

Submitted By:
JMY

TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG
SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Approved By:

June 11, 2003

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. with Selectmen Douglass, Wells and Rice present.

1. Review and Sign:

- Accounts payable, payroll warrants and minutes

Items reviewed and signed.

2. Meetings and Hearings:

- Meet with Sheriff Westrum concerning various law enforcement issues

Meeting held with Sheriff Westrum and Police Chief Skroski. Selectmen explained that the Sheriff was invited to this meeting to discuss how the Town and his department can work better together and what we could do to assist his department.

The Sheriff provided sample patrol schedules for his department. The Deputies normally work four 10 hour days. Lincoln County has less area and 6 more people than Sagadahoc does. The Sheriff state that he is doing as much as he can with the resources and funding that he has. EMA, Communications Center operations, the rental of the Communications/Sheriff's building and the cost of the new jail study have been funding priorities for the County Commissioners. Most of his Deputies have been in the department for 12 to 14 years. Because he has been unable to advance them (lack of openings) he has tried to have them specialize in different areas of operations. We can use detectives for investigations based on availability. He has been trying to open up the union contract to allow for an "on call" Detective. The County has some limited funds for overtime.

Sheriff Westrum stated that he would be hiring a new Deputy Chief on July 1st who would be supervising the Deputies and be responsible for better communications with the surrounding towns. The Sheriff wanted to get back to basics and re-determine priorities. He also said that he, personally, will be patrolling more now that he would have a new Deputy Chief.

There currently is no "call share" agreement with the State Police because the terms of the agreement were not satisfactory to the County. The Sheriff explained that it would be a big help if the State Police would patrol more on Route 1 and Route 127 – that way the Deputies could be freed up to concentrate on the surrounding towns.

The two major improvements he intends to make are (1) open up the line of communications and (2) redefine priorities. He recommended that the Phippsburg Police Department do the same. The Selectmen stated that they would take a more active roll in determining priorities for Chief Skroski and become more involved in his scheduling. They would like to see the two departments work together on speeding enforcement (ie. speed traps) and on patrolling areas of Town that have become "party hangouts." Chief Skroski should also fax his Patrol schedule to the LE center as well as the Communications Center. The Selectmen explained that there is no overtime funding if Chief Skroski works over 43 hours. Jim Totman stated that the townspeople are under the impression that he gets paid a flat rate to

be available 24/7.

Selectmen will write a letter to the new State Public Safety Commissioner requesting that they assist the County more in patrolling Route 1 and Route 127.

The Selectmen and Sheriff Westrum discussed the new County Jail and he provided a handout. It will go to bond vote in November. Selectmen Douglass had information that the increase in County tax to Phippsburg would be \$33,000 a year over 20 years. Selectman Douglass would like to see an operational cost comparison per day if we had a jail built today. Sheriff Westrum will get a copy of the consultant's report to the Selectmen which describes the project. The facility will consist of direct supervision pods that can be added onto at a later date as prison population grows. The Sheriff has a concern that the population will outgrow the original number of pods in a very short time and that the County would have to increase the pods relatively soon. He would rather see a greater number of pods in the beginning so that new ones would not be needed for awhile. He also would like to focus on alternative sentencing programs (ie. OUI work program.) York and Cumberland County built a facility 12 years ago and are currently considering another one due to growth in the prison population.

The subject of parole violations was discussed. The State originally funded the Counties for temporary custody of parole violators, but that stopped after 4 years and is now paid through County taxes.

Sheriff Westrum will provide updated figures for the jail at a later date. He will then meet with Selectmen and answer their questions, which he would like in advance. Selectman Douglass requested that the presentation be kept simple

- Review letter of "No Action" for the setback of a pool located on Jim Clancy's property (see last weeks minutes.) Mr. Rogers and Mrs. Clancy will be in attendance

Meeting held with Steven Rogers and Bernard Clark – the Clancy's were not in attendance.

Mr. Rogers informed the Selectmen that the lack of required setback for the pool allows it to be very close to the road that goes to his property as well as to the property owned by Mr. Clark. He is concerned that heavy trucks using the road could cause damage to the pool and he or the truck owners could be held liable. He questioned any Town liability should damage be done to the pool. He has moved the road as far away from the pool as possible but still has concerns. The Selectmen voted (2-1) to table signing the "No Action" letter until the next meeting. T/A will contact the Town Attorney to see if the town has any potential liability for damages to the pool. The Selectmen also encouraged Mr. Rogers and Mr. Clark to contact Mr. Clancy and see if he would sign a statement releasing them of liability for any pool damage.

Mr. Rogers also wanted a status on the buildings owned by Mr. Clancy that are actually located on his property. The CEO explained that Mr. Clancy had already hired a contractor (Labbe) to move the buildings as soon as the ground firms up.

Mr Rogers also explained that Mr. Clancy had large piles of manure from his horses next to a mapped brook that leads to Winnegance Lake. The CEO explained that the manure will be removed in conjunction with the buildings.

3. Discuss the following issues

- Hire of ACO
- One application was received from Kathryn Stead who is currently the Assistant ACO for West Bath. The Chief of Police recommended hiring Ms. Stead effective

July 1st and the Selectmen concurred (3-0.)

- Hire of Parking Enforcement Officer

Three applications were received for this position. Selectmen voted (3-0) to rehire Matt Beal as the Parking Enforcement Officer and also to allow an assistant (Charles Wesley) who would be available to fill in for Mr. Beal if necessary.

- Transfer of \$417.05 from contingency account to Historic Preservation Account
- The Historic Preservation Commission had received a \$7,000 grant to document historic buildings throughout the town. They expended \$417.05 over the grant amount. Selectmen voted (3-0) to transfer the \$417.05 from the Selectmen's contingency account to cover the overdraft.**

4. Review the following items

- Legislative Bulletin
- Update on Governors Tax Reform
- MCBBD Newsletter

All items reviewed. No action taken.

5. Discuss attendance at the following meetings, courses, and seminars

- Habitat Meeting, HUD Consolidation Plan

No one will attend.

6. Miscellaneous

- **T/A discussed a residency accusation that was made against Tamara Liberty by Chris Warner concerning her eligibility for a Commercial Shellfish license at the time of application. Selectmen asked the Shellfish Chairman, Dick Lemont, to contact her and request that she provide proof of residency at the time her application was submitted. The ordinance requires that an applicant be living in town 90 days prior to the submission of the application. There is no requirement to continue living in town once the application is submitted.**
- **The Shellfish Chairman briefed the Selectmen on the MOU from the State concerning water testing and conditional openings. DMR has an FDA inspection of the water quality testing program scheduled for the week of June 23rd and a signed MOU is required. Mr. Lemont has been reviewing the MOU with Jan Barter and Amy Fitzpatrick from DMR. He has also requested that the FDA representative attend the June 27th Shellfish meeting. Selectmen are also invited to attend.**
- **Selectmen voted (3-0) to go into executive session at 9:27 p.m. to be briefed on a GA case. Selectmen voted (3-0) to come out of executive session at 9:29 p.m. No action taken.**
- **Selectman Rice asked that the Board choose a date to hold an assessing workshop. The date to be set at the next meeting.**
- **The Planning Board/Selectmen will hold new business hearings at 6:00 p.m. on June 25th for Riverside Gallery (change of business) and Ocean View Campground (store expansion.)**

Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.