

## Granite may condemn property

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

By Mark Wineka

GRANITE QUARRY — The Board of Aldermen could pursue condemnation of property belonging to a Brookwood Drive resident as part of securing right-of-way easements for a new culvert.

At a meeting Dec. 6, Town Manager Dan Peters reported that Danny Gay of Brookwood Drive sought \$5,000 for his easement, compared to the \$2,158 the town had offered.

Meanwhile, the board authorized paying a total of \$2,934 to the other homeowners on Brookwood Drive who have signed easement agreements.

The board turned negotiations with Gay over to Town Attorney Chip Short, who was authorized to pursue condemnation if he can't find a resolution with Gay.

Board members agreed that the bid process for the new culvert — aimed at alleviating chronic flooding — should continue even with a condemnation, meaning bids could be opened as soon as Jan. 20, 2011.

Town minutes put the estimated cost of a condemnation between \$2,500 and \$3,000.

In other town business, aldermen decided against the purchase of seasonal banners or flags for the downtown area. The town's planning board recommended the purchase.

Mayor Pro Tem Bill Feather said the idea was admirable and worth looking at in the future, but the town could not afford the expense right now. Other board members agreed.

Four Granite Quarry firefighters have been promoted to the rank of engineer after completing the necessary training.

They are John Cannon, Cameron Lapham, Ryan Tillis and Mike West.

Faith Cannon, Kim Fraley, Lauren Tillis and Sarah West participated in the pinning of the new engineers' badges. Mayor Mary Ponds administered the oath of engineer at the Dec. 6 town board meeting.

Fire Chief David Morris announced the addition of two firefighters to the department's roster: Adam Parnell and Tonya Herring. Parnell is employed in the town's maintenance department and plans to attend rookie school in 2011. Herring is an emergency medical technician working toward a degree in nursing.

Police Chief Mark Cook said Sgt. Todd Taylor recently represented Granite Quarry at the AAA Safety Awards ceremony in Durham. Granite Quarry received an AAA award for towns less than 10,000 population in recognition of its traffic safety efforts.

A plaque recognizing the achievement will hang in City Hall.

Cook said a new patrol car for the town should be on the road soon. He also introduced David Earnhardt

as a new full-time officer. Earnhardt has been employed part-time with the town for almost a year and has 20 years of experience in law enforcement and communications.

At Granite Lake Park, two Christmas wreaths adorning the park sign have been stolen, Alderman Eloise Peeler reported.

Maintenance Supervisor Kim Cress said a tree has been planted at Granite Lake and decorated for Christmas.

Laura Porter of the Youth Services Bureau gave a presentation to the board about the United Way agency and said there is a need for adult volunteers to serve as mentors.

Planning and Zoning Director Susan Closner reported on her recent attendance at a Carolina Thread Trail meeting. She outlined some of the funding opportunities and grants that are available for walking trails.

When the town sponsored Santa's visit to Town Hall Dec. 5, 110 treat bags were handed out to children. The Christmas banquet for town employees and volunteers was held Dec. 10 at Shiloh United Methodist Church's fellowship hall.

<http://www.salisburypost.com/News/121410-granite-quarry-meeting-qcd>