

**Town of Livermore  
Board of Selectpersons  
January 13, 2014 Meeting  
Minutes**

**Present:** Megan Dion, *Chair*, Peter Castonguay, Mark Chretien, Rodney Newman, John Wakefield

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. The Minutes of the December 30, 2013 meeting were considered. Resident Dwight Hines asked if the Minutes could be amended to include his question on whether or not General Motors had been contacted about the problems with the GMC wiring harness. It was agreed to amend the Minutes to include Mr. Hines' request. The Minutes of the December 30, 2013 meeting were approved as amended.
3. Highway Foreman Roger Ferland reported spending an hour and a half on the phone with General Motors regarding the 2008 GMC wiring harness problems and getting nowhere. He said their representative as much as said they have no interest in assisting with any repairs on that truck. He added that he's made three calls to O'Connor Motors about getting the harness replaced and they said they aren't sure they can find a replacement unit. Mr. Castonguay said that there used to be a 10-year window on obtaining original equipment replacement parts, but some have cut that back to five. Mr. Ferland said the existing wiring could be repaired, again, but that he wants to find out about replacing it first. He added that Murray Truck could look at the truck but would need it for a week to completely go through it. Mr. Ferland also said that they really need tire chains for the trucks, given three recent icy storms during which they would have been greatly appreciated. He said they've already purchased them for the Volvo but needs them for the other trucks, along with additional cross links. Mr. Newman said they may not need the additional cross links just yet, given the chains will be new. On a motion by Mr. Chretien, seconded by Mr. Wakefield, it was unanimously agreed to purchase the chains as requested. Mr. Ferland also reported that the sand pile is rapidly depleting and he estimates the town will need an additional 2,000 yards to make it through the winter. Administrator Kurt Schaub asked if the Selectpersons wanted to put this out to bid or if they felt a negotiated purchase would be sufficient. Mr. Ferland added that Doug Gordon has sand available at his pit in Canton. Following discussion, a motion was offered by Mr. Newman, seconded by Mr. Wakefield, to authorize Mr. Ferland to purchase an additional 500 yards of sand and bid the remaining quantity. The motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Ferland said the spreader chain in the Volvo had to be replaced, along with two hydraulic lines and some wiring. Mr. Castonguay asked how worn the chain was. Mr. Ferland said those chains normally last three seasons and this one had been used for two winters plus to place additional gravel on the sides of the roads that were paved last year, hence it was pretty well worn. Mr. Ferland also said he's been running into people coming into the Transfer Station when the facility has been closed. Some are coming for sand, others have been found taking salt from the salt shed. Mr. Schaub said the sign posted at the Transfer Station gate indicates the operating days and hours for the facility, along with a statement that entry at any other time is prohibited. The sign was suggested by the Androscoggin County Sheriff's Department as a means of putting people on notice that they are trespassing if they enter any other time. Mr. Newman said the only solution to people going in when the gates are open for plowing is to change to a power gate. It was agreed to add signs to the salt shed advising people to stay out. Mr. Ferland said he and Mr. Chretien have looked over the rear tires on the GMC and agreed they need to be replaced, as was reported several meetings prior. On a motion by Mr. Chretien, seconded by Mr. Newman, it was unanimously agreed to replace the rear tires on the GMC. Mr. Ferland also asked if he could use revenue from the sale of old cutting edges to purchase tools for the department. Mr. Schaub said the department receives two types of revenue. One is budgeted revenue from routine operations, the bulk of which is the state fuel tax refund. The second type is reimbursement expense, such as FEMA funds for snow and ice removal. The first kind is budgeted, and those funds count toward reducing the tax commitment. The second is not budgeted, but the town is allowed to use those funds as they are a reimbursement. This request, he said, falls into the first category and cannot be used in this manner. It was agreed to place an article on the Town Meeting Warrant to permit the Highway Department to use revenue from the sale of scrap metal for

the purchase of tools. Mr. Ferland said he is encountering more and more people who plow snow across the town's roads, despite that it is illegal. He said the piles they leave often freeze and can damage the town's plowing equipment. Lastly, he reported on water flowing into the road from property at the corner of Goding Road and McKinney Avenue. Mr. Schaub said the town dealt with the property owner about this matter several years ago and would send the relevant correspondence/documents to the Selectpersons to bring them up to speed. It was agreed to send the property owner a letter advising that the problem must be remedied. Mr. Schaub also said the office has fielded a number of complaints on the condition of River Road, particularly the buildup of hard pack and ice. He said the problems are mainly attributable to the poor condition of the road, as the plows cannot dig into the rutted depressions where snow and ice accumulate, and it builds from there. He said there is a major difference between that road and recently paved roads like Strickland Ferry and Norlands. It was also acknowledged that icing problems are all over, given recent rainy conditions.

4. Mr. Schaub presented his Treasurer and Administrator reports. Included in the financials was the monthly Excise Tax revenue chart, which shows those revenues continuing to come in ahead of fiscal 2013. The annual audit was also distributed and he offered to arrange a presentation by RHR Smith, if the Selectpersons wanted one, following their review of the report. Mr. Hines asked why he wasn't given a copy of the report. Mr. Schaub said the bound copies are lengthy and expensive, and that he would have to charge him for it. He offered to email an electronic copy of the report to him, which he did immediately. He also provided an update on Oxford Recycling's effort to add single-sort recycling, and strongly suggested the town consider adding the cost of a second compactor to the budget for fiscal 2015. He also shared the report by the Bureau of Labor Standards which cites four violations at the Highway Garage, three at the Transfer Station, one at the Town Office, and 15 in the Fire Department, along with fines totaling \$1,600. As the cover letter indicates, he said the town has the option of agreeing with the violations and, following a review by SafetyWorks and correcting the violations, requesting a meeting with the Bureau to discuss a reduction or elimination of the fines. He recommends that option. He said that none of the violations are insurmountable and mainly involve paperwork and policy issues, though additional staff training is indicated as well. On a motion by Mr. Chretien, seconded by Mr. Newman, it was agreed to follow through with that option, as recommended.

5. There was no New Business offered. Mr. Wakefield asked if the ad-hoc Committee on Education had set a meeting date as yet. It was agreed it would meet at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 29, at the Town Office.

6. In Questions, Mr. Hines referenced a letter he wrote concerning newspaper advertising. A copy was unavailable for distribution. He also asked about how to include an article on the Town Meeting Warrant. He was told there are two paths. The first is to request that the Board of Selectpersons include a specific article. The second is the petition process.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt E. Schaub