

MEETING SUMMARY of GOLF COURSE COMMITTEE - May 1, 1972

Members Present: Don Brooks
David Canfield

Judge Shields
Vincent Paccadolmi

Members Absent: Paul McDevitt
Fred Orrico

Ray Phelan
Gino Torcellini

Town Counsel Dowling was asked which would be the best procedure for advertising "Notice to Bidders" and suggested two consecutive weeks in the "Ridgefield Press" saying that as of Monday, May 8th, plans and specifications will be ready for prospective bidding contractors at the Selectman's office for \$25.00...bidding deadline 5p.m. May 22, 1972, at which time it was decided to have the next Golf Course Committee Meeting. Town Counsel reminded Members that they are now an appointed committee to negotiate contract bids, contract with architect, etc. and cannot sign any document or pay any bill.

Next to be discussed was the hiring of Richard Gracey of Southbury, Conn., starting this date, to do the tree clearing for \$790 an acre. Ray Phelan did most of the arranging. Gracey will do nothing more than remove stumps and lay them on the ground--piling and stacking, and carting away is another procedure. Members discussed problems which have arisen at other Courses when stumps were buried under fairways and it was hoped that this practice will not have to be done. Burning of brush must all be done by May 22 and 'night burning' practice will be followed, i.e., burning until 2 p.m. only. We must have some kind of contract for Gracey and it was decided that Don Brooks would contact him by phone that night and have Gracey himself contact Mr. Dowling in this regard.

Don Brooks told Members that the Contract was mailed to him today and that he would be at the Selectmen's Meeting Thursday night and that perhaps other Members might wish to attend and see the Contract at that time. The general contractor will be responsible for irrigation (possibly he will subcontract it). Fazio said that what is holding him up is figuring the amount of dirt to be removed, brought in, etc. He is just about through with it and will send it to Don Brooks on Wednesday--without fail even if it means putting it on a bus. He is sending ten copies--we have six or seven bidders that we know of at this time.

Dave Canfield told Members that he had visited the site and found that the work was being done from 'back to front'--that is, trenching up the stream bed rather than down as was the understanding. Some ledge was encountered and a backhoe broken as a result but it looks good from there on and maybe work will be finished this week. Discussion followed regarding ways in which a swamp can be drained--by lowering the water table, and by cleaning out and leaving tree debres to soak up water, then cover with sand, seed, etc.

The 16th hole has to go to the left a bit to save a beautiful oak tree. Actual paths will be adjusted in the field.

Don Brooks explained why it is necessary to have a Superintendent right now. Vince Paccadolmi tells the group of the contacts he has made--that two men who applied will not accept the job because the \$10-12,000 pay is not sufficient. One man is not desirable and that leaves only Carlson who applied but has not answered Mr. Paccadolmi's second contact with him; he will be called again. Meanwhile, an ad will be placed in several publications (Greenskeepers Reporter, Turfgrass Times and Golfdom), one insertion, and mention to be made that salary range is \$10-12,000.

Mr. Canfield made his financial report to Members. He explained that the question is permanent financing or temporary. The pros and cons of each was fully discussed--the Bond Council might frown on a Municipality borrowing money and then putting it to work; short term borrowing is less expensive...Mr. Canfield thinks we should get committed for the full amount for one year. This goes to competitive bids; there would be 5 or 6 bidding banks. June or July of '74 would be first payment date. If we agree that the best way is all in one chunk, then we know what our interest is and we are done with it. Dave Canfield thinks we have enough inponderables here and we should do this. The funds can be reinvested and we can always get more back than we pay in interest. Once we have the contract schedule, we can buy Treasury bills to come due at the same time. We have borrowed \$10,000 already and have spent \$7-8,000; we paid Fazio \$6,000, we own him \$19,000 as of Friday--\$1,000 was for surveying work, \$700+ for Topo map and some miscellaneous. That money was put in with the original \$3500 in a separate account. A Commercial Bank is usually the administrator of such transactions--CNB and Hartford National are the banks between which we must choose and this might be a difficult choice to make. Mr. Longden spoke from the floor suggesting that keeping the Golf Course Account separate might be a good idea, thus using Hartford National. Mr. Canfield will go to both banks and discuss with both a 60-day demand note to be paid off any time before 60 days--to pay off what we have spent so far and what we anticipate in the next 45 days--make it \$70,000. We would like two full seasons before we have to start paying money back. We would pay interest for the next full year but no principle. That would be ideal because we would have 1½ seasons under our belt. In the State of Connecticut, bonds may be retired at any time--you pay a small penalty.

Don Brooks read aloud the April 25th letter from Planning & Zoning asking for final plans for John Green to review, and an answer will be sent to him before their P & Z Meeting tomorrow night explaining that full specifications and final route plans are expected to be received this weekend.

Fazio will be here next week.

There will be no other meeting of the Golf Course Committee until May 22nd.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:10 p.m.