RECD 7-2- 1992 AT AM
TOWN CLERK

TOWN OF DURHAM

Office of the First Selectman
P. O. Box 428
Durham, Connecticut 06422
(203) 349-3625

Maryann P. Boord
First Selectman

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
June 25, 1992

Called to order: 5:50 p.m. in Town Hall.

Present: Maryann P. Boord, First Selectman
Francis E. Korn, Selectman
Robert F. Hall, Selectman

Also present:
Thomas Fenton, Public Works Director/Town Engineer
Geoffrey Colegrove, Town Planner
Ellen Mauro, Administrative Coordinator
Judith Duncan, The Gazette
Maria Alvarez, The Hartford Courant
Mary Jane Jewczyn, Treasurer

Status of Roads

M. Boord led a discussion of unimproved roads not maintained by the Town and how to proceed with them. She explained to the press the present maintenance practices. The question is, however, whether the town should change their opinion to provide minimal maintenance on these unimproved roads.

The questions to be considered are:
a. Should the town maintain and to what degree?
b. Should the road be added to the TR37 "unimproved" road list?
c. What responsibilities does the town have once subdivisions begin receiving approval on these roads?
d. Are there any roads we should bring to town meeting for discontinuance?
e. What constitutes "minimal maintenance" of a road?

G. Colegrove noted that he is hoping that help can be obtained from the people building on Cream Pot Road...we have been asking for improvements...working with Town Counsel to set up a formula for maintenance. They have tried to figure an equivalent value to the "middle of the road" - improvements will not necessarily occur in front of their houses. He added that the intersection of Shunpike and Chalker are being fixed. If we decide to put on the TR37, grade the rest and plow it, it seems appropriate to do this at this time with the increased building. G. Colegrove added that with all subdivision approvals there, the town is recognizing the road for maintenance. T. Fenton said the town plows it now. Discussion of "minimal maintenance"...F. Korn wants a definition.

M. Boord said she would like to propose the Board of Selectmen consider Harvey Road and Cream Pot Road as being placed on the TR37 as unimproved town roads with minimal maintenance (grading as needed and plowing regularly). G. Colegrove reminded the Board of a meeting held with Town Counsel on this subject. As mentioned by Counsel, the property owner could approach the Board of Selectmen for maintenance.

F. Korn asked what the ability is of the highway department to assume maintenance of additional roads. T. Fenton said that if we take one road at a time, it is not a significant addition to the maintenance schedule.

F. Korn said that before he votes on this issue, he wants to know all the specifications....what we [the Board] do will lock the town into a policy forever. T. Fenton agreed to come up with an estimate of the maintenance cost. G. Colegrove noted this would create a change in status as far as the Assessor is concerned, also...maybe we should get a clear itemization from Town Counsel (Ken Antin) as to what "minimal maintenance" means. F. Korn concurred. T. Fenton will get more information. G. Colegrove raised several concerns to be looked at, i.e., how wide would the road be, etc....added that we might as well look at Chalker and a major part of Shunpike...suggested waiting on Mountain Road to get the zoning issue settled.

F. Korn stressed that highway projects are grossly underfunded. G. Colegrove noted a good pattern to follow is to meet with property owners...that worked well on Old Blue Hills.

M. Boord and G. Colegrove agreed to focus on Harvey Road, Cream Pot Road, Chalker and Shunpike. F. Korn said that when we vote on this issue, we should have it set perfectly so there will be no further questions. G. Colegrove confided that B. Bascom told him Mountain Road can go both ways - it will be a policy judgement as to the discontinuance.

The Board will discuss at the meeting of July 2 (was changed to July 16, during the next day or so) whether or not to add these roads to the TR37. Agendas of the meeting will be sent to property owners involved.

<u>With Mary Jane Jewczyn, Treasurer, re Banks</u>

M. Boord asked her to find out what needs to be done for Centerbank to provide free checking to town employees. CNB business will be moved to local banks. M. Jewczyn will return to the Selectmen on July 16 with additional information.

<u>July Meeting Schedule</u>

The Board agreed to meet at 5:30 p.m. on 7/2/92 and 3:45 p.m. on

Appointments

1. MOTION M. BOORD, SECOND F. KORN, TO APPOINT GEOFFREY L. COLEGROVE AS THE TOWN'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE MIDDLESEX INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL, LTD, FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM TO BEGIN 7/1/92; 3 AYES.

2. MOTION F. KORN, SECOND M. BOORD, TO APPOINT SUSAN BENFIELD DONOVAN TO THE (FERRIS) VACANCY IN THE 1993 REGULAR POSITION ON THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS; 3 AYES.

3. MOTION F. KORN, SECOND M. BOORD, TO APPOINT HAROLD CHRISTOPHER TO A FILL THE VACANCY IN THE ALTERNATES' POSITIONS CREATED BY MOVING SUSAN DONOVAN TO A REGULAR POSITION; 3 AYES.

4. M. Boord reported meeting with the Personnel Policy Board; they have no recommendations for replacing Robert Mueller.

5. MOTION R. HALL, SECOND M. BOORD, TO APPOINT MARGARET YEOMANS TO FILL THE 1997 (GARBARINO) VACANCY ON THE BOARD OF TAX REVIEW; 3 AYES.

Minutes

1. MOTION M. BOORD, SECOND F. KORN, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 21, 1992; 3 AYES.

2. MOTION M. BOORD, SECOND F. KORN, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 1992; 3 AYES.

Tax Refund

MOTION M. BOORD, SECOND F. KORN, TO PAY ROBERT OWENS $267.72 FOR AN ASSESSOR'S CORRECTION; 3 AYES.

Proclamation

M. Boord read the Proclamation for July 4th as prepared by her and David Webster, First Selectman/Middlefield. MOTION M. BOORD TO ACCEPT THE PROCLAMATION, SECOND F. KORN, 3 AYES.

She noted that the July 4th Celebration has been canceled this year due to a conflict with a circus being held on the fairgrounds on the same date.

Correspondence

1. Letter from Richard Howard, P.E., Executive Director, State Traffic Commission, confirming the Commission's approval of a 30 mph speed limit on Main Street; also noted that crosswalks in the area would be revised to give special emphasis.

2. Unemployment in Conn. April 1992: 6.4%

3. Letter from Daniel P. Reilly, Bishop of Norwich, notifying M. Boord of a Red Mass on September 20, 1992. Guest speaker will be Cardinal Bevilacqua of Philadelphia.

4. Letter from Jim Stewart representing Pop Warner Football. He requests use of the Town Green (for a sign) and the Town Hall (for registration purposes). Board agreed to allow use of the Town Hall July 18, 1992, from 10 a.m. to noon, for the signup. The sign on the green was agreed to also.

5. Letter from Senator Christopher J. Dodd, advising that he is ready to assist the town in any way possible in our attempt to repair the damage caused by the storm of June 6, 1992.

Grant Application

M. Boord advised the Board that Joan Lombardo of Middlefield will prepare the grant for a drug enforcement program for Durham/Middlefield.

Special Town Meeting

MOTION M. BOORD, SECOND F. KORN, TO HOLD A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING AT 8:00 P.M. ON 7/7/92 IN THE TOWN HALL TO VOTE ON APPROVAL OF $35,000 FOR A TRAFFIC SIGNAL. Discussion. M. Boord reported that Counsel advised her the fastest way to get to a referendum is to set the town meeting, remove the item from the call, and set a date for a referendum. MOTION PASSED WITH 3 AYES.

MOTION M. BOORD, SECOND R. HALL, TO REMOVE THE ITEM SEEKING APPROVAL OF $35,000 FOR A TRAFFIC SIGNAL FROM THE CALL TO THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF JULY 7, 1992, AND TO HOLD A REFERENDUM ON THE ISSUE ON JULY 15, 1992, FROM NOON-8:00 P.M. AT THE FRANCIS E. KORN SCHOOL; 3 AYES.

MOTION M. BOORD, SECOND R. HALL, TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO THE ISSUE OF THE $35,000 FOR THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL, ON MONDAY, JULY 13, 1992, 8:00 P.M. IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THE HIGH SCHOOL. At the hearing, the Selectmen will explain the Option that has been selected; she will see if a DOT representative will attend; MOTION PASSED 3 AYES.

Recess

The Board temporarily recessed the meeting to hold a Special Town Meeting to appoint a representative to the Reapportionment Committee, Regional District #13.

The Selectmen's meeting reconvened at 7:07 p.m.

Public Comments

none

Selectmen's Concerns

F. Korn shared his concern with the 30 mph speed limit on Main Street; there are impatient drivers who are rude to other drivers doing the speed limit. M. Boord reported that Troop F promised to check with radar once a week.

Update from the First Selectman

1. William Breck, Superintendent of Schools, has requested people to join a Strategic Planning Committee.

2. At the last DPUC hearing on 6/15/92, Att'y Howlett said that early in July the transfer of Durham Center Water Company to Aqua Treatment would occur.

3. Ira Kerschner has volunteered to teach people to use crosswalks.

4. She has talked to Pat Curley and Sherry Hill, who are preparing a draft of rules and regulations governing the use of Allyn Brook Park. Discussion of a Port-O-Let being put there, but the Sanitarian should be asked first.

5. M. Boord reported she has spoken with Carmen Cavallero, DOT, re The New Haven Register vendor boxes; two boxes on Parmelee Hill Road and Stagecoach Road have been removed; one by the pulloff on Rt. 17 will be removed and one by Time Out Tavern will also be removed. The one on Birch Mill Road will remain. She added that a court action is being considered and that these boxes can't be chained to a signpost. R. Hall said there is one chained to a sign at the Grange. M. Boord added that the one at Durham Radiator will remain because it is in a pulloff area.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

REC'D June 30, 1992 AT A.M. P.M. TOWN CLERK

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
June 25, 1992
Site Visit

Called to order at 4:25 p.m. inside Francis Korn's van. Present in the van: Maryann P. Boord (First Selectman), Francis Korn (Selectman), Robert Hall (Selectman), Geoffrey Colegrove (Town Planner), Thomas Fenton (Public Works Director/Town Engineer), Robert Bascom (of Bascom/Magnotta), and Donna Abdella (documenting for posterity as many of the "immortal words" as she was allowed). The idea behind this excursion was to examine and discuss with our resident experts the status of certain unimproved roads not maintained by the Town of Durham.

Off bounced the van to its first location Shunpike Road, followed by a reporter and photographer from The Gazette. They were lost, we were confident. We had Bascom.

Mrs. Ulbrich (of Shunpike Road) stopped the van to question our presence there, for caution's sake, as she claimed they maintain the road as their driveway. Our explanations were apparently accepted and the van proceeded on its way.

We turned left; this became Chalker Road. Bumpy. Then it was up, up, and away onto Cream Pot Road with the tour led by Mr. Bascom. He noted that the stone walls were far back from the traveled part. This spicy tidbit means that the road was once-upon-a-time wide and used. The road had recently been graded (obviously) by the Town since the June flood, and it was in good shape said Mr. Fenton proudly. Mr. Bascom noted the old road to the "pest house" off to one side. Thus the van lumbered to a halt for another picture-taking session. The surveyor and documentor slinked away to avoid the lens (again). Back into the van, the experts agreed that Cream Pot Road was a class 3 road. Bob Bascom said that next year (1993) definite subdivision development will begin on the road. It was explained that Dion Arrigoni has come before PZC with a plan to realign the road, creating two cul-de-sacs, in fact isolating the town garage from the rest of the upper road.

Harvey Road from it's beginning on Higganum Road to the town line was looked at. Mr. Bascom walked alone to "Fiddlers' Green," while the documentor hung around checking the traffic and the real people had their picture taken again. Mr. Bascom explained that woodcutters had fiddle sessions on this "Green" as a break in their hard work. Next time we hope to get a tour of that.

Mr. Bascom observed that these old sections of Durham are, in a true sense, Durham for our children's children. Mr. Colegrove suggested reopening the "scenic road" plan. Silence. He added that

Shunpike from the gravel pit onward is not bad...the town could make minimal widening out to Route 79; until the Pranno development comes in, there is relatively little town cost. Mr. Bascom explained some great historical stuff about Shunpike but the incredulous note-taker's pen slipped and skipped and missed it. Oh well. He added that Chalker was laid out in 1725 (we suspect he was there.) G. Colegrove noted that as you (who is this "you" he refers to?) go through the subdivision process...we are now approving additional lots...we took the Planning and Zoning Commission out of the business of proving the status of roads (result of the David Road suit). Chuckle, snort from Mr. Bascom, who told us so in the first place [about David Road being a "road"].

The entourage headed for Seward Road. Thomas Fenton explained that Augur maintains the road. G. Colegrove observed that there is town property on both sides of the road (reservoir sites purchased in the 1960's) so we can do what we want with that section. (Sounds like a park to me.) At the Augur property there is a "Private Property" sign; Mr. Colegrove said that if Augur is willing to maintain the whole road, this would be a good one to discontinue.

It was observed that at the very end of Seward Road, one end of Mountain Road joins with it...there are two Augur lots and the Perrelli piece backs onto the Augur pieces at the corner of Seward and Mountain Road. To reach the <u>other</u> part of Mountain Road, the van turned around, carefully, and headed for it via Route 68.

T. Fenton pointed out where the town dumped gravel after the recent flood, which caused a controversy. A zone change is being proposed before PZC for a part of the land off this road.

B. Bascom's opinion was to discontinue Seward Road, Spruce Hollow, the southern end of Mountain Road, the state forest section of Old Blue Hills Road; could also try to abandon Old Washington Trail again, Hellgate Road (from Miller to Old Blue Hills Road), and Shady Lane.

All in one piece, more or less, the contents of the van spilled out onto Town House Road to continue the Selectmen's meeting.

DDA