

Minutes Selectmen Meeting

Tuesday, November 24, 2015

Town Office @ 6:00 PM

I. Call to Order/Roll Call:

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

II. Visitors to be heard not on the agenda

Jim Snow presented a memo complaining review of Trustee applications should be done in open meeting and not in executive session. Joe Piconne of the Teamsters union urged the Selectmen to discuss union issues in executive session. Chairman Jellison denied the request stating legal counsel to be present at any meetings. Selectmen Norwood stated there will be no negotiations without the lawyer present. Piconne requested a Selectman be present at the December 3rd meeting. Selectman Benson stated he was present at some union meetings and criticized Mr. Piconne for not being prepared and refusing to sign an agreement for ground rules which would have expedited the negotiations.

III. Approval of Minutes:

Lydia Goetze moved to accept the minutes of November 10, 2015, seconded by Tom Benson and voted in favor 4/0/0.

IV. Manager's Report

~ Regarding public bathroom construction, the Town is waiting for Emera to connect power to allow the installation of heat equipment. Utility pole has been relocated. Current expenditures total \$75,478 which includes \$9,025 for parking lot paving, \$5,323 for curb work and \$5,508 for utility pole relocation. Emera should run lines within five days and the carpenters will return next Monday.

~ Forest Avenue is complete. Through restructuring, we were able to pave the width of the road which should give the Town ample time to proceed with storm water and sewer upgrades, potentially up to seven years.

~ Entered into an agreement with Olver Engineers to oversee the operations of the Sewer plant since the current Chief Sewer Operator removed his name from being the Chief Sewer operator in charge as required from the Maine DEP. The Engineers have agreed to do an oversight study of the treatment plant, to review the structural issues at the plant and audit the procedures at the plant required by the DEP.

~ Attached is an email received from Rich Cochrane regarding our public access channel regarding Dobbs use of the channel and establishing a cable policy? This does not have much weight regarding the importance of a policy and is not in dire need of being addressed. Advised Mr. Cochrane if he had any issues to bring his comments to a Selectmen meeting, which he refuses to do.

~ Attached is a copy of the teamsters request for impact bargaining regarding the establishment of a water-sewer district approved by the voters. A December 3rd meeting has been tentatively scheduled.

~ Attached email correspondence to correct any confusion regarding the Cranberry parking lot on Shore Road. It is not for sale nor will it be for sale according the Jim Fortune.

V. Old Business:

Tony Smith or Mt Desert and Chip Reeves of Bar Harbor, both members of the Maine Review Committee discussed the new solid waste facility proposed in Hampden to replace using the Perc facility in Orrington. It is anticipated due to deregulation, the PERC facility will substantially increase the tipping fees to all communities in 2018. The new Fibreright facility will be constructed to stabilize the rate structure. MRC is a committee made up solely by municipalities to best manage town's waste disposal.

Lydia Goetze suggested a comprehensive harbor management plan be considered for the long term. Town Manager suggested the Manset Pier will need complete reconstruction in the near future which could cost as much as \$1,000,000, considering the Town spent over \$260,000 five years prior for the upgrade of the Lower Town Dock. The Manager suggested all harbor use fees will be doubled, or the tax rate would increase to support this cost. He again suggested economic development and additional user fees

could offset this cost with the development of the Knot Parking facility. He asked if the Selectmen would consider a purchase option to lay out a more comprehensive plan. The Selectmen decided not to pursue the purchase option due to the recent voter results which denied purchase of the property. This is the remaining parcel of significant size in close proximity to Manset Pier that would contribute to the harbor economy. George Jellison stated the Town should look at the whole picture 20-25 years down the road which will require additional parking and pier replacement. Lydia Goetze moved to proceed to a purchase option, seconded by Tom Benson for discussion and voted to deny, 3/1/0. Scott Alley suggested a questionnaire be sent to residents regarding the Harbor.

VI. New Business:

The Board agreed to provide gift certificates in appreciation of service to all Board and Committee members to be supplied by Drydock Restaurant. The Board also agreed to augment the \$25 food mart gift certificate to employees with a \$25 gift certificate to Drydock Restaurant. Dan Norwood moved to give employees an additional \$25 gift certificate, seconded by Tom Benson and voted in favor 4/0/0

Lydia Goetze moved to support Tony Smith of Mount Desert to remain on the MRC Board of Directors, seconded by Tom Benson and voted in favor 4/0/0.

Lydia Goetze moved to accept the seasonal water commitment of \$24,031.80 for the period April 15, 2015 to November 15, 2015 subject to an interest charged for unpaid balance of 11.25% per annum beginning 30 days after the billing date of November 19, 2015 Seasonal Water User Commitment, seconded by Tom Benson and voted in favor 4/0/0.

Tom Benson moved to accept the seasonal Sewer commitment of \$4,993.80 for the period April 15, 2015 to November 15, 2015, subject to an interest charged for unpaid balance of 7.0% per annum beginning 30 days after the billing date of November 19, 2015, seconded by Lydia Goetze and voted in favor 4/0/0.

VII. Other Business (Selectmen)

Lydia Goetze received an email from County Commissioner Antonio Blasi regarding revenue from windfarms not being applied to the general revenue of the county budget. Lagrange indicated they were discretionary funds as designed with agreements of the wind generator operators and do not include in the Budget. He stated the League of Towns is concerned with this action and if the revenue was included, it would not raise the local contributions to the County

VIII. Tom Benson moved to accept following warrants, seconded by Lydia Goetze and voted in favor 4/0/0.

General Fund Warrants, FY 15-16: 70, 75, 76

Sewer FY 15-16: 74

Water FY2015: 21

Special Projects FY 15-16: 77

School FY15-16: 71, 72, 73

IX. Next Meeting Date:

Regular Selectmen Meeting, December 8, 2015

Town Office at 6:00 PM

X. Tom Benson moved to go into executive session pursuant to 1 M. R. S. A. § 405 (6) (a) relative to personnel matters to review Board of Trustees applications at 7:54 PM, seconded by Lydia Goetze and voted in favor 4/0/0.

Dan Norwood moved to adjourn executive session at 8:15 PM, seconded by Tom Benson and voted in favor 4/0/0.

Lydia Goetze moved to appoint James Geary and James Vekasi to the Southwest Harbor Board of Trustees for a three year term, seconded by Tom Benson and voted in favor 4/0/0.

XI. Tom Benson moved to adjourn meeting at 8:20 PM, seconded by Lydia Goetze and voted in favor 4/0/0.