

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

# Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District

Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

Committee Members Present: David Bonney, Marty Feit, Clerk-Treasurer; David Devane, Road Superintendent, Gerry Grondin, Gilles Beaudoin, Nancy Devane, Jack Sayward

Committee Members Absent: None

Public Present: Craig Willis.

The meeting is opened at 10:30 AM.

Location: Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street

Meeting Introduction; I.A.W. - M.G.L. CH39- Section 23C.

**Approval of March 5th Meeting Minutes-** Gerry Grondin makes a motion to approve the amended minutes from the March Meeting, David Bonney seconds motion; Unanimous Approval.

## **Sherwood Forest Road Superintendent's Monthly report- Covering March 1<sup>st</sup>-31st 2011.**

### **Calls/Complaints-**

March 8<sup>th</sup>- Marty Powers, 25 Sir Edward's Way- water rushing across the road washing away his driveway and the road. White Wolf was called and the repairs were made by opening up the culvert and filling in the area of the road washed out.

March 15<sup>th</sup>- Mr. Daigle, 77 Sir Edward's Way- asked if the road could be sanded for the Lee Visiting Nurse coming in for oxygen delivery later on. White Wolf was called to have the road sanded.

March 19<sup>th</sup>- Unknown caller of a car off the road on Prince Paul Path; nothing was found, no car or marks.

Winter sanding and plowing- March 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>.

Miscellaneous- Mud season is now here and we are doing the best to keep all the roads open to the public. Contrary to some people's belief, lately we are not just doing work just to waste money. Money is always a deep concern with my budget and all work projects have this in mind.

One of the main jobs to be done this spring is Prince John Drive. Four owners will be notified within the next week of their culverts and trash blocking our way of cleaning.

All property owners who have driveway culverts will be notified of their responsibility of cleaning and repair. I would like to have the board look into if we can, to send a bill for road repair caused by their neglect, or do we have to wait for the annual meeting?

Roads to be opened: Robin Hood Lane, Forest Lane, Blacksmith's Path, Brandon's Way, Flaming Arrow Lane, Minstrel's Way, Mountain Dale Drive, Sir Edwards Way, Woodsmen's Path.

David Devane, Road Superintendent

#### **Public Participation- None**

**Treasurers Report-** Warrant Approval for March- warrant read and reviewed by committee members. Marty advises of current balances in accounts as well as bills that were paid out. Marty explains that around May 1<sup>st</sup>, the tax bills will be due and they will receive monies collected. Marty reviews winter roads as well as general roads with committee members present. Remaining accounts and expenses are reviewed. Marty suggests that the audit should be conducted in either May or June while the money is available. Nancy Devane makes a motion to approve treasurer's report as presented, motion is seconded; Unanimous Approval.

**Two-Year All Seasons Contract-** Marty begins by advising that they have submitted the road contract to their attorney and states that he has received a letter of response back from him; Marty reads the letter aloud for all present. Marty advises that anyone who would like to look at the packet from the attorney is more than welcome to. Marty states that he has the \$10,000 check from Craig and that once they are done with the discussion he will be giving it back to him. Approved contract is read, reviewed and signed. David Bonney asks if anyone present has any questions; hearing none, he moves on.

**Budget 2011-2012-** David Bonney reviews the liability Insurance. Marty states that he has spoke to George Roberts. George advised that he can not give legal advice in any way; however, he states that the Town has a policy and that it may not be a bad idea for the committee members to consider picking up insurance as well. Committee members discuss whether or not they may or may not be covered under White Wolf's Insurance. Marty advises that he has also spoken to the attorney as well. He goes on to explain that they need to decide either way so that they know whether or not to appropriate the money

needed to obtain a separate policy. Members discuss that other districts to have their own policies and that it should be considered in the case that an accidental act or violation occurs; the committee members would all be covered. Nancy Devane reads from documentation referencing public employees and officials and the Insurance policies that may be considered. Committee members discuss amongst themselves personal liability insurance, what it would cover and what the cost to the committee would be.

Marty begins to go over the proposed budget with Committee members. He hands out worksheets to members present and asks them to use the worksheets to write down their suggestions so that they may discuss each item appropriately. Marty hands out his proposed budget amounts and goes over each item with the committee explaining how he came to these figures. Marty advises of the amount that they should be receiving from the collection of taxes; according to Kathy Hayn; Collector. Marty advises that this proposed budget only reflects an increase of two-tenths of one percent. Committee members discuss the monies put aside from the audit and members agree that the audit should be conducted this fiscal year while the money is available and then next year they will not have to worry about it.

Committee members continue to discuss the different line items and where monies can be saved, looking at the current budget and how the numbers compare. Committee members agree that Marty's proposal makes sense and agree that it will not be argued by the people. Marty agrees to write up the approved figures and have the budget ready for the next meeting. Nancy Devane asks what the road district's tax rate is. David Bonney states that it is the same as the Town rate; eight-percent. As all the committee members agree, they give Marty the permission to go ahead and put the budget together.

**Bylaws-** David Bonney explains that they really need to discuss the bylaws that they have been putting off for awhile. David expresses concern that the position of the Clerk-Treasurer and what will happen to the position if and when Marty is not around full-time. Marty advises that he would still be happy to continue on with the clerk-treasurer position for the nine months of the year that he is in Becket; he advises that the remaining three months could be covered by Heather, who would attend the meetings in his absence, record the meeting, and continue correspondence with Marty so that the job will still be done effectively. Nancy advises that the way the act reads this position needs to be filled by a resident; David Bonney suggests that the resident qualification could be brought before the people at Town meeting and could likely be changed to an appointed position; he uses the example of the Town doing this successfully. Nancy advises that they should use caution in considering this change and the issues that could possibly arise.

Committee members agree that there are quite a few things that need to be discussed as well as updated and/or changed with the bylaws, and that time is running out.

Committee members discuss which committee members have terms that are going to expire. Members agree that terms to expire need to be staggered so that they don't run into too many members at any given year, leaving office at the same time. Nancy Devane brings up the bylaws and how they involve the alternates. David explains that on other

boards and committees they have alternates that sit in for regular members when they cannot be present. David suggests they will have to continue the discussion of the bylaws at a different time, explaining that there is just too much to discuss during this session.

Committee members discuss the fact that they will have to schedule a special road district meeting to finish discussing the rest of the changes to the bylaws. Committee members agree to have a bylaw discussion continued on Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00.

David states that he has not yet heard from the moderator. He goes on to explain that he is unsure whether or not the “write-in” vote can be added to the acts. David advises that they need to find out specifically what the moderator is allowed to do, and how the “write-in” vote may pertain to them, suggesting that it may be an improper practice. Nancy states that she can write a letter to the Attorney General and ask him to state what the law is when it comes to this issue. David also advises that he will try to speak with the attorney, prior to Tuesday’s meeting, and that this can be further discussed at that meeting.

**New Business-** David asks if there is any new business to come before the board; hearing none; he solicits a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting is made; seconded; Unanimous Approval. Meeting is adjourned at 12:20 noon.

Schedule Next meeting for May 7th, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marty Feit  
Clerk-Treasurer