

Campton Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2023

Board Attendees: Selectman Nik Coates, Selectmen Craig Engel, and Selectman Mort Donahue.

Public Attendees: Matt Williams, Alicia LaDouceur, Jim Butler, Sherrill Howard, Ron Farnsworth, Ryan Erazo, and Jake Tuck.

On Zoom: Selectman Dan Boynton and Jason Randall.

Call to Order: Selectman Engel opened the meeting at 6:25 pm.

The Selectmen reviewed Manifests, Sign Permits, and Warrants

Selectmen Road Work Session

Selectman Engel formally discussed last week's meeting with the audience and what the Board had discussed. He explained that these work sessions are for the Board to get more information on what is needed for the highway department and the continuous planning of fixing the dirt roads in town.

Highway Department

Road Agent Ron Farnsworth presented the Board with his detailed outline explaining what the highway department can do with the staff and equipment they currently have and what he predicts the highway growth would look like. Ron also went over what grading his department could accomplish with the staff and equipment that he currently has.

Gravel & Grading:

- Ron predicted that the highway department could grade roughly 1 mile in a day.
- If gravel were applied to the roads along with grading, the length would be diminished to 1/4 of a mile. This depends on the number of trucks and travel time to the gravel pit.

Ditching:

- 1/4 mile of ditching in a day, but this is dependent on the distance to haul the ditch material and how deep the ditch would be.
- 1/4 mile of ditching with the application of stone would take two days, depending on the distance to haul the material and how deep the ditch would be.
- Currently, the highway department is ditching with one John Deere 410L backhoe, the Kenworth T470 Dump Truck, and the F550 Truck. New to this season, Ron is adding the Chevy 5500 dump truck. He hopes this will increase productivity when he has the staff running all available trucks.

Ron wanted to note that adding a wheeled excavator would significantly increase the amount of ditching. He strongly urges the Selectboard to consider renting said machine this summer as a trial run. Ron also recommends hiring a subcontractor with a 10-wheel dump truck to assist in hauling gravel in and ditching material out.

Equipment to consider:

- Ron recommended a wheeled excavator with a ditching bucket and mulching head for brush clearing. He felt that this would save money and allow more flexibility to mow more thoroughly through the summer months instead of being restricted to a two-week time frame.
- Ron also recommends a non-air brake trailer to transport the roller, backhoe, potential excavator, and culverts when needed. The highway department's current trailer cannot transport the John Deere 410L backhoe due to the height.
- A medium size wheeled loader is something Ron felt the Board should consider. This could help move winter sand, loading trucks, and move snowbanks. If a loader was purchased, the backhoe 410L could be sold to offset the cost.

Ron finally went over the highway department growth.

- A Sand Shed- Currently, the sand is out in the elements, and he loses at least 2-3 feet of sand due to freezing and making it unavailable until it thaws.
- Highway Garage-Ron explained that he could only fit three trucks in there. He recommends a storage area with a roof. This would cover additional equipment, sanders, and plows to protect them from the elements.

Road Goal Discussion

The Selectmen discussed some priorities that they would like to start with. The Board discussed subcontracting out projects for the highway department. They felt it would be more cost-effective and give the highway department time to focus on other projects. The Board discussed using geotextiles for the really poor roads and bringing those roads up to where they need to be. The Board wanted to use data to determine the needs highway department. The results will help inform needs such as more staff and equipment to do their jobs properly. The Selectmen would like to work on handing out information to the Town at the Town Meeting.

Goal Setting

Selectman Coates explained that he had some grant information that he will send to Corey to look into for the summer. He also would like Corey and Ron to come up with figures for the cost of subcontracting out vs. the highway department doing work in-house. Selectman Boynton also mentioned that he had started a handout for the Town Meeting so that the residents would understand what is needed, what needs to be done, and the possible cost. Selectman Boynton thought a survey portion would be appropriate to receive feedback from the citizens. This survey will ask them how they feel about these projects and what the residents are willing to spend to repair the roads.

Privilege of the Floor

Alicia LaDouceur: She asked why the Town doesn't reserve rental trucks ahead of time to do the hauling and ditching. Selectman Engel explained it comes down to availability and cost. The Board indicated that they would be willing to investigate his option further.

Sherrill Howard: She asked if the Board plans on explaining at the Town Meeting what they have been working on and what they have found out thus far. Selectmen Coates and Boynton explained that they plan on having information in place to hand out outlining the cost of the projects that must be

addressed. Selectman Engel stressed that it's a work in progress and will take up most of the year for planning. The Board wants the Town to be aware of the gravity of the situation.

Jason Randall: He was on zoom and wanted to thank the Board for doing such diligent work on these matters. It means a lot to him to show that they care about the Town. He also asked what the highway department does with all the poor material under the roads causing the issues. Selectman Coates explained that this is where geotextiles come into play. Selectman Coates also explained to Jason how the process works and gave an estimate of how long it could last.

Selectman Coates: He asked Jake Tuck if we could reuse the material the highway department digs up from ditching. Jake explained that you really couldn't reuse it. It is mixed with rocks, sticks, and debris that would cause more issues than it is worth. You could hire a company to sift through it, but it's not worth the cost.

Jim Butler: He asked what capital reserve accounts we plan on using to fund the road project. Selectman Coates explained that there are designated accounts for funding for the roads. Selectman Coates told the group that the Board would propose combining the two road capital reserves at Town Meeting. The Board wants to add \$750,000.00 to that new road account to use. Jim asked what does the Board plan on using it for? Selectman Coates explained that it is yet to be decided on and is a topic that will be discussed soon.

Tasks:

- Corey upload HEB Engineers Report on the Town's Website.
- Corey will meet with Jake Tuck on Highway Consultation and cost estimate.
- Come up with a 3-year road plan & what roads are the priority.
- Would like to plan a "blueprint" for every road.

Selectman Coates motioned to go into a Non-Public Meeting in accordance with RSA 91-A:2, II (D & B) at 7:45 pm. Selectman Donahue seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows, Selectman Engel, Aye, Selectman Boynton, Aye, Selectman Coates, Aye, Selectman Donahue, Aye.

The Board came out of the Non-Public Meeting in accordance with RSA 91-A:2, II (D & B) at 8:43 pm.

Selectman Engel closed the meeting at 8:44 pm

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,
Natasha Egger

Minutes Recorder