

Agenda 12/15
3-0-0

SELECT BOARD MEETING – December 7, 2010

PRESENT: Selectboard members - Dave DeHerdt, Doug Field, Norm Russell
Assistant Administrator – Mary Fitz-Gibbon

The meeting was called to order at 7:55 pm, immediately following a Special town Meeting.

Minutes: Minutes of the December 1, 2010 meeting were accepted after a brief discussion about items to be housed by the Historical Society.

Appointments:

Street Lighting Committee Report: Present – Ricki Carroll and Anne Yuryan
Information about the findings of the committee, as reported at last week's Board meeting, have appeared on the town website and in a front page article in *The Recorder*.

Howard Streeter, of Spruce Corner Road had questions about what lights would remain on at that part of town, where Spruce Corner Rd., Watson Spruce corner Rd., and Plainfield Street (RT 116) meet. His concern was traffic safety. DeHerdt assured him that lights would need to be kept on in that area, where it's often foggy and visibility is poor. Field said most of the lights there would remain on, but the one at Watson-Spruce corner might be turned off.

DeHerdt said the purpose of this project was to find a way to provide adequate lighting for the safety of persons traveling the streets of town, whether driving or walking, while at the same time eliminating those lights not needed.

Carroll demonstrated an outdoor programmable compact florescent light that could be purchased for about \$10.00. She proposed that residents of Main Street, on a volunteer basis, purchase the lights and try them on their porches to see if enough light would be produced to meet the lighting needs along Main Street. Locations such as the corners of Baptist Corner Rd. and Buckland Rd. and Main Street would be of special interest.

She reported that she has learned from WMECO the towns of Hatfield and Whately were turning off or reducing the number of street lights.

Yuryan provided information about the cost of compact florescent bulbs and their life span. She said at about 1,000 hours of light/ yr, it would cost about \$3.00/ yr per compact florescent bulb. The mission of this project is to learn whether this lighting would meet the objectives, which are primarily safety.

WMECO has become aware of light trespass and is working on a plan to ease the situation. It is also planning to raise rates for electrical use and hopes to help towns contend with this by providing a program to turn off lights for a period of 3 weeks to allow towns to assess their needs. There was interest in this; taking advantage of this trial project was endorsed by those present.

The Lighting committee will report to the Board again on January 6th.

Highway Department Truck: At annual town meeting the town voted to purchase a new truck by debt exclusion, so that the increase in taxation needed to pay for the truck would not become a permanent