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

T. C. Tocci stated that the purpose of this meeting is to make a decision with regard to winter road maintenance for the upcoming winter season. Additional items will be discussed as outlined on the agenda.

**WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE:** T. C. Tocci restated that six proposals were received with two chosen for interviews. Interviews were held September 4. S. C. Hanson reported that he checked references of both candidates and received favorable responses.

Lengthy discussion of considering the hourly basis services versus the annual cost services (Hutchings \$158,000 annually; Melican \$89,000 annually) took place. It was noted that the proposal by Hutchings included additional costs for services such as downed trees, clearing of cisterns, pot holes and drainage matters, whereas the proposal by Melican included these services within its annual cost proposal. During discussion with the two contractors, Hutchings indicated he would be willing to reduce his hourly cost for these additional services to \$75 per hour. This question was not addressed with Melican.

Discussion included the matter of whether adequate equipment was available from the two contractors. It was determined that the available equipment appeared to be adequate to serve Hampton Falls' roads. It was also noted that Melican has town experience. Discussion also took place with regard to the average cost of a storm and question was raised as to how one could predict the number of storms or types of storms. Suggestion was made to use the cost of last year's services (\$125,000) plus the cost of road salt as a starting budget figure.

T. C. Tocci stated he preferred the annual cost basis and the proposed plan submitted by Melican given the dedicated equipment and that other costs associated with storms are covered. S. C. Hanson agreed to a certain extent, but stated that he felt he could support and provide explanation to the voters under the hourly basis proposal; paying for the services for actual storms. Concern was raised with the chance of having a higher than average snow storm year and exceeding the budget and it was noted that both proposals are based on 12-15 storms. M. J. Farinola favored the hourly proposal noting that the hourly rate is fair to those the town would be working with as well. E. N. Small stated that input from residents last year indicated they wanted the work done right. He added that there have been times when there is more snow in one area than others and that it is difficult to compare to other towns given the different circumstances.

The Board attempted a number of calls to Mr. Melican to seek verification that the \$4,700 monthly fee due is not above and beyond the hourly proposal. Mr. Melican was not available by phone. It was also determined that the question of reducing the hourly rate for services other than snow plowing needs to be raised. Board members commented that Melican has local ties, an impressive plan and knows Hampton Falls' roads well.

**MOTION:** To accept the bid from Melican at the annual rate of \$89,000.

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**MOTION: T. C. TOCCI**

No second was made on this motion and it failed. Following additional discussion of the hourly proposal by Melican, the way in which some towns pay for winter road maintenance services, past criticisms of paying by hourly rate, the number of available vehicles (to include replacement vehicles), the pros and cons of hourly versus annual, and the proposed amount for budgeting for the 08/09 season, the Board asked E. N. Small to contact Mr. Melican to ask the two questions regarding the monthly fee of \$4,700 and the reduction of the hourly rate of \$180 for additional services. This matter will be added to the Board's September 17 meeting for decision. E. N. Small will contact Mr. Hutchings to inform him that no decision was made this meeting.

E. N. Small informed the Board he has a conflict with the meeting scheduled for September 15 to review responses to the Ambulance Request for Proposal. This meeting was rescheduled to Monday, September 22, 6:30 p.m.

**CRACK SEALING:** The Board approved S. C. Hanson calling the one bidder to determine whether a subset of the roads in need could be done within prices provided and available budget funds. It was noted that timing is an issue given the bus schedules and weather.

**FLIER FOR EVERY OTHER WEEK RECYCLING:** The Board reviewed the proposed flyer for handout to residents and posting and distribution in Town. Following discussion, a number of amendments were made.

**LETTER FROM JOANN LONERGAN – TREE REMOVAL – GOODWIN ROAD:** The Board acknowledged receipt of a letter dated August 19, 2008, from Joann Lonergan with regard trees damaged by road salt. Question was raised as to whether the trees are on town property. Board members agreed to view the trees and add this matter to the September 17 agenda.

**TREE REMOVAL INQUIRY – DODGE ROAD:** E. N. Small informed the Board of a property owner's inquiry to remove a dead tree from the Town right of way. The Board approved.

**MOTION:** To deem the dead tree on Dodge Road a safety issue and allow the property owner to remove it.

**MOTION: S. C. HANSON**  
**SECOND: M. J. FARINOLA**  
**UNANIMOUS**

**CURTIS ROAD CULVERT:** The Board reviewed a letter from town engineer, Jones and Beach Engineers, dated August 29, 2008. Recommendation is made to repair the hole, guardrail and headwalls in this area. C. Merrill has submitted a proposal. E. N. Small was asked to obtain additional prices through Requests for Proposals in conjunction with the engineer's report.

**WAYNE BARKER – BROWN ROAD CULVERT REPAIRS:** E. N. Small informed the Board of W. Barker's request to meet with them to discuss the status of repairs to this culvert. E.

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N. Small is talk with both W. Barker and B. Jones of Jones and Beach Engineers and provide information for review of the Board. It was noted that an easement will be needed from W. Barker in order to perform the work. A date will then be scheduled for the Board to meet with W. Barker.

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

**MOTION:** T. C. TOCCI  
**SECOND:** M. J. FARINOLA  
**UNANIMOUS**

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