

CHARLEMONT FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Emergency Road Damage Meeting, May 16, 2007, 7:30 P.M., Town Hall

Next emergency meeting of FC with P. Fantuccio, Friday, May 25, 2007, 2 P.M.>

1. Attending:

BOS: P. Fantuccio, G. Brissom
FIN COM: N. Lynch, R. Filoramo, T. Willard, W. Coli, D.R. White
HIGHWAY SUPT: G. Hathaway
TREASURER: L. Hathaway

2. Updates:

- a. G. Hathaway – Reported major rainfall April 16 following April 15 snowstorm washed out a lot of gravel and damaged many roads. Warner Hill, the Oxbows, Hawk Hill, Deer Run, Burnt Hill Roads, among the worst. The Highway Department has been reshaping the roads since then. Some roads lost considerable gravel; some have not been graveled for 10 years. Some such as the Oxbows have little gravel depth with which to crown the road.
- b. FEMA – G. Hathaway noted that he was given only 20 minutes in which to prepare a damage cost estimate for FEMA. He arrived at a figure of \$145,000. FEMA team made a visit to some of the areas since the State declared a state of emergency. G. Hathaway estimates the major cost to be 6 inches of new gravel on all gravel roads and some culverts.

3. Funds available to begin emergency repairs:

BOS provided a handout regarding procedures for obtaining DOR approval to expend money in excess of appropriation for emergency repair or to obtain emergency DOR Board approval to borrow. A request to DOR must be submitted ASAP. Selectman Fantuccio will attend a DOR Emergency Board meeting in Springfield on Friday, May 18.

- a. A STM could be held to vote to expend Stabilization Funds for emergency repairs with promise to replace when FEMA funds are available.
- b. Possible STM July 2007 (FY2008) to appropriate FY2008 Free Cash when certified.
- c. Possible use of Ch. 90 funds was also discussed but it was agreed that this was not practical or appropriate.

Resolved -- until the Friday meeting with FEMA, there did not appear to be any significant source of money to apply to emergency repairs. D. White recommended that some funding be found to give the Highway Dept. money for purchase of culverts and gravel.

Transfer of \$5,000.00 from FY 2007 Winter Road Account to FY2007 General Highway Fund was voted unanimously by BOS and FC.

4. Priority Work

D. White noted that he had driven over most of the damaged roads with the exception of Hawk Hill and Deer Run Lane. In general, it appeared that the Highway Dept. had done a lot of restoration and grading and that, for short term, the 6 inches of gravel where needed did not seem to be an immediate priority but that much of the gravel work could be done later in the season. At present, it seemed that the most urgent repair work would be the inspection and correction of any problems with the storm drainage system which is now in tough shape, leaving the Town vulnerable to further damage if another major storm occurred.

D. White also noted that the Town Highway crew can and should work now on restoration of the storm drainage system on priority roads. The Town's general Highway budget for FY 2007 and FY 2008 will permit this.

Priority roads should be those roads that are steep, narrow, wooded, have substandard drainage and which during the next storm would historically suffer storm related damage.

The priority work must focus on getting the storm water to run off and away from the road to a suitable outlet as quickly as possible. The work should include:

- a. Crowning and compacting gravel road surface;
- b. Grading shoulders away from edge of road uniformly at slope of not less than ½ inch per foot;
- c. Cleaning out transverse ditches (bleeders) and constructing more frequent bleeders.
- d. Clean out ditches;
- e. Inspect all culverts, inlets and outlets and clean and clear as required. Use Fire Department tanks and hoses if needed as a plugged culvert may lead to more costly storm erosion.

5. Other

- a. Authorization of Highway Dept. to work weekends or holidays in a storm emergency. G. Hathaway noted that this is done.
- b. W. Coli recommended Highway Dept., in advance of a major predicted storm, work on preventative measures such as opening snow banks, etc. G. Hathaway noted that this is done when schedule permits.
- c. G. Hathaway noted areas such as Hawk Hill where culverts are spaced too far apart and too small diameter that new culverts may be needed. Estimated cost per culvert crossing \$400.00 for material.
- d. G. Hathaway noted that FY 2007 General Highway Account is overspent by approximately \$10,000.00 for emergency repair work to date. It was noted that a \$16,000.00 surplus in FY2007 Winter Roads Account could be used to offset the \$5,000.00 previously transferred plus this \$10,000.00 overdraft.
- e. G. Hathaway noted that Burnt Hill Road suffered considerable erosion and that major reconstruction may be needed. This was not discussed in depth.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas R. White, Recording Secretary