

SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
February 28, 2012

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Selectman Abbott moved to go into executive session at 5:13 pm per Title 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(A) for the Town Planner's performance review, seconded by Selectman Gale, voted and passed, **5 yeas**. Selectman Abbott moved to come out of executive session at 6:00 pm, seconded by Selectman Girard, voted and passed, **5 yeas**.

PRESENT: Chairman Littlefield, Selectmen: Woodsome, Gale, Girard & Abbott, Christian Elkington & David Lowe. Nancy Brandt, Dianne Holden, Jerry Daigle, Atty. Michael O'Toole and Harry Heacock arrived during appointments. Rep. Aaron Libby arrived during new business #1.

Chairman Littlefield opened the meeting at 6:05 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed the viewing audience.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

APPOINTMENTS: Chairman Littlefield welcomed Massabesic High School Principal Christian Elkington for coming in to discuss the school's accreditation. Mr. Elkington distributed some information to the Selectmen and reported on the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation. NEASC is the accreditation program that covers New England. Mr. Elkington reviewed results of the 2011 process. The NEASC Commission voted to continue full accreditation for Massabesic High School with 58 commendations and 55 recommendations. The school has been placed on warning status for three areas, community resources for learning, core values & beliefs and learning expectations & curriculum. Mr. Elkington explained the reasons for the warning status and plans for improvement. Mr. Elkington answered some questions and the Board thanked him for coming.

HEARING OF DELEGATION: None

CORRESPONDENCE: Chairman Littlefield reviewed the following correspondence:

1. Tax Collector's Report
2. Motor Vehicle Agent's Report
3. General Assistance Director's Report
4. Maine Historic Preservation Commission nomination approval for Waterboro Grange Hall to be considered for addition to the National Register of Historic Places
5. Treasurer's Weekly Financial Reports
6. Invitation from Southern Maine Agency on Aging to participate in Annual Mayors for Meals Day
7. Rep. Libby's newsletter

REPORTS: Selectmen's Report: Chairman Littlefield reported that the Charter Review Commission has placed a short survey on the Town website that they would like Waterboro residents to complete to assist the Commission in making their recommendations.

Town Administrator's Report: Ms. Brandt reported that work on the budget continues and the next step is to review the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) requests.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discuss/vote on property tax abatement request for tax map 28, lot 10: Atty: Michael O'Toole stated that he represents the Heacocks and the Pipers in this matter. This abatement request was originally heard in April 2012 and was subsequently denied and then appealed. Superior Court has ordered that the Selectmen hear the request and vote again due to the lack of an official written decision from the Board for the previous denial. Atty. O'Toole outlined the reason for the abatement request. Mr. Heacock addressed the Board regarding the request. Selectman Girard moved to grant the abatement of taxes for 2010 so that the valuation for 2010 would be \$235,800 or \$117,900 for each party because the property is split between two parties for 2010 and to deny the abatement request for 2008 and 2009 based on the fact that no proof for double billing was presented for 2008 and 2009, seconded by Selectman Abbott, voted and passed, **5 years**. Atty. O'Toole asked why the abatement for 2008 and 2009 was not granted when the 2010 abatement was granted. Selectman Abbott responded that the request for the 2008 and 2009 abatement was made based on the reason that it was a double billing. Mr. Daigle elaborated to say that the appraisal used in the request for the abatement was conducted in 2010 and cannot be applied backwards to the previous years. Mr. Heacock thanked the Board and said that this is nothing personal. Chairman Littlefield replied that this is understood.

2. Discuss/vote on partial payment waivers for property tax accounts: Selectman Girard moved to approve the partial payment waivers (4 accounts) as recommended by the Tax Collector, seconded by Selectman Abbott, voted and passed, **5 years**.

OLD BUSINESS: None

OTHER:

1. Moved by Selectman Abbott, seconded by Selectman Girard to sign warrants for bills and payroll, voted and passed, **4 years (Selectman Woodsome had left the room temporarily and did not vote on this item).**
2. Moved by Selectman Gale, seconded by Selectman Abbott to accept the minutes of the 2/21/12 regular meeting as written, voted and passed, **4 years (Selectman Woodsome had left the room temporarily and did not vote on this item).**

WEEK'S ACTION LIST:

1. Mr. Daigle will prepare the written decision for the abatement decision.

Selectman Girard pointed out that Rep. Aaron Libby had arrived and asked if he had information on what is happening in Augusta for the Board. Chairman Littlefield recognized Rep. Libby. Rep Libby reported that the supplemental budget was passed and has been signed by the Governor. This will address the shortfall for 2012. A shortfall of \$80 million for 2013 will be addressed next. Rep. Libby said that he met with the Road Commissioner on Friday morning to discuss some concerns and Rep. Libby will set up a meeting with the DOT Commissioner. Rep. Libby reported that there was a York County Delegation meeting today. They discussed a bill from last session, LD 627, which goes into effect today to add a new machining program at York County

Community College. The College is also seeking private donations to assist with the cost of adding this program. Some bond questions being discussed that relate to York County that we may see are Eastern Trail funding, York County machine tool funding, small harbor improvement program funding and Mountain Division Rail Line funding. They discussed the gateway bridges which are the 3 bridges that connect to Maine. The bridge on Route 1 is under construction. Demolition should be complete in June and the new bridge is proposed to be open in July 2013. Rep. Libby stated that he did look into questions raised by Chairman Littlefield about the supplemental budget effect on the local budget relating to school enrollment and Chairman Littlefield said he would check with the Superintendent of Schools. Selectman Woodsome asked about a school voucher program. Rep. Libby said there are some bills in the works relating to school vouchers (to allow students to choose the school they wish to attend instead of being assigned to a school based on their residence) but these have not come to the floor yet for discussion. Rep. Libby reported that U.S. Senator Olympia Snowe has decided not to seek reelection. Selectman Girard asked if Rep. Libby knew when the Public Safety Committee work session on LD 1711 that was postponed on Thursday will be held and Rep. Libby said he will check for her. The Board thanked Rep. Libby for his report.

DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Discuss the Town Planner's contract
2. Have a budget workshop to review CIPs.

Chairman Littlefield read the reminders.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Selectman Gale moved to go into executive session at 8:08 pm per Title 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(E) to consult about a legal matter, seconded by Selectman Girard, voted and passed, **5 yeas**. Selectman Woodsome moved to come out of executive session at 8:15 pm, seconded by Selectman Gale, voted and passed, **5 yeas**.

ADJOURNMENT: Selectman Woodsome moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm, seconded by Selectman Gale, voted and passed, **5 yeas**.

SIGNED:

1. Warrants for bills & payroll
2. Minutes of 2/21/12

APPROVED: Date: _____

