

Town of Hartford
Road Committee Meeting
Wednesday March 5th, 2025 6 pm

Members: Wesley, Al, Jennifer, Rick, Paul. Absent Dave Theriault

Public: Susan Goulet, Rusty, Lianne, Ken, Cathy Lowe, Bim McNeil, Carol and Merton Buzzell.

Minutes from January 28th reviewed and approved by all members.

Dianne forwarded existing estimates from Pratt hill from Northeast paving so they could review what was suggested from 2024. Bim states it would give the members a rough idea.

Discussion about paving/grinding and measurements. The road committee agrees to pass this project to the Ad Hoc committee. Jennifer asked if the work was completed and ready for part 2. Al and Wesley stated it was ready to proceed with grinding or breaking the pavement up and prepping for paving. Bim feels it should be dug up and not ground, he feels grinding will be too expensive, and Rick states if the pavement was ground up, it would make the material less effective. Bim stated some of Hartford's roads have been ground, but those had thick pavement. Pratt Hill has very thin pavement and should be broken up. Wesley reviewed Northeast estimates and states it discusses using reclaim. Bim states around year 2000, he dug up several sections of Pratt Hill and he wants to discuss the last year that he worked on Pratt Hill, which was 2023. He wanted to know who understood what he completed. He states he spent 60-70,000 dollars, and that he dug down at least 3 feet and filled it with gravel. He states he started at the intersection of 219 and Pratt Hill and dug down 3-4 feet and added gravel to lessen the steepness of the road to get onto 219. He had it paved that fall. He also explained that if he did not leave the existing tar on the hill, that it would have been spun up. He states 20 years ago he dug up a large portion of that road and removed rocks. He said all areas that do not have pavement on it, is filled with at least 18 inches of gravel. Bim states it is dug from 219 through the entire hill on both sides. He states approximately 3 feet of gravel was placed in these areas. He also states he dug the right side of the road, from the new paved area down the hill. He estimates he dug 2 feet of mud out of the ditch and placed gravel in it. He also stated after the corner, he dug many boulders out and placed those on the right side of the road. He believed he filled that area with 3-4 feet of gravel. He states there was a lot of gravel placed in the road that people do not appreciate. He also said Cathy Lowe inspected all his work. He stated he was going to go back the next spring, however there was too much flooding and washouts that year to get back there. \$150,000 was allocated for that road, but it had to be spent on washouts. He said his crew was ready to work on the road in July, but stated others had ideas of what should be done and he was not allowed to perform any work on it. Paul wants to reiterate that nothing is being disputed about what Bim and his company have done in the past, but wants to discuss what will need to get accomplished this year. Ricks again asks what percentage of the road has pavement. Bim was unable to give a percentage. Bim reiterated that that road has good gravel from 20 years ago. Two summers ago, he did the top portion where the new pavement is. Bim suggests he would not

reclaim it, but use the bull dozer and excavator and place the broken-up pavement into a wind row and then use the 12-ton roller to demolish the pavement so it would just crumble, and then gravel could be added in. He feels there are a lot more rocks to be removed and ditching to be done, but unable to state where the rocks are that is concerning. He states the ledge should be blasted to make a better ditch. He again stated he could have done this job for 50-60,000 and then it could have been ready to pave. He states that the "landscaper guy" that was hired for the job did not do a good job. Al discussed ending the road committee meeting so the Ad Hoc could meet and discuss the work with Bim. Al discussed that the selectboard wants to put this out to bid. Bim states if his crew was allowed to perform the work it would be done, and done correctly. Bim also stated that no one knows how to do road work on this committee and that there is no need to put it out Bid. He explained that he is the road commissioner and will make the decisions. He also states he is not going to stand on that road while others work and his trucks sit idle with no work. He needs summer work and has the crew to do it. He asks what he should do with his crew for 6 months and no work. Paul stated that no one was saying his company could not put in a bid for this work. Lianne wants to reiterate that it has to go to the Bid committee. Paul states he just wants to move forward and asked that Bim be part of this project.

Wesley would like to come up with a consensus of what should be done for this road before giving it to the Ad Hoc. Wesley discussed we need to get this done for the people that have been promised for years this would be done. He is concerned that digging is not the way this road should be done. 3 different contractors have walked this road and all said grinding would be a better option. Wesley feels that breaking this up with an excavator the entire way down the road will be more costly and time consuming. Bim states he has been paving roads for years and that breaking it up will be less expensive. Bim feels there does not need to be any committee to get this work done. Bim then became irritated and started swearing at the committee. Al wants to turn this over to the Ad Hoc committee, however Bim states that is his job to do. He reiterated he is the road commissioner and knows best.

Dianne explained that the road committee did not come up with the Ad Hoc committee. This was decided by the selectboard so anyone could be part of this committee. She explained the road committee and the selectboard are not against Bim. She also stated that because Bim did not want to work with the road committee or be part of the Bid committee, this seemed to be beneficial for the town for input. Bim feels that the town pissed 60,000 dollars away on things that did not need to be done. Jennifer feels we need to set a time frame as last year it went back and forth and took a while for the Bid process to actually happen. Everyone agreed that was important.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm., as the conversation quickly deteriorated into harsh language. Paul asked that Bim stay, however he left.