

Submitted By:
JMY

TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

Approved By:

February 4, 2004

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Selectman Douglass, Wells and Rice present.

1. Review and Sign:

- Accounts payable, payroll warrants and minutes

All items reviewed and signed.

2. Meetings and Hearings:

- Meet with Chairman of the Harbor Commission, Marie Varian, concerning the Harbormaster's role in enforcing the Town Landing Ordinance

Meeting was held. Members of the Town Landing Committee were also in attendance. Chairman Varian, from the Harbor Commission, stated that they would not be asking for a raise in pay for the Harbormaster this year. The Committee will review the Harbormaster's pay next year after seeing what demands are placed on him now that he has had the 100 hour course and has a patrol boat.

There was much discussion concerning the Harbormaster enforcing the Town Landing Ordinance. Selectman Douglass explained that the Chief of Police would have primary enforcement authority and the Harbormaster would only get involved if the Chief of Police was unavailable. The Harbor Commission voiced their concern that the Harbormaster could end up being a Reserve Police Officer on land, which they are not in favor of. The T/A will contact the Town Attorney to see what changes need to be made to the Town Landing Ordinance and Harbormaster's job description to give him the authority to enforce the Town Landing Ordinance, if needed.

The issue of non-residents using the Town Landings and Totman Preserve was brought up for discussion by the Town Landing Committee. Currently, the Ordinance for the Town Landings restricts their use to residents, taxpayers and their guests only. The T/A brought forth a clarification letter from the Maine Municipal Association Legal Department dated 1988 which had been sent to the Town Landing Committee. This letter explained that it may be unconstitutional to prohibit non resident access to public lands. The T/A will contact the Town Attorney and MMA legal with more specifics and request another opinion.

- Meet with the Budget Committee to review the upcoming budget cycle
- Meeting was held. The Selectmen went over the upcoming budget cycle. The Budget Committee was specifically asked to look at "line items" and "carry forward accounts." The Budget Committee requested that they be provided with department budget requests one week prior to the meeting. No further action taken.**

- Meet with the Road Commissioner, Curtis Doughty, and the Chairman of the Road Committee, Les Smith, concerning: (1) crack sealing; (2) update on Stoneybrook Rd; (3) update on Parker Head Rd; and (4) BTIP program.

Meeting held.

(1) Crack sealing – It will cost approximately \$4,000 per mile to crack seal roads and it will defer any required overlays for 3 to 5 years. The process must be

completed either in the spring or fall. The Board of Selectmen authorized the Road Commissioner and Road Committee to choose two areas for a trial. A separate warrant article will be drafted for the funding.

(2) Stoneybrook Road – The Selectmen voted to hire a Professional Engineer to provide a design and construction layout. There is a possibility that more borings will have to be taken as outlined by the hired engineer. They also voted to start eminent domain procedures to obtain the necessary property from Lynn Pantelena and the Harts. This will come before the Town for vote in May. The work is expected to start in FY 06.

(3) Parker Head Road – Sagadahoc Surveyors has to adjust the property survey. Once that is done the Town can negotiate with Robert Cushing to purchase the necessary property.

(4) BTIP – A request will be sent to upgrade the shoulders of Route 209 for a Bike path. Also, we will request a feasibility study for a bike path from the railroad Station in Bath to Fort Popham and Hermit Island.

(5) The Selectmen accepted a loan of several new jersey barriers from Crookers & Sons to make a temporary barrier at the Center Pond Causeway until guardrails are installed. They would normally cost \$2,800 to purchase but the Town only has to pay \$400.00 for their delivery.

(6) The leaking fishway boards at the Center Pond Causeway were discussed. The T/A will contact Tom Totman, Chairman of the Center Pond Alewife Committee, and ask him to attend the next Selectmen's Meeting.

- Meet with the Library Options Committee for their final report

Meeting held. The Library Options Committee presented their report. Once the report was given, the Selectman asked the individual committee members to voice their option recommendation. The majority of the members recommended continuing payments to the Patten Free Library, but to have all the library cards deactivated and reissued through Totman Library, so that a realistic count of users could be obtained (page 9, option #2 of report.) One of the major reasons for remaining with the Patten Free Library would be to insure that Phippsburg children going to the Bath School System would have Patten Free Library privileges. Several committee members also recommended a secret ballot vote at Town Meeting in May. The Selectmen voted to have the Patten Free Library Director and Chairman of their Board meet with them at a later date to discuss this recommended option. No further action taken.

3. Discuss the following issues:

- Working Waterfront Loan Program

Reviewed. The T/A will post information on the Town's Web Site and send out a mailing to waterfront businesses.

- Comprehensive Plan editing

The T/A updated the Selectmen on his progress.

4. Review the following items:

- Shellfish Warden Report

- Legislative Bulletin, hearings and bills.

Reviewed. No action taken.

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

- None

6. Miscellaneous:

The Assessing Agent and T/A gave a briefing on some issues concerning the TRIO Commercial Property program.

Adjourned: 8:40 p.m.