Windham, VT Select Board Meeting

Special Meeting/Road Paving

April 23, 2019

Windham Town Office

Present:

Maureen Bell, Selectwoman Hal Wilkins, Selectman

Kord Scott, Selectman Bob Bingham

Dawn Bower, Various Commissions Louise Johnson

Bob Kehoe, Building Safety Officer Tom Johnson, Energy Commission

Richard Pare, Road Commissioner David Cherry

Craig Bailes Kathy Jungermann, Auditor

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 12:35

Kord distributed copies of the Pavement Condition Assessment Map, Capital Highway Plan, and Paving Projects 2019-Options 1-5 Comparisons.

Purpose of the meeting is to discuss the several options prepared by Everett Hammond regarding paving Windham Hill Road.

Public Comment

Discussion revolved around the questions of whether to Reconstruct Windham Hill Road (Option 5 on the Capital Highway Plan) and reclaim (return to gravel) a 1.5 mile section of Windham Hill Road.

**Reconstruct** **Windham** **Hill** **Road**

Includes reclaiming and reconstructing sections of Windham Hill Road and requires bonds totaling almost $5M in addition to state grants and paving budget increases of $15,000 per year through 2031.

Kord started the discussion by pointing out that there was $420,048 available for road paving this year.

It was noted that because Article 7 specifies $90,000 be spent on repaving, not reconstructing, a vote would need to be taken to change how the money was spent.

Both Bob Bingham and Bob Kehoe expressed the opinion that the large amount of money necessary to finance the reconstruction project would put a difficult burden on many taxpayers in town. Richard Pare agreed and preferred that we keep taxes down and maintain the roads as we have been doing. All agreed that the road crew is working hard and using their time and materials effectively.

Motion: To NOT proceed with the reconstruction of Windham Hill Road (Option 5 of the capital Highway Plan)-Moved by Kord-all in favor.

Hal indicated he would be interested in getting a second opinion on the road paving. It was suggested that in order to start the Mill/Shim/Overlay work, which is within Windham’s budget, the work needs to

Go out for bid soon so work can begin by end of June. It would also be helpful if the Select Board could see examples of a road treated with the Chip Seal option to better make a decision. Perhaps do a section of the roads with this option and see how it holds up. Section 5 of WHR is ready for option 2-Mill/Shim/Overlay.

**Reclaim** **1**.**5** **miles** **of** **Windham** **Hill** **Road** (**Section** **5**)

This 1.5 mile section would revert to gravel and remain gravel for 12 years until 2031 when a bond of $3M would be required for resurfacing.

Kord reported that while the initial cost to reclaim and revert to gravel was less than the cost to mill/shim/chip seal, the long-term cost was more expensive due to the cost of sand, adding gravel, and grading twice annually.

It was noted that a positive outcome of reclaiming the road would be that it would discourage large trucks from using the road and speeding would be reduced.

Richard commented that it is not cost effective to convert to gravel as blacktop is easier and less expensive to maintain. Also, gravel is difficult to salt and sand.

Motion: To NOT proceed with reclaiming 1.5 miles of Windham Hill Road (section 5)-moved by

Kord-all in favor.

Hal suggested that Windham Regional be contacted to conduct a traffic study on Windham Hill Road.

He also reported that once the roads in Windham are registered with the DMV, signs can be posted and speed and weight limits will be enforceable.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 2:00

Respectfully submitted

Kathy Jungermann