



Selectmen Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 10, 2015
Town Office @ 6:00 PM

Call to Order/Roll Call: The Selectmen meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman George Jellison. In attendance: David Minctons, Tom Benson, Lydia Goetze, Town Manager Don Lagrange and Town Clerk Marilyn Lowell. Dan Norwood was excused.

Visitors to be heard not on the agenda: None

David Minctons moved to accept the minutes of the October 27, 2015 public hearing, seconded by Tom Benson and voted in favor 3/0/1 with Lydia Goetze abstaining. David Minctons moved to accept the minutes of the October 27, 2015 regular Selectmen meeting, second by Tom Benson and voted in favor 3/0/1 with Lydia Goetze abstaining.

Old Business:

a. County Update, Commissioner Antonio Blasi summarized the County's fiscal position. Town manager inquired where the funds from the wind power project were being used and Commissioner Blasi stated they are discretionary funds. Lagrange queried why these funds were not made part of the County budget to reduce the tax burden to municipalities and Blasi stated he is the only one of three commissioners who tried to do this. Manager Lagrange stated these additional funds which nearly totaled three hundred thousand could help reduce Southwest Harbor county tax liability of over \$260,000 to the county.

b. Jim Colquoun of the Shellfish Committee suggested no changes from previous year license allocation stating there is not sufficient stock to allow commercial harvesting permits, but there are sufficient stocks for recreational permits. Tom Benson moved to continue with no commercial permits and unlimited recreational permits. Seconded by Lydia Goetze and voted in favor 4/0/0.

c. Manager Lagrange stated the construction for the public bathrooms continues to progress within the budget however is slightly falling behind on the schedule. We continue to wait for Fairpoint to replace the utility pole.

d. Lagrange reported the construction activities on Forest Avenue is completed and the full width of the road was paved without any increase in the budget due to the reallocation of trench paving. The 8 inch water main and all service valves have been replaced.

e. Lagrange suggested the proposal to purchase the Knot property for additional parking be put to the voters again and that perhaps the Town did not fully understand future consequences for lack of parking. He stated the lower town dock cost over \$260,000 for major upgrades and the Manset pier would require \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 for the long term upgrade. Meanwhile, temporary bandages will be ongoing. He stated economic develop to increase revenue would be a means to help defray the replacement cost but without that support, either user fees would have to be tripled or taxes increase to pay for this expense.

New Business:

a. Chief Allan Brown reported that Officer Merchant will be leaving the Southwest Harbor Police Department near the end of November for employment with the Ellsworth Police Department. The Town will be reimbursement \$24,000 per rules of the

Maine Justice Academy. The Chief submitted an employment notice to Brian MacMaster for statewide distribution as well as to MCJA for applicants.

Oktoberfest was a two day event this year which went without any major issues. Due to staffing issues the Hancock County Sheriff's Department was able to assist with security fostering interagency cooperation. Chief Willis of Mount Desert was willing to assist but also had significant staffing issues that weekend.

The MDI Marathon went without major issue. There has been discussion about reversing the route with the marathon beginning in Southwest Harbor and attended the 'after action' review on November 5, 2015. Discussed above items as well as related public safety concerns for next year's event.

Currently working with Chief Willis to bring agency policy & procedures into compliance and standardized between agencies. He also acknowledge being sponsored and accepted as a regular member of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association

In correspondence with Bob Bickmore of CES who is the Town's IT regarding the current computer issues at the Police Department it was advised to replace following with priorities according to the order: 1) Watchguard router; 2) Server; 3) Battery backup; 4) Backup hard drives; 5) Network switch; 6) Desktop computers (4); 6) Hard drive – chief's office.

b. Harbormaster Adam Thurston reported the Manset floats will start coming out last week of October. We had been using the old loader to launch and haul out Manset fingers, I am confident we will be able to do the same with the new one. The fork lift attachment should come in handy. This winter I am switching out the upper and lower floats with relief floats stored at Chalmers. There will be two large floats at upper and two at lower (not the usual three). The Upper Town fingers are too heavy for the Towns loader so they will be hauled out by Chalmers four to a time as usual. I have 4 speed buoys to take up and store, and 7 moorings that I winterize myself.

So this year I will have 8 large floats 8 upper town fingers and 11 Manset fingers in the dirt lot for the winter. It would be helpful if I could hire a guy to help me for a week scraping and painting, we will see how the budget works out.

I would like to replace another ladder at Manset on the finger float side with another steel one identical to the hoist ladder, I believe I have \$900 in CIP, ladder cost is \$850.

I have issued 20 or so new spots this year in the harbor. The only problem I am having is that some moorings outside the inner harbor are being discontinued. These moorings start at Clark Pt and go north to Fernald cove. This is mostly due to houses being on the market, sold or the residents are aging and are not able to use the moorings. As always I give people on the waiting list to an option to set in these areas if they do not want to wait on the list. This area is difficult because there is no public access north of Clark Point.

We have received the payment from Cranberry Island ferry for this year's upper town dock usage \$1199.50. I informed them that we would be doing a set price for next year and they would be receiving the bill in the spring. I would recommend \$1200 unless we start seeing an increase in usage. That also means that 2,399 people walked on to the ferry, this does not include the resident boat owners. CIP shows Upper town replacement in 2020 I will do what I can to maintain. The upper finger floats will definitely need attention before 2020, they are scheduled for 2018. I refastened all of them and changed out some styrofoam last year but some of them will need more work. We may consider bumping them up to 2017.

We had many issues with the dumpster this summer with abuse. I have posted signs and monitored the best I can but it still remains a problem. I think we need to get a larger dumpster at upper town to relieve some of the problems. We already have one twice the size at Manset and I do not have nearly as many issues. I would like to go ahead with this for 2016 if that's possible.

Another project I would like to get going on for 2016 is the Manset dock cross bracing we have \$13447 in CIP with a total of \$17000 needed. The project was supposed to be for 2014 but has been extended. I know we have been talking about future plans of

the Manset dock but we can both agree that a new pier is a ways off. If we can get some of these smaller projects done then we can extend the life without a big financial burden. It has been discussed that the town is able to do the job. I am not sure that is possible without a barge with a boom, these are very large and heavy stringers and I would not be able to control them with my HM boat and the loader. But this is my opinion if Scott thinks there is a way I am happy to help. Also all of the stringers do not need replacing, some are loose and need to be refastened and some are just missing. The highway guys and I would be able to do some above the low water line especially the ones that just need to be refastened.

These are a lot of items to get done at once; I just wanted to give you an idea of my short term plans. We can look at different issues when needed.

e. Water & sewer superintendent Steve Kenney reported systems in pretty good shape. Looking at operation maintenance, over time usage and projects. Lift stations should have backup generators for both pumps at each station.

f. The Board of Selectmen agreed to place an ad in the newspaper for applications to the Water-Sewer District Board with preferences given to financial, economic development and business experience or engineering. While discussing the Board of Trustees, Mr. Snow in the audience suggested the Town Manager as a trustee was a conflict of interest due to direct or indirect pecuniary interest. Town Manager Lagrange explained the Legislature voted on the charter and it became law. The Town Manager also requested from the Selectmen to eliminate all negatives regarding the establishment of the District and to move to amend the charter at the next Legislative session to remove the Town Manager as a trustee and make all three district trustees residents of the Town. Tom Benson made the motion, seconded by Lydia Goetze and voted in favor 3/1/0 with George Jellison against.

Other Business (Selectmen)

Town Manager requested info regarding the school playgrounds regarding whose responsibility it was for the maintenance and security. Selectmen agreed it was the responsibility of the School.

Accept & Sign Warrants: Tom Benson moved to accept the following warrants, seconded by Lydia Goetze and voted in favor 4/0/0

General Fund Warrants, FY 15-16; 64, 65, 67, 69

Sewer FY 15-16: 68

Water FY2015: 20

Special Projects FY None

School FY15-16: 66

Next Meeting Date:

Selectmen Meeting, November 24, 2015 @ 6:00 PM

Southwest Town Office

Tom Benson moved to go into Executive Session at 7:22 PM pursuant to 1 M. R. S. A. § 405 (6) (a) relative to personnel matters, seconded by Lydia Goetze and voted in favor 4/0/0.

Tom Benson moved to adjourn executive session at 7:44 PM, seconded by Lydia Goetze and voted in favor 4/0/0.

There being no further business, David Minctons voted to adjourn meeting at 7:45 PM, seconded by Lydia Goetze and voted in favor 4/0/0