

## SELECTMEN'S MEETING

January 13, 2009

PRESENT: TammyJo Girard, Evan Grover, Jon Gale, Nancy Brandt, Pam Witman, David Lowe, Frank Allen, Tom Ursia, Pam L'Heureux and Bob Gobeil.

Motion by Selectman Gale and seconded by Selectman Grover to elect Selectman Girard as Chairman Pro Tempore. Vote 3-0-0.

Opened meeting at 6:05 p.m. by Selectman Girard with Pledge of Allegiance.

### APPOINTMENTS

6:00 – Tom Ursia reported that he has been putting a special amount of time each day to keep his eyes open for grants we would be eligible for. The one he is to discuss is Senate Bill 1 which is the stimulus package. This bill was written by Senator Reed and 16 others. Stated that each state will be getting a substantial amount of money and the bill is likely to pass in February with the funds to be released in the spring. Debate will begin the day after inauguration. Stated that there are already 101 projects being proposed in York County totaling \$263,000,000.00 and towns are starting to bring their wish lists to the Senator's offices. Senator Snow is calling a briefing in Augusta with Gov. Baldacci next week. Tom feels that this grant is where our focus should be right now. Stated that there is no talk of matching funds at this point. Encouraged the board to start tonight and get focused on what projects would be the most competitive. Would like to meet with the Selectmen and Road Review Committee or together on the West Road project. Stated that at current prices will not get ½ mile with the money dedicated but has another strategy to benefit us economically. Each Selectman as well as Nancy and Tom will make up a list and then will bring back next week under Old Business so they can discuss further and vote on which projects they want to go for. See attached information on the grant.

### TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. Reported that she has been busy with budgets.
2. Working on the application for Maine Bond Bank for the West Road project.
3. Been busy doing all the reports for Thursday's meeting.

### SELECTMEN'S REPORT

1. Selectman Grover stated that last week he stated that Joe 4 Oil was not going to be available this year but in fact they are back with 100 free gallons of oil at 1-877-JOE-4OIL starting January 19<sup>th</sup>. Stated that people should call the first day and keep trying if the lines are busy.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion by Selectman Grover and seconded by Selectman Gale to tape and air Thursday night's meeting. Vote 3-0-0.

### OTHER

1. Motion by Selectman Gale and seconded by Selectman Grover to accept the minutes of 1/6/09 as written. Vote 3-0-0.
2. Selectman Girard read reminders. Reminded that the County Budget Public Hearing is tomorrow at 7 pm at the courthouse.

### DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Workshop with Tom Depeter, CMP at 6 pm.
2. Tom Ursia re: Grants – Old Business
3. Discuss/vote on format for procedure manual

4. Library roof update – Nancy to contact Mr. Fulmer.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Selectman Grover and seconded by Selectman Gale to adjourn at 7:06 p.m. Vote 3-0-0.

**SIGNED:**

1. Minutes of 1/6/08
2. Concealed weapon application

**APPROVED:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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To: Waterboro Board of Selectmen ,Finance Committee & Town Administrator  
Fr. Tom Ursia, Waterboro Town Planner  
Re: Talking points for discussion on "Grants" on 13 January 2009

- **What exactly is the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act and what is the package size currently (as of 12 January 2009)?**

This forthcoming Act (ARRA) is generally referred to as the second economic stimulus package which would generate significant grants to every state in the Nation. It will incorporate grants on infrastructural projects, such as improving road, bridges, airports, sewer systems, mass transit, electric grids, rail and dams. Current debate on the Hill, also is spinning heads for funding requests for more food stamps, health insurance, job training and unemployment extension benefits (amongst many other requests) to be included in the second stimulus package.

Currently, the package size is **\$850 billion** to be infused between Spring of 2009 to the Spring of 2011. Speculation is that that the package size will need to grow to between **one trillion to 1.3 trillion**, in order to accomplish only a portion of needs.

- **What does the ARRA grant timing look like?**

Currently, debate on ARRA will start in earnest on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Wishful thinkers believe that ARRA package will be completed by the end of January. Realists believe that it is more likely to be ready to go on or slightly before Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.

- **How many projects are currently being proposed in York County and at what forecasted dollar amount?**

My research shows that are a minimum of 101 municipality-driven projects that are currently on the "wish lists" in York County (Specific details and costs for each project are available from the Town Planner) As of the end of the year (2008), the dollar amount for all York County projects was approximately **263 million dollars**.

- **How many known projects are being proposed by each of our York County municipalities?**

**Biddeford = 42** projects with value of approx. **\$90 M**  
**Old Orchard Beach = 2** projects with value of approx. **\$1.5+M**  
**Kittery = 16** projects with value of approx. **\$67.5 M**  
**Hollis = 1** project with value of approx. **\$813,000**.  
**Sanford = 15** projects with value of approx. **\$27.5 M**  
**Kennebunk = 18** projects with value of approx. **\$12.6 M**  
**Kennebunkport = 8** projects with value of approx. **\$6.1 M**  
**North Berwick = 10** projects with a value of approx. **\$7.8M**  
**Saco = 4** projects with a value of approx. **\$6.5 M**  
**South Berwick = 2** projects with a value of approx. **\$3M**  
**Berwick = 5** projects with a value of approx. **\$3.3 M**  
**York = 2** projects with a value of approx. **\$1.6 M**  
**Wells = 7** projects with a value of approx. **\$28.2 M**

- **What is the cross-section of projects that municipalities in York County are wishing for in anticipation of their inclusion in the ARRA grant system?**

County wide energy project, storm water sewer separation systems, sewer extensions, road reconstructions, restoration of clock tower, gym floors, playgrounds, window replacements, school building renovations, property acquisition, building a new industrial park, bridge rehabilitations, airport improvements, village center development salt storage shed, fishing wharfs, wastewater treatment facilities, library expansion, water storage tanks, natural gas line extensions, business incubator space, tannery site clean-up/building demolition, new fire station, new police station, rehab. of County Courthouse and signalization projects.

(Note: This list is exclusive of eligible MDOT Federal Economic Stimulus Package that may be likely to receive special attention and priority. See attached list)

- **How can the Town of Waterboro be competitive and and is there a sense of urgency if the Town wishes to compete? What are our immediate next steps?**

Yes, the Town of Waterboro can be competitive, but it must recognize that these ARRA monies are a "one-time" infusion and specific rules/politics determine the endgame for each municipality/region/State. The sense of urgency is quite simple ... if the Town wishes to compete, then we need to start tonight and have project (projects) determined, agreed upon by the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator and in total agreement with the anticipated criteria (likely to be Federal requirements):

1. Project(s) MUST be "shovel-ready" investment with detailed cost analysis
2. Project(s) need to show completion time horizon of 180 days
3. Project (s) need to generate the highest number of construction jobs possible
4. Project (s) need to be ready to bid by May of 2009
5. Project(s) need to secured any and all permits before May 2009
6. Projects should ideally show partnership collaboration

Additionally, and absolutely critical to a successful application, will be the need for a total commitment to **HIGH LEVEL** lobbying efforts on any contemplated ARRA grant request.

## MaineDOT

- \$35M - \$40M, Brunswick to West Gardiner, I-295 northbound rehabilitation – 22 mile
- \$19M, Sherman to Houlton, I-95 northbound – 39 miles \*
- \$19M, Bangor to Pittsfield, I-95 southbound – 37 miles \*
- \$7M, Portland to Scarborough, I-295 southbound – 11 miles \*
- \$6M, Scarborough to Falmouth, I-295 northbound – 8 miles \*
- \$8.5M, Houlton to Dyer Brook, I-95 southbound – 19 miles \*
- \$1.6M, Kittery, I-95 northbound – 3 miles \*
- \$8M, Falmouth to Brunswick, I-295 northbound – 19 miles \*
- \$3M, Sidney to Augusta, I-95 southbound – 9 miles \*
- \$3.7M, Brunswick to Freeport, I-295 southbound – 10 miles \*

Interstate: \$110-\$115 Million

Highway Dirt: \$66 Million

- \$10M, Ellsworth, Route 1A – 2.7 miles\*\*
- \$4M, Falmouth, Route 100/26 – 1.1 miles\*\*
- \$3.5M, Turner, Route 117 – 2.4 miles\*\*
- \$6M, Saco – Buxton, Route 112 – 3.4 miles\*\*
- \$12M, Lisbon – Sabattus, Route 9 – 6.8 miles\*\*
- \$13M, Wells, Route 9 – 4.5 miles\*\*
- \$9M, Kennebunk – Lyman, Route 35 – 2.3 miles\*\*
- \$3M, Milford, Route 2 – 1.0 miles\*\*
- \$2M, Dover, Route 15 – 1.3 miles\*\*
- \$3.5M, Orrington, Route 15 – 1.8 miles\*\*

\*Schedule assumes 90 days from February 1, 2009 and PE/ROW begin now  
 \*\*Schedule assumes 180 days from February 1, 2009 and PE/ROW begin now

Non-Interstate Paving: \$24.5 Million

- \$881,000, Brunswick, US 1 Southbound – 1.74 miles
- \$574,000, Brunswick, US 1 Southbound – 1.13 miles
- \$431,000, New Gloucester-Poland, Route 122, 3.02 miles
- \$1.1 million, Auburn, Route 4 - 1.73 miles
- \$135,000, Falmouth, Falmouth Rd. – 0.92 miles
- \$594,000, South Berwick – North Berwick, Route 4 – 6.29 miles
- \$970,000, South Portland, Broadway – 0.92 miles
- \$270,000, Durham, Route 9 – 3.85 miles
- \$1.18 million, Belfast, US 1 – 3.92 miles

POSSIBLE ARRA  
 INFRASTRUCTURE  
 PROJECTS ENVISIONED  
 BY MDOT (JAN 09)

PEU

- \$1.33 million, Stockton Springs – Prospect, US 1A – 3.72 miles
  - \$794,000, Prospect – Frankfort, US 1A – 2.31 miles
  - \$1 million, Palermo, Route 3 – 3.26 miles
  - \$2.02 million, Skowhegan-Madison, US 201 – 1.93 miles
  - \$582,000, Oxford – Norway, Route 26 – 1.08 miles
  - \$853,000, Skowhegan-Canaan, US 2 – 5.02 miles
  - \$1.08 million, Eustis-Wyman Twp, Route 16 – 5.43 miles
  - \$5.18 million, Eddington-Clifton, Route 9 – 8.1 miles
  - \$1.86 million, New Sweden, Route 161 – 5.95 miles
  - \$1.46 million, Caribou, Route 164 – 1.81 miles
  - \$1.52 million, Caribou, Route 89 – 4.88 miles
  - \$550,000, Limestone-Caswell, US 1A – 3.8 miles
- Bridge: \$22 Million
- \$6 million, Waldo-Hancock Bridge / superstructure removal
  - \$10 million, Augusta Memorial Bridge / painting
  - \$1.5 million, Lincoln Spur, Interstate 95 NB & SB Bridges / deck replacement (current)
  - \$4.5 million, Deer Isle - Sedgwick Bridge / substructure rehabilitation
- Ferry: \$6 Million
- \$6 million, Governor Curtis Replacement
- Transit: \$23.96 Million
- \$13 million, Trenton Intermodal Facility Construction
  - \$10 million, Statewide Bus Replacement
  - \$960,000, Purchase 30 GO MAINE Vans
- Aviation: \$35 Million
- 33 projects spread across the state
- Rail: \$35.16 Million
- \$35 million, Downeaster Extension for Passenger Rail
  - \$160,000, Structural repairs to the Sheepscot River Bridge on the Rockland Branch
- Bike/Ped: \$1 Million
- \$500,000, Gardiner/Cobbosee Stream Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility
  - \$500,000, Eastern Trail Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility, Old Orchard Beach
- Environmental: \$2 Million
- \$2 million, Long Creek Watershed Storm Water Improvements



Monday, January 12, 2009

## Why a Tiny Alabama Town Wants a \$375 Million Chunk of the Stimulus

By *Amanda Ruggeri*

Posted January 8, 2009

At first glance, the town of Edwardsville, Ala., with a population of 194 people, might raise a few eyebrows with its bid to receive \$375 million from the [economic stimulus package](#) being assembled by Barack Obama and lawmakers in Congress.

*Update*  
*Small Town Rescinds*  
*Request for \$375*  
*Million*

The tiny town, located near the Georgia border and 26 miles from the nearest "big city" of Anniston (population: 24,276), added 33 proposals—about two thirds of them related to "green" energy—to the [list of "ready-to-go" projects](#) assembled by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Total sum: \$375,076,200.

That comes out to nearly \$2 million per Edwardsville resident, although E. D. Phillips, the town's representative to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, says the projects would affect a wider region that comprises about 80,000 people. That number includes residents of nearby rural areas that aren't already incorporated into towns, along with the residents of Talladega Springs (population: 124), which partnered with Edwardsville and local municipal utilities on the projects.

There's certainly no denying that Edwardsville has big ambitions. Through the various proposals, which include a renewable energy museum, scenic railroad, and vineyards, these small Alabama communities envision themselves becoming a cutting-edge demonstration project for energy sustainability and a hub for tourism.

"I know we look like some little Podunk town, and by the census, we are," Phillips says. "But we really think we've done some amazingly progressive things in the past two years."

The town's proposals began to develop more than two years ago, when Phillips and another town official became intrigued by the argument that renewable energy could create a rural

renaissance. If any community needed economic revival, it was Edwardsville—even before the recession. At 28.7 percent, the town's poverty level was nearly equal to that of Nepal and more than twice the national average, according to the 2000 census.

Along with the more traditional proposals to replace streetlights with solar-powered lights (cost: \$3,479,200), to install solar panels on the town hall (cost: \$77,000), and to build solar-powered recharging stations for electric golf carts and vehicles (cost: \$620,000), Edwardsville and Talladega Springs have assembled a set of even more far-reaching projects.

An outlay of \$50.4 million, for example, would go toward installing water pipelines beneath roads to soak up the sun's rays, transferring heat. That technology is currently being used in the Netherlands, which found that while the cost of installation was double that of normal gas heating, the system halved the amount of energy required.

With big dreams, however, come big price tags.

"Do you know how hard it is to fund some of these projects when your tax base is so low?" Phillips says. "So we just breathed this sigh of relief when we found out about the stimulus package . . . especially when it had a focus on renewable energy."

Not everyone shares the sentiment.

"This really exemplifies the problem. Why are we buying light bulbs for a local community?" asks Tom Schatz, president of the watchdog group Citizens Against Government Waste. "If a municipality wants to save money, [it can] go out and buy the light bulbs. There is no reason the federal government should buy them."

One of Edwardsville's biggest proposed expenditures is for a "renewable energy museum and information dissemination center." Phillips envisions exhibits, audio tours, seminars, a research center, and a satellite lab run by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

To fund the museum, Edwardsville is requesting \$32.1 million. That makes the facility the fourth most expensive museum proposed on the U.S. Conference of Mayors list—following facilities planned by Miami, Las Vegas, and Scottsdale, Ariz. (Some of those facilities have drawn their own controversy: Las Vegas's proposal for a \$55 million "mob museum," for

example, was used by Sen. Mitch McConnell this week as a prime example of pork spending.)

Some might wonder how many people a renewable energy museum in rural Alabama could attract. And there are other routes for museum funding, like the Institute of Museum and Library Services. If a project can't get funding through competitive grants, Schatz says, perhaps it shouldn't get funding at all.

"Clearly, no one else has been interested in funding this, so why should we be doing it now?" he asks, referring to all the projects on the U.S. Conference of Mayors list that are using the stimulus as a last-ditch funding effort. "Why should the federal government be doing something now that you couldn't do yourself?"

But with city and state budgets tight, says Ford Bell, the president of the American Association of Museums, it's small wonder that many are turning elsewhere. And, he adds, just because a museum is rural doesn't mean it's doomed to fail, noting the success of a living history museum in Fishers, Ind.

The energy museum speaks to Edwardsville's larger hope: becoming a tourist destination. The town has requested \$37 million for a solar energy-enhanced "scenic railroad line." It's also asking for \$9 million to go toward establishing an eventual 640 acres of vineyards, 160 acres of which would be launched first. Each of the four vineyards would be designed around the theme of a different European country and, in a bid for weddings, dotted with gazebos and chapels.

To some, the vineyards, in particular, seem dubious. The Southeast is subject to a disease that puts traditional European grape varieties out of reach, usually limiting vineyards to the muscadine grape. Partly as a result, vineyards haven't exactly been the region's strong suit. Georgia has just 1,100 acres of vineyards, while Mississippi has 400. (Compare that with California's 800,000 or even Pennsylvania's 12,000.) The 640 acres for vineyards that Edwardsville ultimately wants to establish would nearly double the vineyard acreage of the entire state of [Alabama](#), which is currently at 650.

Funding more than "a fraction of the scope" of neighboring states' vineyards with public money, therefore, would distort the market, says Bill Nelson, president of WineAmerica, the National Association of American Wineries.

It's not yet known whether Edwardsville will get any money from the stimulus package at all. There's no guarantee as to how many projects, if any, on the mayors list will get federal funding. And although \$375 million may seem like a lot of money, it's also a fraction of the \$96,638,419,313 requested by all the towns on the list.

But for Edwardsville, that money—whether seen as "pork" or not—would make a fantasy come true.

"We would love to be the poster child for rural America, for attempting to change through concern for the environment and clean energy," says Phillips. "We think if anyone can do it, we can."

*Read more [stimulus news](#).*

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