

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT WORK SESSION  
FINAL**

**PRESENT:** T. C. Tocci, S. C. Hanson, M. J. Farinola, Selectmen;  
E. N. Small, Town Administrator; L. A. Ruest, Administrative Assistant

R. B. Merrill, Jr. and Brad Jones were present. T. C. Tocci stated the purpose of this meeting is to work on highway projects. Board members identified three roads needing attention as Taylor River Road, Meadow Lane and a portion of Parsonage Road (at Route 88).

**TAYLOR RIVER ROAD:** Discussion took place with regard to the road work proposed for Taylor River Road. Originally, the plan was to repave only. It has come to a Board member's attention by way of a resident of this road that doing so would not correct the problem of the road cracking. There is a need to address the drainage. Jones and Beach Engineers has submitted an engineering fee estimate of \$5,800 to conduct a drainage analysis.

B. Jones provided a subdivision plan (1964) of Taylor River Road showing the road and layout of lots. His proposal is to survey and locate monumentation, establish the right of way of the road and check topographical data and elevations (to include swales, pond, cul de sac and culvert). He noted that most water travels to the back of the road to the pond or it sheds back onto lots. He noted that a portion of the road has a 39' right of way that opens to a 50' right of way where the lots begin. Once this work is done, he would come back to review his findings with the board and prepare a drainage plan for the road.

S. C. Hanson stated that this road work was put off last year and that the alligator cracking appears to be related to a drainage issue. T. C. Tocci noted that there are no swales along the roadway or culverts under the driveways. It was felt that the road should be addressed properly to include drainage. B. Jones stated that towns struggle with this type of decision. He added that when you reclaim and repave it can be somewhat of a "band aid." The approach proposed is to construct the road with swales and culverts to assist with proper drainage. Presently, Taylor River Road is not constructed in this manner. M. J. Farinola inquired as to the economic life of the road noting that this road is cracked but not crumbling with pot holes. He asked whether it is necessary to do the work now or whether it could wait a number of years. B. Jones felt that the road could be left as is for approximately 3-4 years. He added that the costs are less now and noted that the Town has a budget to address road work each year and that if this plan is not kept up it could become overwhelming. He also noted that not addressing the road could make it become a maintenance issue.

T. C. Tocci stated that it could be expensive to bring this road to current standards. He suggested proceeding with paving in order to get a certain life out of a small expenditure. The Board discussed reclaiming at approximately \$44,000 versus work to address proper drainage, etc. at a cost of \$88,000 that could get a life of approximately 12-15 years. It was noted that approximately \$50,000 would allow for reclaiming, grading, calcium, 2" binder, with 1" top coat, without any swale work or the ability to re-grade and reshape the road to allow proper drainage.

Suggestion was made to use this road as a test case, have contractors bid, in order to get an idea of the cost. It was felt that additional funds will be needed for each driveway, cutting swales and drainage easements. Suggestion was made to consider paving 20' wide rather than the 24' wide. E. N. Small will research this in conjunction with ordinances. E. N. Small added that the cracking of this road is due to

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water staying underneath and that by having ditches, drainage is allowed to flow to the pond. The proposed work discussed will address surface water, not the water flowing under the road. B. Jones provided information on an option of under drains. E. N. Small stated there is a need to identify where the cross pipes are in order to maintain them.

Discussion of Parsonage Road and Meadow Lane took place in conjunction with the costs for the proposed work on Taylor River Road. It was noted that only a portion of Parsonage needs reclaiming and repaving (to possibly include under drains to assist with drainage). The approximate cost is \$38,000 (2007 price).

A review of the available funds versus the work to be done took place. B. Jones is to provide updated numbers on the three roads per discussion held this meeting for review by the Board at a future meeting. E. N. Small will check with counsel with regard to 24' versus 20' of pavement.

**BROWN ROAD RETAINING WALL:** Review of the damage done to this retaining wall as a result of floods was provided by B. Jones. He explained that the work done to repair the wall after the first flood event was damaged by a second flood event. The estimated cost to repair is \$40-50,000. B. Jones explained the proposal to correct the problem by placing a membrane and larger stone to assist in keeping water out from behind the blocks.

B. Jones stated that Contractor Bob Monroe of RAM worked with the Road Agent on this project. Question was raised as to whether the contract addresses changes to the original plan and whether there is insurance available to cover the work. S. C. Hanson stated his concern with doing work on private property. E. N. Small noted that the property owner allowed the town to fix the problem which included work on his property. He added that the Town has a responsibility to maintain the retaining wall and that an easement is needed to do so. M. J. Farinola stated he would like to see if the contractor is responsible to repair the wall. E. N. Small and B. Jones will check.

**OTHER ROAD WORK:** The Board reviewed a letter from Jones and Beach Engineers with regarding to other areas of other roads that need attention. It was noted that the money available by warrant article can be used to address these issues as well.

**2008 ROAD SURVEY - PRIORITIZING OF ROAD WORK:** The Board addressed categories of road work resulting in the following priorities.

**BRUSH CUTTING:** The following roads were identified as needing attention with regard to brush cutting. In some instances, portions of the road need to be addressed rather than the entire road: portions of Alexis Lane, Blakes Lane, Brimmer Lane, Brown Road from Towle Farm to Route 88, portion of Crank Road, Curtis Road, portion of Depot Road, Dodge Road, sections of Drinkwater Road, Goodwin Road, Mill Lane, Old Stage Road, and Taylor River at entrance.

**CATCH BASINS:** This matter was placed on hold until such time that locations of catch basins and culverts are identified and placed on a plan.

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**CRACK SEALING:** The roads of Blakes Lane, Crystal Drive at both entrances, Curtis Road on either side of the bridge, Dodge Road, sections of Drinkwater Road, Evergreen Drive, Hillcrest Drive, Meadow Lane, Old Stage Road, Parsonage Road, Prescott Lane, River Road, Surrey Lane, Taylor River Road, Toppan Lane, section of Towle Farm at the bridge, Victoria Drive, and Whittier Drive at the circle were identified as needing attention.

It was noted that the guardrail at Dodge Road needs repair as well as one on Drinkwater Road and Sanborn Road (extensions).

**MOWING:** The roads of Brimmer Lane, sections of Brown Road, Curtis Road, end section of Depot Road, sections of Drinkwater Road, King Street, Nason Road and Old Stage Road.

**OTHER:** The drainage culvert on Curtis Road has a hole that needs repair before winter. Potholes were identified on Crystal Drive near Goodwin Road, Dodge Road, Old Stage Road and Orchard Drive. R. B. Merrill, Jr. was asked to take care of these pot holes. M. J. Farinola stated he felt the work should be bid out. E. N. Small stated that this is a small project needing attention that can be handled by the Road Agent. M. J. Farinola stated he understood that the Road Agent would be used for work in a fall back situation only. T. C. Tocci stated that this work doesn't justify the administrative work to bid the project out. S. C. Hanson and T. C. Tocci approved the Road Agent taking care of these potholes.

The Board agreed to go out to bid for brush cutting and mowing to include direction on how the work is to be done as part of the specifications.

**SHOULDERS:** The following roads were identified as needing attention: Crystal Drive at Goodwin Road, Curtis Road, Goodwin Road, Drinkwater Road across from #69, Fieldstone Lane, King Street, Marthas Court, Mcallister Lane, portions of Nason Road, Penhollow Lane, Sanborn Road, Stard Road, Towle Farm at the entrance corners.

**STREET SIGNS:** Emergency 911 regulations require cities and towns to upgrade street signs to the larger sized fonts/signs. This will require new signs as well as brackets. There are approximately 50 that need to be upgraded.

**TREES AND LIMBS:** A number of dead or dying trees and limbs were noted on Brown Road, Old Stage Road, and Curtis Road. R. B. Merrill, Jr. suggested these trees be marked for review by a tree company and specifications for bids should include direction on whether the wood is to be taken by the contractor or not. E. N. Small will provide a list of locations of trees and limbs for review of the Board.

**INTENT TO FORM UNION:** E. N. Small informed the Board of receipt of a letter from an attorney indicating that the Police Department wants to form a union. He will be working with counsel and conducting research with regard to this matter.

The work session adjourned at 8:52 p.m.