

Town Land Use Committee
March 13, 2023
Minutes

Present: Tim Fiske, Allan Pickman, Paul Quinn, George Willard, Gail Cromwell
Guest: Connie Kieley

Tim Fiske called the meeting to order at 5:33.

The Minutes of February 27, 2023 were approved with several amendments.

Allan Pickman presented a drawing of the existing highway site with possible changes to answer the question of "Could the existing site be changed to meet the needs?"

The new drawing showed relocation of the sand pile, a smaller new building (with 4 bays instead of 6), knocking down the oldest part of present highway garage, and a number of other changes. Questions were asked about possible turning lanes and Allan said he would add those in. That drawing is attached.

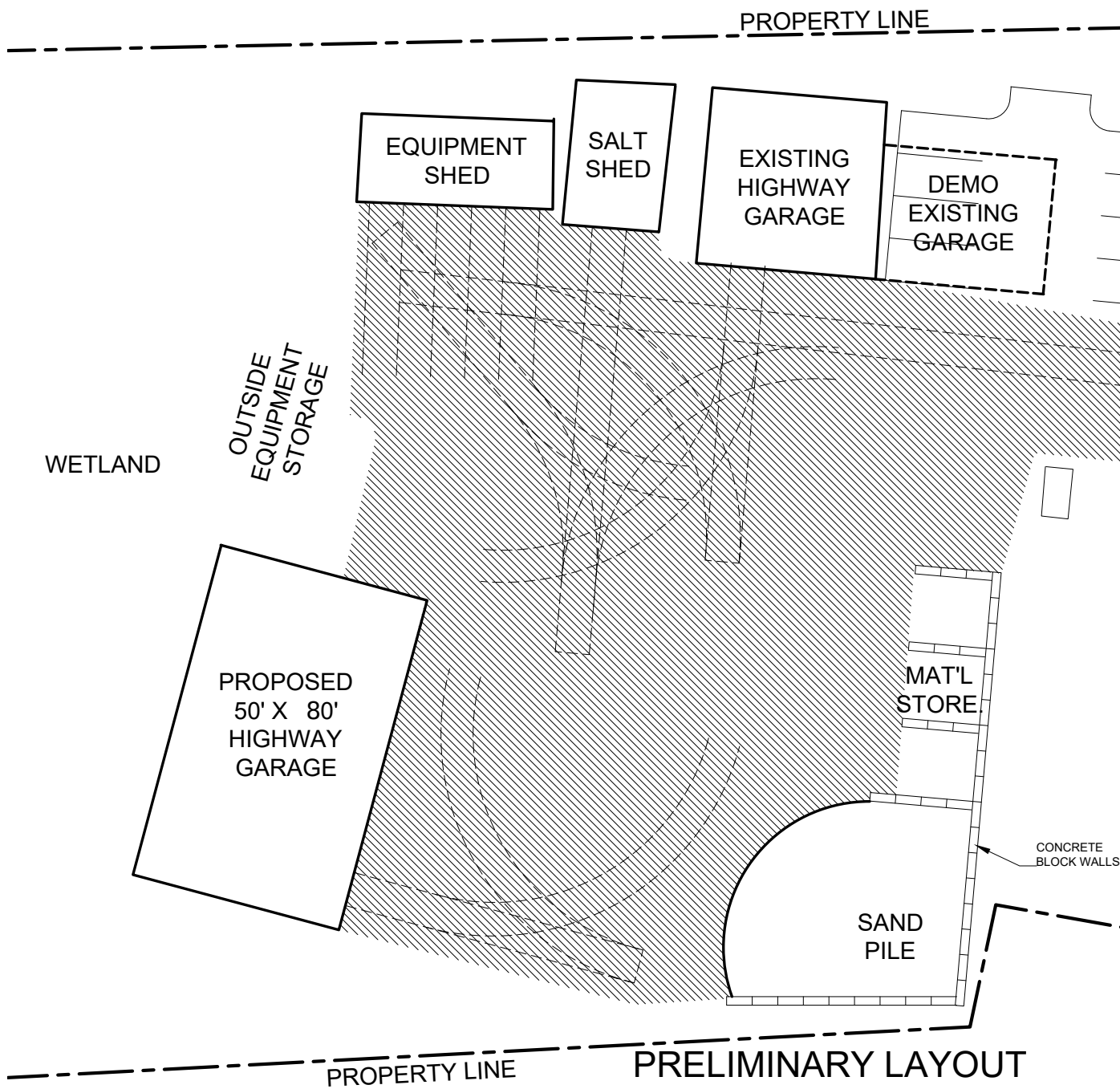
Tim went through the problems that remained: the power lines would have to be relocated, turning around a 38' grader on the site would not be easy, a place would have to be found to store other materials. The town could spend \$600,000 to 700,000 on the new 4 bay building and the demolition and still not satisfy what is needed. About 6 parking spaces could be located in the demolished part of the current garage. The environmental problems would remain because there is no room to put in a proper containment system for fuels and oils.

Thinking about the future, the town has some real needs, not just the highway department. The library and the town hall both have programs that are increasing. The town offices may need to be relocated because they are very crowded. The fire department is crowded. The current municipal building was originally intended for just the fire department but the town offices had to be squeezed in. The one good building in the highway department could possibly be repurposed for town offices.

In the last 25 or so years the town has spent \$2.7 million on various projects for the town and our tax rate has hardly budged. We have gotten grants and the tax base itself has expanded to absorb costs. Paul Quinn showed one of the old maps from 2005 when the Skladany land was being considered. It was bought to provide useful space for the town. We should use it. He agreed with those who didn't want to see the highway facilities from Route 45, as was said at last town meeting, but the new proposed site will not be visible.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35.

Respectfully, Gail Cromwell



PRELIMINARY LAYOUT
POSSIBLE REORGANIZATION OF
HIGHWAY GARAGE ON EXISTING SITE
SCALE 1" = 40'