

SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
January 10, 2012

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Selectman Woodsome was not present for this): Selectman Girard moved to go into Executive Session per Title 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (F) to discuss a poverty abatement, seconded by Selectman Abbott, voted and passed, **4 yeas**. Selectman Girard moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Selectman Abbott, voted and passed, **4 yeas**.

PRESENT: Chairman Littlefield, Selectmen: Woodsome, Gale, Girard & Abbott, Roger Bouffard with an unidentified man, an unidentified woman & David Lowe. Pat Aureli and another woman arrived after the start of the meeting.

Chairman Littlefield opened the meeting at 6:02 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

HEARING OF DELEGATION: None

CORRESPONDENCE: Chairman Littlefield reviewed the following correspondence:

1. Rep. Libby's newsletter
2. Ecomaine recycling totals for November 2011 and for 7/1/11 through 11/20/11
3. Recycling figures for 2011 from Grimmel Industries, Inc.
4. Motor Vehicle Agent report
5. Treasurer's weekly financial reports
6. Confidential correspondence from Town Attorney re: lawsuit
7. FEMA approved project application
8. Copy of CEO's letter to Richard & Jean Liden

REPORTS: Selectmen's Report: Chairman Littlefield reported that he attended the Historical Society's Christmas tree bonfire at the Taylor House. A number of people attended and it was a good time.

Selectman Girard gave a reminder that tomorrow night is the York County Budget public hearing at 7 pm at the Alfred Courthouse in the basement.

Transfer Station Manager Report: Chairman Littlefield reviewed a report provided by the Transfer Station Manager, Clint Andrews, containing the following:

- The small cardboard compactor has been retrofitted to accept large pieces of furniture. These items used to be sent to a landfill. Now Ecomaine accepts this material for incineration for waste to energy. This saves \$19 a ton and is considered recycling which raises the recycling rate.
- 2011 calendar year material handling totals for the State year-end report.
- Household waste is down 437.46 tons. This is mainly due to a policy change and the town no longer pays any contractor tipping fees for loads sent directly to Ecomaine.

Ecomaine Representative Report: Selectman Abbott, Ecomaine Representative, reported on the following:

- 18-19% of the household waste going to Ecomaine is single sort recycling, not including the metals and other things.

- The EPA has indicated that waste is on the up rise countrywide. Ecomaine's waste over the last 5 -6 years has steadily declined.
- Ecomaine burns household waste for the waste to energy program. Ferrous metals are removed from the remaining ash and the ash is sent to a landfill. Reserve Management Group has been contracted by Ecomaine to mine metals from ash that has been buried. In the first month, the company mined 100 tons of metal from the ash. The ash is returned to the landfill.
- The Zero Waste Challenge is under way with Mr. Pope, a teacher at the Middle School. The program, through Poland Springs and the Chewonki Foundation, is a learning project for students and encourages the reduction of waste in schools across Maine. The Middle School has submitted a zero waste plan for review. Three winning plans will be announced in February. Winners will receive a cash prize to implement the zero waste program. Selectman Woodsome commented that it would be nice to invite Mr. Pope and the students to a meeting to hear about what they have done and thank them for their efforts.
- A bill is being heard by the Joint Standing Committee on Environmental & Natural Resources. It is LD879 - An Act to Ensure Adequate Landfill Capacity in the State for Solid Waste. This is a carryover from last session. This LD somewhat endorses solid waste landfilling. The argument from some is why endorse burying solid waste when there are other alternatives.

Transfer Station & Recycling Committee Report: Committee Chair Pat Aureli reported on the following:

- The Committee is now fully staffed and they are looking at implementing some new strategies and plans for this year.
- The Committee plans to nominate the Transfer Station staff for the 2012 eco-Excellence Award from Ecomaine.
- Mr. Pope is doing a great job at the Middle School implementing a test program to see how much waste is being generated and how much recycling can be done. A full report is not yet available but as of Oct. 25th Mr. Pope reported that what has been recycled represents a \$2,500 savings. When the program is complete, we should have more information on what can be implemented to save additional funds by recycling. The students have been very enthusiastic about participating in this zero waste program and are doing a great job. They are also considering a compost program at the school. This could lead to a gardening program for the school using the compost. Selectman Girard commented that a successful gardening program has been implemented by Waterboro resident Fran Poisson at a Saco school where she works and she would be a good contact. Selectman Abbott commented that schools in Wells send their compostable waste to Tibbetts Farm and Mr. Pope was going to look into this. Selectman Gale said that there has been some talk about starting a community garden where compost could be used. Chairman Littlefield mentioned Selectman Woodsome's idea about having Mr. Pope attend a meeting with some students to talk about the program and Ms. Aureli said she will speak with Mr. Pope about this.
- Recycling rates are at 18% and household waste tonnage was down. This was expected.

- The new compactor seems to be functioning smoothly and she is not aware of any problems with it.
- “No Dumping” signage installation is still pending.
- The Committee hopes to do some projects this spring for various events like Earth Day. They plan to discuss having a “clean up Waterboro” day to collect trash along the roadside and things like that and hope to have students and community organizations participate in this.

Chairman Littlefield asked if they are planning any sales, like the household recycling bins. Ms. Aureli said yes, they hope to offer these again and they still have 9 or 10 left. The Board discussed composting and Ms. Aureli said there is a composting class through Massabesic Center for Adult Learning if anyone is interested. The Board thanked Ms. Aureli for her report.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discuss/vote on poverty abatement request discussed in today’s executive session: Selectman Girard moved to deny the abatement request, seconded by Selectman Gale, voted and passed, **4 yeas, 1 abstention (Woodsome).**

2. Discuss/vote on property tax abatement, Jerry Daigle’s letter of 01/04/ 2012: Selectman Abbott moved to endorse Mr. Daigle’s opinion and deny the abatement request, seconded by Selectman Girard, voted and passed, **5 yeas.**

3. Discuss/vote on property tax abatement (executive session of 11/8/11): Selectman Girard moved to deny the abatement request, seconded by Selectman Woodsome, voted and passed, **5 yeas.**

4. Discuss/vote to accept the resignation of a member of the 20/20 Committee: Selectman Girard moved to accept the resignation of Kent Whitten from the 20/20 Committee with regret, seconded by Selectman Gale, voted and passed, **5 yeas.**

5. Discuss/vote on Lessee’s Authorizing Resolution (Caterpillar Lease): Selectman Abbott moved to approve the Lessee’s Authorization Resolution as presented in attachment B of the lease, seconded by Selectman Girard, voted and passed, **5 yeas.**

6. Discuss the Town Report : Selectman Girard suggested dedicating the Town Report to Jon Tufts and explained that Mr. Tufts passed away in July. He served both his country and his community. He served on the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Road Review Committee, Fair Hearing Committee and Assessing Board of Review. He was well known and well liked and it would be a nice dedication. Selectman Gale agreed. Selectman Girard moved to nominate Jon Tufts as the resident to dedicate the Town Report to, seconded by Selectman Gale, voted and passed, **5 yeas.** Selectman Abbott asked if Ms. Brandt or the staff have made any recommendations for a dedication. Chairman Littlefield indicated that he was not aware of any. Selectman Woodsome asked if recognition is given to people that are still alive. Selectman Girard said that during the past couple of years, the Town Report has been dedicated to two people. Selectman Abbott asked if anyone watching the meeting has suggestions for a dedication to please notify the office.

7. Discuss the January 26th meeting with all board & committee members: Selectman Abbott asked if we have an updated presentation on the right to know law. He would like to have something up to date and suggested bringing someone in. Selectman Gale said that we want this meeting to be worth everyone’s time and want to

have something worthwhile. Selectman Abbott said the right to know and conflicts of interest will be discussed. We should also talk about effective meeting presentation/preparing an agenda. Selectman Girard pointed out that there are two sessions scheduled. The first session will be with the Chairmen to talk about effective meetings and agendas. Selectman Girard suggested Ms. Brandt check with MMA to see if there is someone available to give a presentation for this. The second session will be with all board and committee members and we can discuss right to know & conflict of interest. Selectman Girard would like IT Director Dave Lowe to give a presentation on using the town e-mail because she has noticed some committee members using their personal e-mail for town business. Selectman Gale commented that he had attended a workshop at MMA. Selectman Girard said we also should cover what constitutes a meeting and meeting postings. Selectman Gale commented that in his experience, the most effective committees are the ones that have a goal that is well defined. Selectman Girard asked if the Board would like to require that meeting agendas be submitted to the town. Selectman Abbott said he would like them to have agendas, but not necessarily filed with the town. Chairman Littlefield commented that based on what we were told by the attorneys at the last annual meeting, an agenda is important. If we want transparency in government, then we have to have the information out there. There should also be minutes of the meetings. Chairman Littlefield said that it is also important to have something tangible as an end result. Selectman Abbott asked if we should have a backup night if there is inclement weather. February 2nd was chosen as a backup date.

OLD BUSINESS: None

OTHER:

1. Moved by Selectman Abbott, seconded by Selectman Gale to sign warrants for bills and payroll, voted and passed, **5 years.**
2. Moved by Selectman Gale, seconded by Selectman Woodsome to accept the minutes of the 01/03/12 regular meeting as written, voted and passed, **5 years.**

PENDING DECISIONS

1. Public Service Announcements: Selectman Gale is working on something for this
2. Committee self-evaluations: provide the self-evaluation at the meeting on Jan. 26th
3. Work with Logan Circle residents on water runoff issue : continuing
4. Review Driveway Opening Permit language: pending
5. Board & Committee status: working towards filling the committees, if anyone is interested please complete an application
6. Water District survey: has been sent out, waiting for returns
7. Water District office space lease: being reviewed

WEEK'S ACTION LIST:

1. Contact MMA and others about Jan. 26th meeting presentation and report back next week
2. Follow up on Eagle Scout project

DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Update on presentations for Jan. 26th meeting with boards & committees

2. Further discuss the Town Report
3. Discuss the Eagle Scout project

Selectman Woodsome commented that Waterboro doesn't seem to do anything to honor the veterans. He asked if there are any veterans interested in organizing a project to honor our veterans to contact him.

Chairman Littlefield read the reminders.

ADJOURNMENT: Selectman Woodsome moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm, seconded by Selectman Abbott, voted and passed, **5 yeas**.

SIGNED:

1. Warrants for bills & payroll
2. Minutes of 01/03/12

APPROVED: Date: _____
