

SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
April 17, 2012

PRESENT: Chairman Littlefield, Selectmen: Woodsome, Gale, Girard & Abbott, Nancy Brandt, Brigit McCallum, Jack Seery, Dianne Holden, Tina Cote, Jerry Daigle, Roger Lauzier & David Lowe.

Chairman Littlefield opened the meeting at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Littlefield extended condolences on behalf of the Board to Pam L'Heureux and her family on the death of her mother.

Chairman Littlefield congratulated 17 year old resident and Parks & Recreation Department's summer employee Amanda Raymond for winning a piano competition at the Portland Conservatory of Music. She will move on to another competition at the First Parish Church in Portland. Amanda previously won first place at the Bangor Symphony Orchestra High School Concerto competition.

APPOINTMENTS: None

HEARING OF DELEGATION: Brigit McCallum, President- Waterboro Library Board of Trustees, addressed the Board with concerns about the exterior of the Library. One issue is the state of the parking lot. When the lot was plowed in the winter, some of the pavement was plowed onto the lawn. Ms. McCallum provided pictures and explained that mowing will be difficult. She said that the parking lot is in bad shape and something really needs to be done. Ms. McCallum also showed pictures of the exterior of the Library that needs to be painted. There is an issue with hornet nests. Ms. Brandt explained that the Custodian and the Road Commissioner are going to look into the issue with the parking lot to see what can be done and funds for painting are in the proposed budget for July 1st. Ms. Brandt said that someone will have to come in to spray for the hornet issue and we are not allowed to do it ourselves because of State regulations. Selectman Gale recognized that the Town has shied away from major projects in anticipation of a new library. Now that there will not be a new library and we will be there for some time, he is in favor efforts to have the library look good.

CORRESPONDENCE: Chairman Littlefield reviewed the following correspondence:

1. Ecomaine recycling reports
2. Time Warner Cable's routine notice re: programmer and broadcaster agreements
3. March 2012 Motor Vehicle Agent report
4. Treasurer's weekly financial reports
5. Rep. Libby's newsletter
6. **CONFIDENTIAL** – Complaint

REPORTS: Selectmen's Reports: Selectman Girard reported that the Twelve Town Group met last night with 7 towns represented and they discussed the following:

- Lee Burnett spoke representing a group called Forest Works that is a nonprofit organization working to preserve large tracts of forested land. People are selling and subdividing these forested lots for development. There are 10 communities currently

utilizing the resources of Forest Works. There are 370 jobs in these 10 towns related to forested lands. They reviewed the benefits of forested lands.

- Acton resident Tom Cashin gave a presentation regarding concerns with greenhouse gases and the political climate doing nothing. There is a petition circulating in Acton to put an article on the November ballot to state that the citizens want the Government to start working towards finding a solution. Mr. Cashin would like to see all of the towns in York County put this question on their ballots for November.
- There is another TABOR initiative in the works.
- York County has made some cuts to what the Budget Committee approved that will leave the County with about \$500,000. Instead of putting this money into the undesignated surplus account, they have found other ways to spend it. This includes money that the Budget Committee put in for York County shelters and the County has decided not to fund this and will spend the money elsewhere.
- The Maine Heritage Policy Center is suing the Maine Municipal Association claiming that MMA is a government entity and should not be permitted to provide funding to defeat past TABOR initiatives. MMA says they are not a government entity and they represent municipalities and TABOR would adversely affect municipalities so of course they would put funds into defeating it. This lawsuit has gone to a federal law court.

Selectman Woodsome asked if they talked about ways to encourage people to hold onto the forested land. Selectman Girard replied that they talked about tree growth and related tax breaks. The group is in the process of creating a website where you can see what different types of wood sell for. They are also trying to get recreational groups involved.

Selectman Gale commented on Mr. Cashin's presentation about greenhouse gases and said that part of the problem is political. There is one stance that there is a problem and another stance that there isn't a problem.

Selectman Abbott reported on Ecomaine. In the month of March there was a 20% recycling rate. Of the 25 towns that recycle at Ecomaine, Pownal has the highest rate at 44.6% with a population of 1,600 and Limington has the lowest rate at 6.3% with a population of 3,900. The overall average of recycling at Ecomaine is about 29% and we are at about 20%. Selectman Gale said that Pownal has a group of very active people that are really pushing for recycling and that makes a difference. Selectman Abbott said that some communities mandate recycling with curbside pick-up. Chairman Littlefield pointed out that our rate is 20% and recycling is voluntary and Hollis's rate is 26% and recycling is mandatory. Selectman Abbott said that many of the communities with high recycling rates do not allow for any commercial waste disposal and Waterboro does, this affects the rate. Selectman Gale said that if a big push is made to increase recycling some may see it as infringement on freedom but it is also a means to save tax dollars. Selectman Woodsome said that he served on the Transfer Station/Recycling Committee for 10 years and they made bold steps to increase recycling and it was a waste of time and he would not support another effort. Selectman Abbott said to increase the rate comes at a cost but there would be long term payoffs.

Town Administrator's Report: Ms. Brandt said that she will provide during the agenda.

Transfer Station Manager: The Transfer Station Manager was not present. He provided a written report that was read by Ms. Brandt including the following:

- The Composting Report and the 2011 Year-End Report have been completed and submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection
- A proposal from Marshall Specialty Grinding to grind the demolition, woodpile and brush has been received. Grinding will begin May 1st and the material will be tested and shipped to Sappi in Westbrook to be burned for waste to energy.
- Two 40-yard heavy duty open top containers have been ordered and will be delivered by Atlantic Recycling in early May.
- The March recycling rate for household waste shipped to Ecomaine is 20.24% and the average from July 1 – March 31 is 19.79%. Thank you to those that currently recycle. If you do not recycle, please consider starting, it has never been easier and will seriously decrease the solid waste budget. 450.6 tons of recycling last year saved tax payers \$45,000.
- The Transfer Station is selling compost bins through this month. Order now for bins, rain barrels, wing diggers and small garbage pails. Order forms are available at town hall and at the Transfer Station.
- The Transfer Station is becoming increasingly busy with spring cleanup/cleanout.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss/vote on a property tax abatement request for map 12 lot 6 B

recommended for denial by the Assessor's Agent: Assessor's Agent Jerry Daigle reviewed the request and his recommendation for denial. Selectman Gale moved to accept the Assessor's Agent's recommendation for denial, seconded by Selectman Abbott. Selectman Girard asked what the issue was with the applicant's assumption that the value was going to be a lot less because of a conversation they had with Mr. Daigle and he explained. Tina Cote asked how abatement decisions are made and the Board explained. The motion was then voted and passed, **5 yeas**.

2. Discuss the 20/20 Committee's request for advice on where to start with the infrastructure chapter work next fiscal year: Selectman Girard said she would like to see work begin on buildings, what we have now, what we have to do to maintain them and what do we need. Selectman Gale said we should also look at what we need 10 years from now and 20 years from now to serve the citizens. He would also like to see work on town roads and water studies. Selectman Abbott disagreed and said that the buildings should be a smaller piece. A comprehensive plan looks at land use, regulatory use, etc. Selectman Abbott does not disagree that facilities should be looked at but not necessarily as part of the Committee's efforts. He feels by far it is roads that have to be looked at. Ms. Brandt agreed that the infrastructure includes roads, water and wastewater. After further discussion the Board decided to schedule a time to meet with the 20/20 Committee to discuss this further.

3. Conduct the 3rd Quarter Budget Review: Selectman Abbott moved to postpone discussion of New Business item #3 until after New Business item #4 and the 2 Old Business items, seconded by Selectman Girard, voted and passed, **5 yeas**. This was discussed after review of the Pending Decisions. Chairman Littlefield asked Ms. Brandt to review any departments that have expended over 75% of their total budget. Ms. Brandt reviewed departments that were over 75% expended and answered questions

from the Board. The Board asked Ms. Brandt to find savings in other areas to offset the overages. Ms. Brandt said she has notified employees that there should be operational spending only.

4. Discuss/vote on committee appointments (1-Old Home Days/1-Conservation Commission): Selectman Girard moved to appoint Virginia Schaefer to the Old Home Days Committee and to appoint Peter Cote to the Conservation Commission, seconded by Selectman Abbott, voted and passed, **5 years**.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discuss issue at the boat launch with a hole that needs to be filled: Ms. Brandt reviewed 4 options: 1) obtain a permit with DEP & the Army Corp of Engineers with a cost of \$915.00 to put in small riprap material in an approximate 100 square foot area, 2) install additional cement ramp planks - waiting on the cost for this, 3) fill the hole using surrounding material that is already in the water as is allowed, and 4) in the fall when we lower the lake we can pull out the cement ramp planks that are there now and reposition them and possibly add additional ones to extend it. Chairman Littlefield said that this was discussed at the Charter Review Commission meeting last night with the Road Commissioner and a member of MDOT. Their input is to wait until fall. They are not in favor of the riprap because it could cause problems with damage to boats and motors. The cement ramps there currently are tilted and they will have to be repositioned. We have to be careful doing this so they do not break. Selectman Abbott suggested filling in the hole with surrounding material now and then make plans to reposition the ramps in the fall. The Board agreed.

2. Discuss/vote to approve the Live-In Partners FEMA Grant Commitment:

Selectman Gale moved to approve the Live-In Partners FEMA Grant Commitment, seconded by Selectman Girard. Selectman Gale explained that the money would come from FEMA if granted through Southern Maine Community College. After much discussion the Board decided to postpone action on this item to next week and ask Chief Bors to attend the meeting to answer their questions.

OTHER:

1. Moved by Selectman Woodsome, seconded by Selectman Gale, to sign warrants for bills and payroll, voted and passed, **5 years**.

2. Moved by Selectman Woodsome seconded by Selectman Gale, to accept the minutes of the 4/10/12 regular meeting as written, voted and passed, **5 years**.

PENDING DECISIONS

1. Public Service Announcements: Equipment upgrade is in place and work is underway

2. Review Driveway Opening Permit language: Selectman Girard will work on this with the Road Commissioner

3. Board & Committee status: Chairman Littlefield reviewed the remaining vacancies, interested residents should contact the town office for more information

4. Water District survey: This will be covered next week

5. Water District office space lease: Waiting for a reply from the Water District

7. Internet and Electronic Mail Policy revisions: Under review

New Business Item 3 was discussed now, see new business item 3.

WEEK'S ACTION LIST:

The Town Administrator will provide information on hours for the Road Department, will ask for a General Assistance Report, and will ask that the Planning Board be paid monthly

DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1. Receive an update on the personal property collection process.
- 2. Ask Chief Bors to attend next week to discuss the Live In Partners Grant
- 3. Discuss signage for the parks

Chairman Littlefield read the meeting reminders.

Selectman Girard cautioned the public that there are very dangerous conditions for fires now and no burning permits have been issued.

Chairman Littlefield reminded everyone that nomination papers are due on Friday, April 20th for local offices.

ADJOURNMENT: Selectman Abbott moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Selectman Gale, voted and passed, **5 years**.

SIGNED:

- 1. Warrants for bills & payroll
- 2. Minutes of 4/10/12

APPROVED: Date: _____
