

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 23, 2008**

PRESENT: Tammy Jo Girard, Evan Grover, Dennis Abbott, Cindy Moore, Nancy Brandt, David Lowe, Dave Watson, Betsey Watson, Jon Courtney, Jerry Daigle, Frank Allen. Absent: Jon Gale

Meeting called to order by Selectmen Abbott at 7:05 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Selectmen Abbott the fuel oil raffle is still ongoing. Can find information on the Town's website and raffle tickets are available at area businesses and thru the Town's General Assistance Office.

REPORTS:

Selectmen: No report.

Town Administrator: The Municipal Parking Lot Snow Removal Bids, the West Road Sidewalk Snow Removal Bids and the Library Roof Replacement and insulation bid. Asked if the Board had any deletions or additions. Bids will be sent out with a due date of October 21st. Received the road salt bid price thru Greater Portland Government of Councils. Last year the price was \$51.91 a ton and this year it is \$67.82 ton. Budgeted salt at \$60.00 a ton and also are limiting how much salt can be delivered in a five day period at 500 tons. Selectmen Girard asked if we know how much Fred has left over from last year and Nancy reported that she asked him today and Fred reported that they was not much at all. 30% increase in salt price from last year.

Committee reports: No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Committee Appointments: Selectmen Grover made the motion to appoint David Williams to the Finance Committee and Bridget McCallum to the Transfer Station Committee. Selectmen Girard seconded. Vote 4-0-0.

Energy Conservation Plan. Nancy has sent out an Energy Conservation Plan. Nancy gave a brief overview. Draft came from other towns who have implemented a conservation plan, a lot is just common sense like turning off your monitor when you are not using it or are going to be away from your desk for a while, turning off lights when you are not in your office, screen savers do not save energy, will start using power management features on the computers. Also try to use the natural light as much as possible and keep the thermostats down in the winter. Selectmen Girard asked if the system can be timed. Nancy reported that a timer will be put on the water heater to only heat water during hours of operation. The central air system will have the fall maintenance and adjustment for the winter months next week.

Selectmen Abbott asked about savings for the other building can we at least scale back on the heat over there, using programmable thermostats. Nancy reported that since April or May has been turned off so as not to run. It does not heat the water as there is electric hot water heater and with that type of furnace it has to keep running even though it is not calling for heat. Selectmen Abbott asked about other buildings. Fire Dept. has done conservation plan for central and has moved the tanks at South Station inside of the building and also has looked at other sources of heat for that building. Selectmen Girard this will be a town wide plan for all departments. Selectmen Abbott agrees.

Vote on tax rate: Assessing Agent Jerry Daigle had previously given the Board a memo dated September 12th which had the tax rate. Since then very little has changed in the valuation since then and the information in the memo stands. Jerry proposes three tax rates. The taxable valuation of the town at 100% is \$734,686,970. Tax rate at \$10.30 would leave an overlay of \$151,736.62: rate of \$10.34 would have \$181,562.06 overlay and a rate of \$10.40 would have an overlay of \$226,300.23. Due dates would be November 4, 2008 and May 4, 2009 with a late interest of 11%. Selectmen Girard asked if the Board would see a decrease in abatements. Jerry feels at this time only adjustments will be done and does not feel will have as many abatements. With the revaluation completed last year, the market value of the town at this time is 97%. During the updated process this year, Jerry sent out notices to new building owners of new value for any corrections could be accomplished prior to the billing. Last year's overlay was \$221,000. Selectmen Moore still feels a need for a sizeable overly. Jerry recommends a rate of \$10.34. Explained that Personal Property comes from businesses. Selectmen Abbott asked about Goodall property. Jerry reported that only the pharmacy which rents space and pays personal property taxes. Selectmen Abbott mentioned that it is a 1.98% to 2% increase. Selectmen Moore does not feel that the \$10.30 or \$10.34 would leave enough overlay. Selectmen Moore made the motion to go with at \$10.40 tax rate. Selectmen Grover seconded. Selectmen Abbott informed the Board that it would be a 3% or 2.97% increase. Selectmen Girard is torn between the \$10.34 and \$10.40. On an average house value at \$160,000. , a \$10.34 rate would be a \$34.98 increase and a \$10.40 would reflect a \$49.80 reflects increase a \$9.80 difference. Selectmen Abbott would like next year to see the October and April due dates. Explained that the Surplus has been hit hard over the past couple of years and a higher overlay would cushion and would support a higher tax rate. Vote \$10.40 at tax rate. 4-0-0.

Work on Private Roads. Selectmen Abbott opened up the discussion. At some point natural occurrences like ice and snow will require the town to take care of people for emergency purposes on private roads. If there is an emergency, should bring to the Board minimal work done on private roads and this can be accomplished between the Town Administrator and the Road Commissioner. Selectmen Girard added not winter roads but the situation that took place recently.

If someone purchases property on a private road and has not been maintaining their road and then expects the Town to fix the road due to deterioration of not being maintained. Selectmen Abbott added that many more roads are being washed out due to storms or not maintained.

Do need to draw a line on flexibility. Selectmen Girard added fix year, but not the responsibility of the townspeople if the road is not maintained. Frank Allen raised the questioned as handling the same as malfunctioning septic systems. Selectmen Abbott responded of land owner is known it would be ok if more than one owner all would need to sign off and there may be residents that do not want to fix the road.

OLD BUSINESS:

Working plans. Board has accepted Selectmen Girards and Selectmen Moore has sent hers in. Selectmen Girard thought that the Board was going to set up a workshop with the plan, scopes etc. Selectmen Abbott suggested contacting Town Planner Tom Ursia for dates.

OTHER:

Warrants: Selectmen Grover made the motion to sign the warrants for bills and payroll. Selectmen Girard seconded. Voted 4-0-0.

Minutes: Selectmen Moore made the motion to accept the minutes of 9/16/08. Selectmen Girard seconded. Voted 4-0-0.

DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS:

Workshop at 6 pm next week for the Board to meet with Fred to discuss private roads and and a complaint process.

The Board next week will meet at 5 pm to sign the warrants and payment of bills and then will proceed to Sullie's for the WAB annual meeting.

Selectmen Abbott read the reminders.

ADJOURNMENT:

Selectmen Moore made the motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Seconded by Selectmen Grover. Vote 4-0-0.

Sel. Mtg.
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SIGNED:

Warrants for payment of bills
Minutes of 9/16/08.

APPROVED:

Date: _____
