern; they thought the patching was acceptable, and there was a lot more traffic than anticipated on that road. When he met with Mr. Yunits, Mr. Salvo, and Mr. Silver it was noted road work needed to be done.

Mr. Eastridge said he may have been too optimistic regarding gas company, however, without them showing up per schedule allowed trench to be exposed longer than expected. They are trying to address the input/the safety concerns and deal with portions of their schedule that are a little bit beyond their control.

Mr. Giblin said his impression was that gas company wasn't contacted in a timely fashion.

Mr. Eastridge responded and said that was not the case. He handled this aspect of it personally and contacted them early on, but gas company wouldn't officially talk with them until they owned the land. There was a whole chain of events that needed to occur in order to get gas company started, and within three days of the closing the gas company received the deed and they had already received other info (demand/load info). He said they met with them two or three weeks after the closing and they pushed very hard to segment this roadwork project from the onsite work. It actually has been a very quick process with the gas company because with many other projects with other towns, it is often a six to eight month project.

Mr. Kimball referenced the roads. The Board of Selectmen are road commissioners and they are receiving these phone calls regarding complaints. The most vocal is Red Mill Village as they are being impacted the most. The roads are bad, especially in the Red Mill Village area and they need to take this issue seriously. Doing the milling and repairs is great but is not the answer to the entire problem. The impact of traffic will pack asphalt down even more and they need to pay attention to that; this could create pot holes, etc.

Mr. Eastridge spoke of one point of information, they now have ability to do permanent patch, so it is not just the inch and a half patch and to be done in a certain area. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kimball encouraged them to keep road open as much as possible (less detours, etc.). It will have an impact on the quality of life.

Mr. Kimball said he was watching cars travel over the hump in this area and go around construction area; it was very frightening to watch from a safety standpoint. He does not want them to have to cross over to the other side of the road; there was already a fatality in that area in the past.

Mr. Kimball said he was aware it was difficult to control the contractors, but the rules need to be followed. He received a call from a resident on a Saturday morning at 6 a.m. that construction personnel were at that location. He said he personally responded to this complaint along with two cruisers. There is an agreement in place for construction hours. It is necessary to be good neighbors and work together and if there isn't compliance, the Town will have no choice but to shut it down. Noise needs to stop and no construction work before 7 a.m. or after 5 p.m.

Mr. Gilmore said he understood the need to abide by regulations. One of the transitions they had on site in order to get project running, they needed to bring in superintendent of project and had a specific conversation with him on timelines and when subcontractors should be on site (hours, etc.). He will provide that contact info to the Board of Selectmen and all noise on site should be resolved during certain hours of the day.

Mr. Eastridge wanted to clarify the hours of operation being 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mr. Bramwell spoke of trucks idling on site; there are usually four or five trucks lined up as he drives by about 6:30 a.m.

Mr. Yunits responded they are allowed ½ hour before starting time to fuel vehicles.

Mr. Eastridge agreed that the contractors warm up equipment so they can actually start at 7 a.m.

Mr. Bramwell said part of his frustration were the road conditions being so horrible; he said the road was repaved and tending to sink. This was a problem and he personally did not know where they were in the construction phase so he could provide residents with an update.

Mr. Eastridge stated he would get another email out tomorrow, and would send to abutters and Town officials.

Mr. George Merrill, a Norton resident, said that was not a patch job. He said they should put a metal plate over it like the city of Boston does. The Town of Norton has a Highway Department and they don't leave streets like this roadway. He said it was never smooth to begin with and felt they did not give the Town a good nor a safe product. He said he always needs to drive on the other side of the road. It is unsafe and unacceptable. He said they should not throw the gas company under the bus; just fix it.

Mr. Kimball said they need some contingency plans in place now, especially with going down side roads. Once they hit Newland Street, hopefully less of an impact. Anytime there is infringing on pavement, a plan is needed to make it work, especially with school buses, etc.

Mr. Eastridge said they will need to install curbing on whole frontage of road; we will widen it and essentially will have three lanes for some portions along the frontage.

Mr. Kimball said he has been a member of the Board of Selectmen for over twenty years and has seen many projects and by far this is the worst he has ever seen.

Mr. Eastridge stated the plan they have in place for tomorrow will make vast improvements.

Mr. Kimball encouraged them to take a look at this a week from now because it may not be the final solution.

Mr. Bramwell said the Board of Selectmen would like to be advised on the progress of this project.

Mr. Giblin said this is Thorndike's/Campanelli's project; not the gas company's project, so they need to make it safe, etc. A new plan must be reviewed often to ensure it is continually working out.

Mr. Yunits said he visited Mangia Pizzeria and business has not been bad for them. When roads close for four days, this restaurant will shut down and they want advance notice (at least a week's notice). During this road closure, they will do updates to their business.

Detours were discussed and a quality sign should be created stating "Open to Quick Stop".

Mr. Kimball said a sign bylaw is in place, but the Board can probably waive that.

Adjournment

MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to Adjourn at 7:48 P.M. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Janet A. Sweeney

Board of Selectmen – Recording Secretary

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF
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BRADFORD K. BRAMWELL, CHAIRMAN

TIMOTHY R. GIBLIN, VICE-CHAIR

ROBERT W. KIMBALL, JR., CLERK

ROBERT S. SALVO, SR.

MARY T. STEELE

Dated: _____

Documents Distributed/Reviewed at August 25, 2015, Board of Selectmen Meeting

No documents were distributed/reviewed at this meeting of August 25, 2015.