

TOWN OF THORNTON

Selectmen Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2007

The Thornton Board of Selectmen met and held a meeting,
on Wednesday, October 17, 2007, 9:00 AM at the Thornton Town Hall

Selectmen Present

Arthur Gross, Chairman

Jim Parziale

Roy Sabourn

Officials Present

Road Agent, Tom Dubey

Marianne Peabody, taking notes

Public Present

Jim Demeritt

Chairman Gross opened this meeting at 9:00 AM. He requested that Road Agent, Dubey approach the table, and asked him if he would prefer a public session or non-public session. Road Agent Dubey requested a non-public session with the Board of Selectmen only. At that point, Jim Demeritt and Marianne Peabody left the room.

The Board of Selectmen entered into a non-public session with Road Agent Tom Dubey at 9:08 AM.

At 9:35 AM, the Board of Selectmen entered back into public session. A motion was made and seconded to seal the non-public minutes dated October 17, 2007.
VOTED 3-0.

During the non-public session the Board of Selectmen discussed the following items with Road Agent Tom Dubey and expects the following items of concern to be carried out by the road department crew when performing daily road maintenance on town roads. A motion was made and seconded that the following list does not warrant non-public precedence, and the conversations relating to the listed items of concern are considered part of the public record. VOTED 3-0.

1. Signs to be put up when working on roads.
2. The construction zone is to be established.
3. Tow bar alleviates problems when towing a load over 10,000 lbs. Including weight of a trailer. It is ok with tow bar.

Other discussions centered on Osha rules, Administrative Rules for Safety & Health, NH Department of Labor, and the Towns Personal Safety Policy. When to wear safety vests, helmets, chain saw chaps etc. along with some of the NH State DOT rules. The consensus of the Board of Selectmen is that they would prefer not to adopt generic wording from any of the above listed entities. Selectmen Sabourn stated that he would prefer to fine tune the town's Personal Safety Policy and address the issues at hand.

The Board of Selectmen received a letter delivered certified mail from Mr. Lee Freeman dated October 11, 2007. A motion was made and seconded to enter this letter into public record. Letter on file. VOTED 3-0.

It has been reported earlier from Fire Commissioner Jim Demeritt that Jeff Tobine of the Campton/Thornton Fire Department has resigned. Thank-you for your dedicated service Jeff Tobine.

A letter received by e-mail from property owner BKMM REALTY TRUST who owns property at 1361 Route 3 requesting permission to convert his commercial building into four single rental units. This building is presently sitting on 1.05 ac. and has three units in it. BKMM REALTY TRUST letter will be put before the planning board. According to the Board of Selectmen this building is in violation and should be issued a cease & desist.

This meeting adjourned at 10:12 AM.

Next scheduled meeting will be held on, Wednesday, October 24, 2007, 9:00 AM at the Thornton Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marianne Peabody

Support Staff

Posting Date: 10/17/07

Town of Thornton
Board of Selectmen
16 Merrill Access Rd
Thornton, NH 03285

October 11, 2007

Dear Selectman,

On Sept. 26, I informed the board that the Thornton Highway Department was towing a vehicle over 17,000 lbs without a license to do so. As recently as this week, it appears they continue to do it. Have the selectman directed this department to continue with this illegal activity?

In the past few months, I have voiced my concerns to you regarding this department's flagrant violation of our town's safety policy. When you did not take me for my word, I provided photographs of the following:

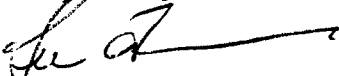
1. George Cheney working in the road on Stone Dam Road with no safety vest.
2. Tom Dubey driving on the Cross Road and US Rt3 with George Cheney in the back of on open bed truck without restraint.
3. Part time employee in ditch on Millbrook Road with no hard hat while Tom Dubey was operating the back hoe directly above him.
4. Tom Dubey operating an unregistered vehicle on Merrill Access Road with no safety triangle and no "men working signs".

You have acknowledged that these are all violations of the town's safety policy. Yet, although your safety policy specifically outlines a discipline procedure for violations, it seems you have chosen to ignore them in the case of this department.

I purchased a copy of Tom Dubey's letter dated October 5, 2007 from the town. He refers to a situation regarding a call to the Plymouth Regional High School. As is his Modus Operandi, he has provided you with incorrect information. Somebody did call the school and said they were the Road Agent from Thornton Highway Department and requested that my daughter be thrown out of the school as I was not a resident of Thornton. I brought this information to the other selectmen. We, the board asked (not accused) Tom if he called, he said no, end of story. I have no way of telling who actually made that call, but later that night, George Cheney, of the Thornton Highway Department, came before the board and made the same allegations to the board that someone had made to the school (see attached minutes). As you can tell by Arthur's comments in these minute, this was but one incident in a series of retaliatory behaviors this department took against me personally and ultimately contributed to my resignation. Now in his letter, Mr. Dubey is misleading you with lies of omission and threatening the current board of selectmen with legal action if you do not support his position.

The Thornton Highway Department has put our town's safety in jeopardy. In Mr. Dubey's letter he refers to his alcohol problem. This admission coupled with his documented disregard for the rules of this town and the laws of the state have put our town at risk for a degree of liability that I find intolerable. I am deeply afraid that someone is going to get hurt. I urge the selectman to take corrective action immediately.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lee Freeman
35 Fadden Rd
Thornton, NH 03285