

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

May 5, 2009

PRESENT: TammyJo Girard, Evan Grover, Dennis Abbott, Cindy Moore, Jon Gale, Nancy Brandt, Pam Witman, David Lowe, Chief Matt Bors, Dustin Holden, Dave Watkins, Nancy Johnson, Tammy Wells, Tina Cote, Sylvia Hebert, Teamstes Local 340, Fred Fay, Alicia Fisk, Patti berry, Bob Gobeil. Ann Fisher, Kerry and David Thorne, Tom Ursia, Pam L'Heureux, Jason L'Heureux, Willis Lord, Doug Foglio and Steve Harlow.

Opened meeting at 6:00 p.m. by Selectman Abbott with Pledge of Allegiance.

APPOINTMENTS

Tom asked that the board clarify what they are requesting, wanted to know which checklist they are referring to. Stated that a month or so ago Selectman Gale spoke about a procedure manual so after discussing with Patti they thought they might do a flow chart. Explained that most things are handled on a case by case basis. Has found in the past that a flow chart is very easy to follow. Also stated that the ordinances are old and need to be updated but that's a huge task. Would like to suggest a flow chart if that is acceptable. Selectman Gale stated that he wants it to be very simple and can include the necessary forms in a packet and then that they document when and to whom a packet is given. Tom stated that the Planning Board and Selectmen need to change the ordinances as there is no reference to the Town Planner. Selectman Gale stated that if they get the flow chart completed then they will know what areas of the ordinance need to be changed. Tom agreed to having a draft ready in a couple of weeks.

Selectman Abbott stated to Pam L'Heureux that they want to appoint a deputy to make sure we have someone in line in the event she is out of town again in an emergency. Pam stated that she feels that the Chief would be a logical choice and had actually been talking about this last fall. Also stated that she has three (3) people interested in CERT but need to complete the training which they are doing on-line. Reported that we have two (2) new residents who are Red Cross certified. Also reported that she is the First President of the Maine Association of Emergency Managers. Reported that in July FEMA will start matching stipends to FEMA towns but will have more information on that later

HEARING OF DELEGATION

Sylvia Hebert addressed the board asking that they reconsider the budget and to hold a workshop with herself and the membership as they have some great ideas. Selectman Girard stated that they are meeting with the Finance Committee on Wednesday but Tina Cote wasn't sure about them having a quorum for their meeting. Stated that they are looking to change their meetings to Monday or Tuesday nights. Board scheduled to meet with the employees on Thursday at 5:30 pm.

Willis stated that after reading an article in the Journal Tribune he is very upset that they are going back 50 years. Questioned why they are increasing the computer tech and making the town planner full time. Also expressed concern with cutting seal coating. Felt that this is the wrong way to treat the employees and the townspeople. Selectman Girard stated that the Town Planner has been full-time from the beginning, there is no change. Selectman Abbott stated that they are not done with this budget and there will be another vote before it goes in the warrant. At this point nothing is completed, it's still a working budget. Willis also questioned why we still don't have a town report and Selectman Abbott stated that historically they wait for the warrant so it can be a part of the report.

Doug questioned if the board was going to demand that the school turn over the money they have been collecting illegally for Homestead Exemption. At this time that looks like a substantial amount. Felt the town should demand the school to come in with 0% increase or a minus like we are. Selectman Abbott noted that the only way to control the school is by voting.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. Reported that it was announced by the State today that they will be reducing Revenue Sharing which will amount to an additional \$100,000 loss to the town, Homestead Exemption, Tree Growth and the Circuit Breaker Program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Dustin reported that the Road Review Committee has taken custody of the York County speed/traffic counter for a couple of weeks. They are continuing their work in the Old Alfred area and have taken pictures and went around with the Road Commissioner. Next week they are bringing in an outside contract to get an estimate on cost to do the ditching.
2. Selectman Abbott reported that the Transfer Station/Recycling Committee are trying to lessen the congestion in the recycling area.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion by Selectman Grover and seconded by Selectman Moore to appoint Willis Lord to the Transfer Station/Recycling Committee. Vote 5-0-0. Motion by Selectman Grover and seconded by Selectman Gale to reappoint Teresa Lowell to the Planning Board. Vote 5-0-0. Selectman Grover thanked Willis and Teresa for all their work on committees. Motion by Selectman Moore to appoint Chief Bors as Deputy EMA Director. Vote 5-0-0.
2. Selectman Abbott noted that they no longer needed a workshop on partial payments as the Treasurer has explained everything to them.
3. Discussed LD385 and that the state is trying to take away the municipalities right to restrict where sex offenders reside. Stated that MMA has taken a stand in opposition to protect home rule. Motion by Selectman Gale and seconded by Selectman Moore to send the letter prepared by Selectman Grover. Vote 5-0-0.
4. Discussed the contract with Sanford for PSAP/dispatch services. Selectman Girard stated that she has read it and it is a good contract. Motion by Selectman Girard and seconded by Selectman Grover to sign the contract with Sanford Dispatch. Vote 5-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussed the Solid Waste Ordinance and Selectman Abbott stated that they need Clint to answer a couple more questions and he is out of town. Once Kevin Roche and Clint are back will iron out a couple things and then should be ready to move forward.
2. Held discussion on the road budget and ditching specifically. Selectman Girard stated that she wanted to increase the ditching by \$30,000 and Selectman Gale stated that he is where he was last week and even more so with what has recently happened with the state. He thinks there is a possibility of bringing it back if we get money back from the Federal Government for the road work done after the storm. Selectman Moore stated that they have Fred and the Road Review Committee telling them that they need to spend it now or it will be a lot more next year. Selectman Girard stated that now is the time to spend, in the next few years our money will

probably be less. The road will continue to deteriorate and we won't be able to afford to fix them. Selectman Abbott stated that he is still with Selectman Gale and that the Road Review has done a fine job but not sure we need to throw a pile of money at it the first year. If the FEMA money comes back we can then hold a Special Town Meeting. Selectman Grover suggested that the warrant article be written so that if the Finance Committee recommends a higher number then the people have the opportunity to vote either way. Recommended taking \$60,000 out of Chadbourne Ridge Road and put into ditching. Fred stated that if you can do ditching and new cross culverts you can save the road. Stated that you could put in a culvert on Chadbourne Ridge and shim and put that money into ditching and paving. Reminded the board that we did get paid for a culvert on Scooter Way so we need to put in the culvert or pay the money back. Dustin stated that no programs have been going on for years. We are talking about \$30,000 and need to invest a small amount of money to protect what we have left. If we keep letting these roads get to the point where they need reconstruction it will cost millions of dollars. Selectman Moore stated that we are going to cut to the point we don't have a town. Motion by Selectman Girard and seconded by Selectman Moore to take \$35,295 from surplus and put back into ditching. Vote 2-3-0 with Selectmen Abbott, Gale and Grover opposed. Motion by Selectman Gale and seconded by Selectman Grover to follow Selectman Grover's recommendation and move from Chadbourne Ridge Road and put into paving and ditching and if the FEMA money comes that it go to the project. Selectman Girard stated that if reducing the ditching then leave the Chadbourne Ridge Road project alone. Fred questioned if when it gets to town meeting can the voters raise it and was told no so he suggested that they just do the whole job. Selectman Gale stated that they have worked for months to take all this money out and they don't want to put it back in. Selectman Abbott stated that they can always do an LD1 override. Nancy suggested that perhaps the Road Review Committee should come in with a figure to bond and do all the roads. Vote 2-3-0 with Selectmen Abbott, Moore and Girard all opposed. Will now send to the Finance Committee as originally proposed.

OTHER

1. Motion by Selectman Moore and seconded by Selectman Grover to sign the warrants for bills and payroll. Vote 5-0-0.
2. Motion by Selectman Moore and seconded by Selectman Gale to accept the minutes of 4/28/09 as written. Vote 4-0-1 with Selectman Grover abstaining as he was not present for the meeting.
3. Selectman Abbott read the reminders.

DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Committee appointments
2. Budget restructure

Selectman Abbott reminded everyone to continue to recycle, every ton recycled saves \$88.00

Motion by Selectman Gale and seconded by Selectman Girard to recess at 7:45 p.m. until Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.

SIGNED:

1. Warrants for bills & payroll
2. Minutes of 4/28/09
3. Appointment Papers

4. Payment Arrangements
5. Concealed weapon applications

Reconvened at 5:30 p.m. on 5/7/09 by Selectman Abbott with the following present: TammyJo Girard, Evan Grover, Dennis Abbott, Cindy Moore, Jon Gale, Nancy Brandt, David Lowe, Pat Dunn, Sylvia Hebert, Julie Giles, Nancy Johnson, Kerry Thorne, Sharon Reed, Ruth Blake, Brenda Crenner, Frank Allen, Tammy Wells, Patti Berry, Tina Smith, Willis Lord, Matt Bors, Lisa Bennett and Doug Foglio. Sylvia Hebert addressed the board stating that the understanding is that employees represented by the union three (3) are being cut to 32 hours and five (5) to 24 hours for a savings of \$101,388.00. Selectman Girard stated that the amount is a lot more because of the reduction in FICA, retirement and the fact that town hall would be closed one (1) day. Sylvia noted that this is not shown in the budget. Addressed the increases and found a \$36,000 increase for the Town Planner, \$11,000 for the Assessor, the Sheriff which last time was an LD1 override and the tech increasing to 30 hours when employees are being cut to 24 hours which raises the question about what kind of computers we have. Seems you have a tech on whenever there is an employee on. Those four (4) things come up to \$121,000. If everyone went to 32 hours except the Fire Chief and stop the 401K contribution it gets us very close. Also discussed a rolling furlough so employees could collect unemployment the weeks they are not working. Also stated that dept. heads can not do the employees work. Stated that they are asking someone who makes \$60,000 to take a \$3,000 hit and someone who makes \$32,000-\$40,000 to take an \$18,000 hit. Patti questioned the number of photocopiers, questioned if we really need one in every office. Stated that the Town Planner was advertised and voted on by the town as part-time. The Planning Board has used Southern Maine Regional Planning and could again with the applicant paying the fee. Asked that they consider that from 2003-2008 code generated \$166,401 over expenses which was turned back in, it is a revenue generating office. On February 13th suggested areas to raise fees and this has never been on an agenda to consider. Requested that they allow the townspeople to decide by handling this as an LD1 override. Sylvia stated that Brenda is on Social Security and therefore her income is limited and she has offered to work only 3 days per week and keep her insurance which would save \$14,000. Kerry spoke regarding a program that MMA has available for web hosting which is a lot less expensive than Virtual Town Hall. It is based on population and after the initial start up cost of about \$3600. each year after that would be \$700. This would require minimal training and we are currently paying \$31,000. Stated that if they go with an LD1 override she and her deputy would have to recue themselves and deputize a couple ballot clerks to make sure that it is completely legal and above board. Stated that no one has mentioned cheaper insurance, was brought up last year and shot down but suggested it be looked at again. Premium is currently \$648 per month single. Also wanted to discuss cleaning, questioned why we have a cleaning company when we have applications for an \$11.00 per hour position and to date have spent \$14,000 to the cleaning company. Didn't feel we are getting our monies worth. Julie stated that when the previous custodian was here he also mowed the lawn now we're paying another individual to do that. Stated that \$13,000 would be saved on utilities if all employees work 32 hours, suggested that turning back the heat would save some. Explained that if her job is cut back to 24 hours is concerned about the accuracy and if not kept accurate they will pay more to the auditor. Selectman Grover stated that he felt they should look at these suggestions prior to setting the warrant and Selectman Moore stated that she is open to look at them. Sylvia noted that there are over \$200,000 in savings with these suggestions. Patti stated that she spoke on Tuesday with Leo Binette of the Economic Development Committee regarding looking at cleaning up around town. When we are slow is the time to work on enforcement issues. It will be difficult enough to do normal duties in the amount of time proposed. Selectman Gale questioned what would be appropriate to discuss in public and what is Executive Session. Pat explained that if they are

talking about the budget that is public information but any discussion about collective bargaining negotiations is Executive Session. Sylvia reminded them that bargaining unit work can only be done by bargaining unit members. Motion by Selectman Girard and seconded by Selectman Gale to go into Executive Session per 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(E) to consult with legal counsel regarding legal rights and duties. Motion withdrawn. Selectman Grover didn't see much that would require Executive Session. Motion by Selectman Gale and seconded by Selectman Girard to end the workshop. Vote 5-0-0. Selectman Moore questioned if Tuesday to put the warrant out they need a unanimous vote and Selectman Girard stated yes because it is beyond 90 days. Motion by Selectman Girard and seconded by Selectman Gale to go into Executive Session per M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(E) to consult with legal counsel regarding legal rights and duties at 6:07 p.m. Vote 5-0-0. Reconvened at 6:27 p.m. Selectman Abbott noted that they have a session with the Finance Committee on Monday evening. There are some issues that will be considered. Some of the issues brought up need a little clarification, one being the computer tech who also does all the video taping not just the computers. Regarding the Town Planner there was a decision to look for a part-time planner which was unsuccessful, in the Spring of 2007 they advertised for a full-time planner because the board felt the community needed a full-time planner and the funding that was in the system was for a partially funded planner then went back to town meeting last year for the balance of the funding. The Assessor's Office last year was underfunded so they are correcting that. Also explained that they have an agreement with the Sheriff that we fund 32 hours and they pick up the other 8 but perhaps can put that on as an LD1 override, were hoping to avoid that. Nancy explained that an air exchanger was installed in this building which should save 30% in fuel oil and turn off the boiler in the old building in April and not turned back on until October which will also save fuel. Selectman Abbott noted that they have done a number of things at the Fire Stations also to save on fuel. There is some opportunity to do some reconsideration and have no feedback from the Finance Committee yet. Selectman Girard stated that these weren't easy decisions, they had to separate out personalities and positions. She viewed as the 8,000 residents and how best to serve them by which services are a priority and which ones aren't. Selectman Moore stated that she did not feel this is the right year for an LD1 override but has changed her mind and will be looking at the Sheriff for an LD1 override with the Finance Committee on Monday night. Selectman Abbott stated that you can't take \$400,000 out of the budget and keep taxes flat without impacting employees. Sylvia requested that if they do need an LD1 override let it be for the services and let the voters decide what they are willing to pay for. Nancy stated that on the warrant they don't technically need to vote because the requests are in. Selectman Grover felt that Sec. 207 requires a unanimous vote since we don't technically have a warrant now. Ruth stated that she was told there would be a meeting with the Selectmen and Dept. Heads and she was never informed of any meeting. Wondered if they would have the opportunity to discuss this with anyone and Selectman Abbott apologized stating that perhaps he spoke out of turn. Ruth also stated that she had emailed all Selectmen and Nancy about this and received no response. Selectman Grover stated that he did not receive the email and requested that she resend it.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Selectman Gale and seconded by Selectman Girard to adjourn at 6:49 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.

APPROVED:

Date: _____
