

MINUTES

Non Public Session
April 6, 2009

The Board met in Non Public Session with Butch Bain, Road Agent. Butch came in to inform the Board that an incident he encountered with Selectman Craig Keeney was disturbing to him. Selectman Keeney called Butch and informed him that he had received several calls from property owners with complaints about the roads. Apparently some of the complaints were regarding Eastern Corner, Lower Beech Hill and Windmill Road. Butch stated that while he was speaking with Selectman Keeney, he was actually working on Eastern Corner Rd. Selectman Keeney would not give Butch the names of the parties only that there were several. Butch explained that he takes great pride in returning calls and he took the conversation that he had with Selectman Keeney very personal. Butch stated that some of the remarks implied that he didn't know what he was doing and the manner in which the remarks were made were extremely rude to him. Butch felt Selectman Keeney went beyond his boundaries.

Selectman Keeney explained that one of the property owners that spoke with him stated that she had spoke to Butch Bain twice and that she was not satisfied with the road (Windmill Rd.) and that is why she was calling Selectman Keeney. Selectman Keeney stated that he actually drove out to Windmill Road and the condition of the road was embarrassing to him. Selectman Keeney stated that he "was not a Road Agent", but he felt it was up to the Road Agent to correct the problems and wanted them corrected by summer. Selectman Morgan indicated that would not be a reasonable goal as he felt the road might need to be dug 3' down in areas to correct the situation. Selectman Keeney acknowledged that he probably could have handled the situation differently with Butch, but he was not going to take back what he said and how he said it. Selectman Keeney did indicate that he would provide the names of the individuals to Butch.

Chair Davis then read a section of the Local Government Handbook for Local Officials pertaining to Road Agents and the Board. The interpretation of the section read made it clear that the Board was not to insert themselves into the Road Agent's daily work and when a phone call is received (by the Board) the call should be directed to the Road Agent. Selectman Wheeler did mention that on occasions property owners do call and indicate there is a problem but, "don't want to bother the Road Agent".

Selectman Wheeler expressed that he felt that Selectman Keeney did not have the right to berate an employee as he did and found it disturbing that Selectman Keeney handled the situation in such an unprofessional manner.

Selectman Davis made a Motion to come out of Non Public Session at 8:05 p.m., Selectman Wheeler seconded the Motion and with a roll call vote, Selectman Cheney –

yes, Selectman Davis – yes, Selectman Morgan – yes, Selectman Wheeler – yes and Selectman Keeney – yes, the Board came out of Non Public Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor M. Dewey
Office Assistant to Ann Marie Foote, Town Administrator