

MINUTES OF
ST. GEORGE SELECTBOARD MEETING
JULY 17, 2008

Present: Tom Carlson, Bob Gugerty, Phil Gingrow, Barbara Young, and others on attached list.

Minutes of June meeting approved.

Orders approved.

Tabled report on town road work and meeting with Todd Pillsbury.

Extended discussion with residents on Goose Creek and Winterbottom Roads about possibility of abandoning them as town roads. Questions raised about how much state aid we would lose, how private road associations work, and the impact/savings on town property tax rate. Fairness was raised both in the context of expectations of people who have lived on these roads for many years and purchased their homes understanding the town would maintain them, and in the context of the fact that most residents of the town now live on private roads and pay for their maintenance in addition to town taxes. The residents present were clearly opposed to the idea of abandonment.

Lori and Wayne Ring then reported on status of the schoolhouse project, including the results of the recent cost study showing a cost of \$200,000 or more to rehabilitate and relocate the building. They are now determined to form an independent non-profit entity that would take it over and seek funding. They asked for commitment of a parcel of Town Center property if they can put the project together, and the Board unanimously indicated its inclination to make a parcel available in that event.

The Board then met with Lynn and Bill Hinman regarding Hinman Associates' failure to complete the reappraisal this year. They assured the Board that the current year Grand List is now filed with the state, with grievance hearings to occur on July 30. They also assured the Board that all properties in town have been inspected and property information updated for purposes of the reappraisal. The incomplete work is the actual valuation step, which involves a variety of inputs to the CAMA system and updating market information. They recommended a new reappraisal date of May 1, 2009, and volunteered to draft a letter to the state informing it of that update. Bill also committed to regular hours in the town offices, on the first and third Monday of the month from 9-10 am. Finally, they proposed a combination of adjustments to their fees and compensation to recognize the situation, and reaffirmed their interest and commitment to doing the job right and getting it done. After they left, the Board discussed how to adjust fees and compensation, both for the reappraisal and the regular assessment work. The Board resolved to pay the agreed upon amount of \$3,000 for 2007-2008 assessment (actually a balance of \$2162.50 remaining of that amount), upon completion of the Grand List after grievances, and to pay the same amount for 2008-2009 assessment upon completion of the re-appraised Grand List in 2009. The Board then agreed to impose the contractual

penalty of \$2,000, with payment of the balance of the contractual amount upon completion of the reappraisal in 2009. Tom will write a letter confirming that decision.

The Board set the 2008-2009 municipal tax rate at .2463.

The Board decided not to proceed with tax sales for current delinquent taxes of approximately \$3,000 in aggregate, given cost of about \$1,500.

Bob agreed to serve as town CCMPO representative and was immediately appointed.

Bob reported on a raised culvert on Oak Hill Road and agreed to talk with Neil Boyden about it.

Next meeting August 21. Tom will be on vacation.

Adjourned 9:45 pm.