

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

August 18, 2009

PRESENT: Gordon Littlefield, Dennis Abbott, Cindy Moore, Jon Gale, Nancy Brandt, David Lowe, Fred Fay, Willis Lord, Jason L'Heureux, Dave Williams, Louis Vitali, Chris Cioffi, Doug Foglio, Alicia Fisk, Harry Heacock, Roger Macomber and Pam L'Heureux.

Motion by Selectman Gale and seconded by Selectman Moore at 5:30 pm to go into Executive Session per 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (E) to consult legal counsel. Jerry Daigle, Sue Berube and Atty. Tim Norton were requested to participate. Voted. Passed. Motion by Selectman Gale and seconded by Selectman Moore to come out of Executive Session at 6:12 p.m. Voted. Passed.

Meeting called to order at 6:20 p.m. by Selectman Abbott with Pledge of Allegiance.

Selectman Abbott requested that those who recycle please continue and thanked them and asked that those not recycling to please start.

APPOINTMENTS

6:00 – Jerry Daigle, Assessor's Agent presented three tax rate proposals and reviewed what make up the tax commitment and explained the valuation. Proposed as follows: \$10.40 generating \$7,785,861 with \$185,997 in overlay, \$10.44 generating \$7,815,804 with \$215,943 in overlay or \$10.50 generating \$7,860,725 with \$260,861 in overlay. Explained that the Tax Collector will receive the commitment once voted on either this week or next and bills will be mailed out by September 9th with due dates of October 6, 2009 and April 6, 2010. Late interest fee will be 9% instead of 11% as last year. Selectman Abbott questioned if \$10.60 would work which would increase the overlay to approximately \$335,000?

6:15 – Doug Foglio explained that the Land Trust has all the work done on the deeds but need some discussion on the mountain property and conservation easements. Requested a meeting between the Board of Directors and the Board of Selectmen. Discussed holding in a couple of weeks. Motion by Selectman Gale and seconded by Selectman Moore to add to the agenda to establish Land Trust meeting night as #7 under New Business. Vote 4-0-0.

6:30 – Opened Public Hearing for Express Events Caterers one day liquor license for an event to be held at Camp Laughing Loon. Event will be for 120 people and held from 5 to 10 pm. Doug questioned if there would be law enforcement present and Selectman Abbott stated that this would be up to the event coordinators, this is only to allow the caterer to serve adult beverages. Closed public hearing.

HEARING OF DELEGATION

Harry Heacock addressed the board stated that the issue is that the lot has been double billed and therefore double paid. Selectman Abbott stated that they will talk with the Assessor. Selectman Gale noted that this has been going on for some time. Selectman Littlefield stated that people in town hall have been working on this but not come to a conclusion yet.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Selectman Abbott reported that he attended the 12 Town Group meeting and there were three issues. First is that the County is looking at a \$1.3 million deficit going into budgeting year which will create a 34 person problem which will cut into rural patrol and discussed how to address this. The other two issues were Tabor II and the excise tax referendum that will both be on the November ballot. September 21st there will be a meeting here for pros and cons on both referendums. This meeting will be televised and Selectman Gale noted that the 12 Town Group should be able to reimburse the expense to televise.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Selectman Gale stated that he would love to see a police officer present at the event to be held at Camp Laughing Loon. Motion by Selectman Littlefield and seconded by Selectman Gale to approve the one day liquor license. Agreed they would need to contact the organizing committee regarding their concerns. Nancy will send a letter and include their concern over parking. Vote 4-0-0.
2. Discussed the \$371,036.24 assessment from the County. Selectman Abbott stated that they are asking for half the payment on September 1st. Nancy stated that we received a letter in March requesting half in April and half in September and sent a letter March 11th stating they would not be sending until the tax cycle as funds would not be available. Selectman Abbott noted that they do not have legal authority to do this, the statute requires all be paid by October 31st. Noted that they are on a calendar year and any town on a fiscal year would need to raise three halves to make the transition. Will send them another letter stated that they will be paid October 31st as required by law.
3. Discussed the tax rate and Jerry provided the figures showing that raising to \$10.60 is a 1.9% increase in the tax rate with an overlay of \$336,000. If the referendum goes through we would not have to go back to raise more money just adjust where the funds come from. Selectman Gale noted that overlay is to cover abatements and we have had a lot of them. Nancy stated that they cut back town office hours to 32 hours to keep the tax rate down and now they are going to increase taxes anyway. Selectman Gale stated that the reduction was partly for LD1. Selectman Abbott noted that County Tax and SAD 57 also went up and that the school alone went up \$200,000 so a 2% increase won't even cover that so felt they did their job. Selectman Gale stated that with overlay you are not spending those funds so if they don't need them for abatements can use against next years taxes. Motion by Selectman Gale and seconded by Selectman Moore to set the tax rate at \$10.60. Selectman Littlefield questioned if this will be enough if the referendum passes. Selectman Abbott stated that the maximum they can raise is \$10.66. Selectman Gale stated that if it passes they will need a Special Town Meeting anyway. Vote 4-0-0 to set the rate at \$10.60.
4. Deferred the discussion on the Selectmen's task force for another week.
5. Selectman Abbott felt they should get the Finance Committee together to discuss their goals and objectives. Selectman Moore stated that she would like the Finance Committee to decide what their goals are and how much time they want to put into it. Dave Williams stated that he felt it is up to the Board of Selectmen to set the goals and for the committee to achieve them. With no direction from the board there is no direction for the Finance committee. Selectman Abbott felt it would be beneficial to all sit down and discuss. Stated that the Charter defines their role but Selectman Moore felt that is very vague. Selectman Gale stated that he would like an agenda prior to the meeting, he and Selectman Moore will come up with an agenda and he requested that the Finance Committee get together and also come up with ideas for the agenda. Scheduled the workshop for Monday, September 14th at 6 pm.
6. Motion by Selectman Moore and seconded by Selectman Gale to appoint Roger Macomber to the Road Review Committee. Vote 4-0-0.
7. Scheduled workshop with the Land Trust Board of Directors for September 3rd at 6 pm. Nancy will notify the Land Trust.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Selectman Littlefield stated that he has nothing formalized on the recognition program yet so will put off to a later date.
2. Will move discussion of goals and objectives to next week at 5:30 if Tom is available.
3. Requested a list of town owned properties before discussing the policy to dispose of them.

OTHER

1. Motion by Selectman Littlefield and seconded by Selectman Gale to sign the warrants for bills and payroll. Vote 4-0-0.
2. Motion by Selectman Gale and seconded by Selectman Littlefield to accept the minutes of 8/11/09 as written. Vote 4-0-0.

3. Selectman Abbott read the reminders.
4. Discussed if there has been a change of use at Camp Laughing Loon.

DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Update on facility security
2. Sullies liquor license renewal

SIGNED:

1. Warrants for bills & payroll
2. Minutes of 8/11/09
3. Express Events Caterers one day liquor license
4. Concealed weapon application
5. D & E contract

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Selectman Moore and seconded by Selectman Gale to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Vote 4-0-0.

APPROVED:

Date: _____
