Hart Courant 10/6/92

Winsted

Transportation proposals outlined at public hearing

By JOSEPH A. O'BRIEN
Courant Staff Writer

WINSTED — There was lengthy discussion at a public hearing Monday night on the town's proposed transportation improvement plan.

The plan proposes the widening of some areas of Route 44, including the portion that is Main Street in Winsted.

Democratic Selectman James A. Pettit, hearing moderator, said the Litchfield Hills Council of Elected Officials, which acts as a regional planning agency, is scheduled to act on the town's recommended plan Friday.

Town Manager David A. Maynard said the town has known about the Friday deadline for about two weeks. The town's recommendations will become part of its suggestions for a five-year highway plan that will be submitted to the state Department of Transportation.

Selectmen were considering a resolution late Monday that said the highest priority for the town is the installation of traffic signals along Route 44 from Ames Plaza, east of Winsted, about 1½ miles west to Route 183 in the west end of the city.

The second highest priority is the reconstruction of Wakefield Boulevard, which circles Highland Lake, where a sewer project is under way.

The town's third highest priority is reconstruction of Prospect Street from the center of the city to Lake Street in the west end of Winsted.

During the public portion of the selectmen's meeting, many questions were raised about a proposed "letter of understanding" between Maynard, who became town manager this summer, and the town regarding his employment. Residents were upset because the letter appeared similar to a contract. No town manager has ever had a contract.

Charlene LaVoie, the town's community lawyer, said 90 percent of the 11-page letter of understanding reflects information already included in the town's charter. She suggested that selectmen postpone action on the letter to give selectmen and the public time "to understand provisions of it."

Rosemarie Lagueux of Wakefield Boulevard said: "We, as taxpayers, have a right to know."

She said under the town charter "this town has never given a contract to a town manager before."

The letter of understanding was prepared by Town Attorney Kevin F. Nelligan.