

TOWN OF ALLENSTOWN
SELECTMEN'S OFFICE
16 SCHOOL STREET
ALLENSTOWN, NH 03275

Meeting Opened at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Sandy McKenney, Chairperson; Carol Merrill, Selectperson. Thomas Gilligan, Selectman.

Audience members present;

Chris Roy, Road Agent; Dave Eaton, Allenstown resident

Residents' Complaints on Road Conditions

3 complaints made by residents on line. All complainants were invited to attend. Dave Eaton was the only one to show. Dave Eaton stated that when he had to go to work at 6:00 a.m. and it looked like the road had 2 – 3" of snow on it and 7" of snow on the driveway. He does not have 4-wheel drive and needed to get to work. He was concerned whether the plowing was done on the same schedule.

Chris Roy responded that they plowed in response to the forecast. It had been forecast of 8 – 10" of snow turning to freezing rain and sleet. Rule of thumb is to leave 2-3" of snow on the road before it changes to rain. That way the ice and sleet does not bond to the asphalt. It sleeted for 5 – 10 minutes and then turned to pouring rain. At that point they replowed all the streets. Then they opened up the catch basins and opening up snow banks.

Chris Roy continued to explain that during that storm there were 2 men working 25 hours straight. One came in at 7 and left at 1:30 and the other 3 came in at 1am and plowing by 2am and left at 8:30 that night.

PD called at 6:30 a.m. the following morning. All crew members came back in and the 3 were out by 7:30 a.m. Thursday morning. Trash was done on Thursday instead of on Wednesday because of road conditions.

Chris said they have 5 trucks that were operational: 3 trucks with wings and 2 one tons. Chris said there was a full crew.

Dave Eaton said his wife told him that 5 minutes after he left, a plow went by. Chris said that they did change the order of plowing and using the right amount of material to clear the road. Dave's road is not plowed in the same order as it used to be.

Dave then went on to say he was concerned with the height of the snow banks on Rte 28 as he feels they obstruct view of oncoming vehicles in intersections. Chris said they do go in and open up the snow banks. Chris encouraged Dave to call him and notify him of these conditions and he will respond as soon as possible.

Dave said Pembroke and Hooksett had similar trouble also. Sandy and Carol thanked Dave for coming in. Chris said he would like to be able to please everyone and encouraged Dave again to call him on his cell phone. Chris said he checks in throughout the day and checks messages at the garage phone for complaints and concerns. Chris also works closely with the police department.

Tom Gilligan said that the equipment is outdated and needs to be replaced. Tom said they are spending as much or more money on repairs than they would pay on lease or payments on new vehicles. Tom said he has not heard Chris blame the vehicles but there were 3 vehicles down on Wednesday.

According to Chris, from Dec 1 to this last storm there has been 20 storms, not counting the 4 in November and the extra 13 times they went out to sand. There has been over 80" of snow so far this year.

Chris explained how he was able to obtain salt to get through the storm when none was available for delivery by calling his ex-boss and borrowing his truck to pick up the salt in Portsmouth for only the cost of a tank of gas.

Sandy said the other 2 residents with concerns were contacted and asked to attend but were not present. Sandy suggested that Chris talk to the Cross Street resident, D. Croaks, and let him know that his complaint had been discussed. The third complainant, Gail Chabot of Campbell Street, has a disabled child and the school bus has had difficulty getting up the street to her. Sandy suggested Chris speak to her also.

Chris said that on Thursday Mrs. DeRoscher almost got into an accident going up Hamel to take a right on Cross Street because her vision was blocked by a snow bank. Chris said he will take some snow to clear the view but not impact the wall on the lot.

Ground Zero Teen Center

Dave requested information regarding the requirements and ordinances pertaining to the opening of the Ground Zero Teen Center. Sandy suggested Cliff Jones could check into code requirements. Opening night is March 7, 2008.

As Dave was leaving, Sandy suggested that Dave Eaton schedule the next budget meeting so people can schedule it. .

234 Deer field Road

This resident is draining the water from the basement onto his driveway which then flows onto the road. Chris dumped 3 loads of salt to break up all the ice. He has recently seen improvement. The homeowner owns a culvert that runs under Deerfield road and

drains off to be right. The State will give him a permit to dig and fix the pipe that has collapsed in the middle. Tom suggested Chris Roy and the Building Inspector, Cliff Jones, get an action plan in writing with the individual who owns the culvert. Cliff had reported it would cost close to \$5000. Chris said the State will not replace a pipe for people to run their sump pumps. Tom suggested the Building inspector issue the homeowner a cease and desist order on pumping the water into the culvert and to cap it on his end of the culvert. Chris advised that according to Mark Boisvert the highway dept has been dealing with this resident with the same issue for the last 5 to 6 years. Chris has had the APD go talk to the man and advise him that he is creating a dangerous condition. Chris had chipped away the ice to release the flow of water off of the road.

School Street and Deerfield Road, among others in Town, are State Roads but the State does not plow them. Chris said the State maintains these roads from April 1 to November 1. Carol suggested that the town should insist that the state plow the road because it is a state road. Tom stated that 'well it's a double edged sword because the state could say 'Ok, well we can take all of the driveway permits back on Deerfield and on School Street' Carol expressed concern with the requirements to pay for permits to make changes on your own land and also to pay taxes.

Parking Bans

Cars parked along the curb and at the end of driveways make it very difficult to do a safe and effective plow job. . Tom suggested handling the towing during snow emergencies like Manchester and other big cities and towns, one warning, then tow the car. Carol said that we need to something about it.

Tom suggested sending out a neighborly reminder to residents or to put something in the paper as a neighborly reminder to observe the parking ordinances or they will be towed.

Expenditure Sheets

Sandy advised that the expenditure sheets were not available for the meeting since town hall was closed during the holiday. Sandy said that she would ask Cindy to pull them tomorrow.

FMLA Vote reminder

The vote on Family Medical Leave Act will be held next week. The Hearing is on the Agenda for 6:30.

GIS Pilot Project

No letter of release yet from Biron regarding the Project.

Audit Report from 2006

Cheryl from the Auditors, the Sewer Commissions and the Board of Selectmen will meet from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on March 17, 2008 to discuss the Audit Report from 2006.

Budget Cut Memo to Dept Heads.

A memo will be sent to Department Heads asking for their budget cuts if the operating budget defaults. A meeting is tentatively set for March 17, 2008 at 8:00 PM

Minutes from Feb 4, 2008

MOTION by Sandy to accept minutes of 2/4/08 as written.

Seconded by Carol

VOTE: Sandy aye, Carol aye, Tom abstains as he was not here.

Motion passes

Tom's E-Mail regarding incomplete tape of 2/4/08 meeting

Sandy read from Tom's e-mail, " 'I guess I and others have to wonder why the tape got broken during a meeting I was not able to attend.' "

Sandy asked Tom what he meant by that and what was he accusing them of.

Tom said he was just wondering why the tape got broken.

Sandy asked "What are you accusing us of?" Tom responded he was not accusing her of anything. Tom said if he was accusing her of anything he would do it in a public meeting and he would do it on tape. Sandy said this is a public meeting. Sandy said you know that we would not do anything like that. Tom responded that he did not know that and he did not trust her (Sandy) at all. Tom said he was glad that that was on tape and that anyone who knows him knows that that is how he feels. Sandy said you should be a selectman if you don't trust people. Carol said, " We are here to work together." Tom said it was nice of her to say that.

Sandy asked Tom what he meant by that statement; that he doesn't trust her. Sandy asked Tom whether he trusted Carol. Tom answered that he did trust Carol and had no problems with her. Tom said he did not know why "every time I ask for tapes it's a big deal around here and the girls have to run to you and get your permission to give me copies of public minutes and public tapes."

Sandy responded, " I have nothing to do with that."

Tom said, "Yeah I'm sure that Cindy didn't pick up the phone and call you right away and say, 'Sandy what's going on why does he need the tape?' or 'He asked for the tape and I don't have it what should I do?' I'm sure that didn't happen."

Sandy said, " Diane called me before you even asked for the tape and told me there was nothing on the second side."

Tom answered, " Well I didn't deal with Diane, I dealt with Cindy."

Sandy said, "Well Diane did the minutes."

Tom said, "That's fine, I just asked for a copy of the audio tape. And what happened was, Cindy told me there was a problem with the tape, the same thing that Diane told you, and whenever I was feeling better, whatever day it was that I called last week, and she said that they weren't available, they couldn't copy them or it was broken or something like that, and I said, ok, then do you have a copy of the digital audio recording? And she said no I don't but Sandy might. So I said, ok can you ask Sandy for me for a copy of that "

Tom said, "And she didn't get back to me, instead of coming back to me and saying, 'No, I can't.' or 'I talked to Sandy and there's an issue.' I get your e-mail about - It's my personal recorder."

Sandy responded, " Well, it is."

"Well good for you, I could care less." Tom said.

Sandy asked, "Then why did you even ask if I would do it for you if its my personal recorder?"

Tom said, "Well; ok then, if you're a member of the public what do you think that Selectperson McKenney is hiding that she doesn't want to give up a copy of her personal recording?"

Sandy answered, "I'm not hiding anything."

Tom said, "We're wasting time."

Sandy said, "No you're wasting time Tom because you're the one who sent this foolish e-mail, you're the one that doesn't trust me, you're the one who's having a problem, not me.

Tom said. " That's right. I ask for an audio recording..."

Sandy said, "And you got what they had."

Tom said, " NO, I don't have anything in my possession. Is this it right here?"

Sandy said, " No, that's from Carl, something you had put on the website."

Tom said, "Ok, it doesn't look it but ok. That's probably the flood study public meeting power point slides. So when it wasn't available, I simply asked an innocent question to Cindy, would you mind asking Sandy, I would have asked you myself last Monday but ...

Sandy said, " Yeah, you said, 'I forgot to ask Sandy last night.' "

Tom said, "So instead of her responding ...

Sandy said, " Well she sent it to me because I have the tape. Why would she respond back to you when I'm the one with the tape?"

Tom said, " Can you read your email?, You make it sound like you're innocent like you didn't respond and say 'It's my personal recording.'"

Sandy said, "Well, it is."

Tom said, "Well, good for you."

Sandy said, "You're using the Town's for personal business."

Tom said, "It's not personal it's all Selectmen. There's nothing on there but Selectmen."

Sandy asked, " Why doesn't Carol have one that the Town pays for?"

Tom said, " I don't know why doesn't she?"

Sandy said, " Well maybe we should get one for her so she can tape it too."

Tom said, " We probably should."

Sandy said, "If you're using the Town's that's why Diane can't use it because you're using it."

Tom said, " No this is available for anybody whoever wants it. Noone has asked for it since Kelly was here."

Sandy said, "So you're using it for your personal use, you're taking it home."
Tom Said "No."

Carol asked, "So they're not using it for the other meetings anymore?"

Sandy said, "They have another one for zoning and planning."

Tom said, " I don't use this for my personal use, I use it for Selectmen business."

Sandy said, " I don't know Tom. You don't trust me why should I trust.

Tom said, " You don't have to trust me, I'm not asking for your trust. I'm just asking you to stop wasting my time, stop wasting the Town's time. . .

Sandy said, "If you stop wasting everybody's time we'll all be a lot better off."

Compliant Digital/Analog Base Station

Application for a digital/analog base station Radio used by Emergency Management Director came in Friday for Everett Chaput. It's all signed and Cindy will mail it out tomorrow.

NH Retirement

Maura Carol will not come to the Town as there are too many towns requesting that. We, the BOS or the AA or Town Manager, can go to the meeting on 3/18/08. If the Fire or Police want to come they can pay the \$35.00

Sandy said she would not ask them to pay the \$35.00 and the Town will not pay the \$35.00. Carol asked what they wanted from the Town. Tom explained they want us to join a potential lawsuit. Sandy said she would like to hear both sides of the argument. The meeting is at the Common Man at March 13 at night. Officials do not have to pay. Tom said he could go to that and would call Maura Carol at LGC to get more information on the meeting.

289 Pinewood Road

Welfare letter seeking reimbursement from Landlord for costs for tenant relocation needs to be reviewed by Biron. Sandy said she does not have any issue with the letter, just wanted to make sure that Biron saw it.

APD Oral Boards

Sandy attended as Tom could not attend. There were 3 applicants and they agreed on 1. Shaun interviewed that person the next day or the day after.

Tom Gilligan's e-mail 2/16/08

Sandy read another one of Tom's emails about sending town emails to his home email address.

Tom said, "yes unless it's urgent or it's an emergency".

Sandy read from Tom's e-mail, " 'It's just too bad that you don't have a full time job anymore so that you would understand the constraints of having one.' "

Sandy said that "I'll have you know that I had worked 28 years for the phone company and I could balance my workload and whatever other activities she I have had." She is balancing working part time now, having a family, and helping out at Town Hall when there is no AA here. She said "I have been down her a lot helping these girls who are bending over backwards doing things, trying to get things done.

Tom said, “ They should be because they’re collecting full time paychecks. “

Sandy said they are also doing jobs that are not in their job description. Tom asked if Mr. Martineau was still on the payroll. Sandy answered he’s doing something with the end of the year to balance something. He’s been doing something, he’s been working with Bernadette. But we’re not taking about him. These girls are working very hard to make this office go . .

Tom said, “ I’m glad they are, I’ve done anything that has been asked of me, and I’ll do anything that’s asked of me and I’ll continue to do anything anyone needs from me as a Selectman for the Town.

Sandy asked Tom why he doesn’t come down here and help out.

He said he would love to if they tell him what they’re doing and what they need to have done. Sandy said ‘but you can’t come down during the day’

Tom said that doesn’t mean I can’t do stuff after hours or on the weekends with the exception of Monday night as he is at the Selectman meeting.

Sandy said “Well I didn’t think that was a very nice statement for you to make.” Sandy said she took exception to the statement about the job.

Tom said that it’s in writing, “it is what it is.”

Sandy said if Tom would step up to his responsibilities as a Selectman... Tom said if Sandy didn’t run this town like it was her own personal Glee Club he would get involved. “every time he tries to get involved she shuts him down.” Sandy said that was ‘a lie’

Tom said that it was not lie.

Tom said that “her gig is up.” “People are on to the way you operate and they know how you run this town and they’re sick of it. He the said that “we’ll find out within the next couple of weeks how much longer the charade’s gonna go on” And in the meantime his conscience is clear as he does everything he commits to.

Sandy said that is untrue as Tom does not commit to anything other than coming to the meeting on Monday night. He did not attend the Oral Boards and waited until 3:30 to notify Shaun. Tom said he was sick, Sandy said ‘well you didn’t know that in the morning, you waited until 3:30 in the afternoon’. Tom said “No I was gonna try to go” and Sandy said ‘well at 3:30 you decided you were too sick, you were sick all day?’

Tom said yes, he was sick all day.

Sandy said well you should have called first thing in the morning.

Tom asked if Shaun (Mulholland) had a problem with it, or was this her own personal opinion.

Each contended the other was arguing their personal opinion. Tom said it is well documented where he is and what he’s doing and that when he commits to something with the exception of going to the Oral Board because he was sick and missed 3 days of work last week, he holds up his end of the bargain. And he does stuff.

Sandy said “You don’t even come close to it Tom, and you know that just as well as everybody else”

Carol said he is not on any committees and he was supposed to be on the Budget Committee. Tom asked ‘what committee would you like me to be on?’

Tom said he was not supposed to be on the Budget. Tom said, ”That ‘s Sandy’s political BS and everybody knows it.”

Tom said “I told you I wanted to be on the Planning Board”

Sandy said I was already on the Planning Board.

Tom said “ No you were not on Planning because the assignments to the individual committees get re-voted each year after the election.”

Sandy Said “And they keep the same ones they’re on.”

Carol – they kept the same one last year, because she took what was left over from the other person.

Tom asked “do you have anything of value or are we going to sit here and argue for the next hour?” Sandy said you could leave anytime you want. He said he was a Selectman and would not leave until the meeting was over.

Minutes for February 11, 2008

Tom made corrections and edits and had e –mailed them out to both of selectmen and to Diane.

Sandy and Carol said they would need time to read them over. Tom questioned their need to read them over as no one reads Sandy’s changes before they’re made.

Tom said “there was actually a pretty egregious error where there was no motion made on the Dyson vacuum PO for the APD cleaner but a motion is listed on the minutes.

Sandy asked Tom if he had an issue with the PO for the vacuum cleaner, and Tom replied ‘yes I still have an issue with them spending that much money on a vacuum cleaner’
Tom wanted a verbatim quote when he speaks at certain times as in his statement that he was more concerned with the Fire Department having wet suits than with buying vacuums, but he does not want a verbatim written recording for the entire minutes.

MOTION by Sandy to go into Non-Public under RSA 91A 3 II a at 7:47

Seconded by Carol

Roll Call Vote: Carol, aye; Tom, aye. Sandy aye

Motion passes

Back in public at 7:55

MOTION by Sandy

Seconded by Carol

Roll Call vote Carol aye, Tome aye, Sandy aye

Motion passes

Carol asked if the letter from DES that was sent to Kelley got taken care of. Sandy advised that it was all taken care of.

MOTION to Adjourn by Sandy

Seconded by Carol

ADJOURN at 7:59

Sandy McKenney, Chairperson

Carol Merrill, Selectperson

Tom Gilligan, Selectperson