

Submitted By:
JMY

TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
August 25, 2004

Approved By:

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

1. Review and Sign:

- Accounts payable, payroll warrants and minutes
- Abatement letter

All items reviewed and signed

2. Meetings and Hearings:

- Meet with Martha Smith, ACO Kathi Stead, and Chief Skroski concerning animal problems in Sebasco.

Meeting held with Martha Smith, Kathi Stead, Chief Skroski and Patrolman Dewese. Six other concerned citizens from Sebasco were also present.

Ms. Smith presented a petition to the Selectmen which read “We the undersigned wish the Town to stop neglecting their duties to provide a safe Town to walk and jog in. The dogs are nuisances and make the road unsafe, they are unleashed and unchained. They cause driving distractions. We now wish the Town to take responsibility for the State leash law and enforce it.” This petition was signed by 40 citizens.

The ACO and Chief of Police gave an overview of their efforts to control the problem with loose dogs in Sebasco. They were asked by the Selectmen to enforce the Animal Control Ordinance to the maximum and insure that maximum fines are given to multiple offenders. The owners of any dangerous dogs or dogs that have been loose in the past in Sebasco are to be notified that repeated offenses will result in maximum penalties. A change in the Ordinance will be considered at the next Annual Town Meeting which would allow for the seizure of dogs who are allowed to run loose on a continual basis.

3. Discuss the following issues:

- Briefing on the Town vs. GAC case

The Judge ruled on the defendant’s motion for ADA accommodations. He ruled that the defendant will provide funding for the ADA accommodations and he will determine later if the Town should reimburse the costs dependant on the case decision. A date has not been set for the case hearing.

- Comprehensive Plan schedule

The Selectmen approved the following schedule:

Mail out plan copies to Committee Chairs - September 3rd

Whole Committee Meeting – September 28th

Mail out Executive Summaries to Citizens – October 18th

Public Hearings – October 27th and 28th

Special Town Meeting – November 17th

- Briefing on the County/MMA Regionalization meeting
T/A conducted briefing. No further action taken.

- Trimming along the section of the Basin Road owned by Richard Hatch.
Mr. Hatch has given verbal permission for the Town to trim along his section of the Basin Road. He will then reimburse the Town for the cost. Selectmen accepted the offer.

4. Review the following items:

- Several appreciation letters
 - School Union 47 Newsletter
- Items reviewed. No action taken.**

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

- Tax Cap Initiative Workshop
The T/A will mail out copies of the workshop schedule to Department Heads, Employees and Committee Chairs and recommend attendance at the Woolwich presentation on September 21st.

6. Miscellaneous

- **Richard Palmer complained of junked cars in Sebasco. The T/A will ask the Code Enforcement Officer to provide a status report on the State Police's efforts on this issue.**
- **A meeting was held with Merry Chapin, Cindy Carney, and Dan Dowd who are interested in having a committee formed to research the issue of providing affordable housing. The Selectmen advised them to wait until the Comprehensive Plan is approved and then meet again to discuss the issue.**
- **Danny Coombs had several issues with the police department. First, he had seen the old police cruiser being operated out of Town and second he had heard third party that Officer Dewese had some inappropriate comments during a social setting. He was asked to discuss these issues with the Chief of Police and then come back before the Selectmen if he wasn't satisfied with the answers. No further action taken.**
- **Representative Leila Percy has requested that a Selectman consider being part of a talk show she is hosting in Harpswell concerning the Tax Cap Initiative. Selectman Rice and Douglass recommended that the Chairman Wells attend. The T/A will advise him.**
- **Selectmen discussed the possibility of paying mileage to the Tax Collector/Treasurer for Town business runs in her personal vehicle. Issue tabled until a full board is present (request initiated by the Tax Collector/Treasurer).**
- **The Harbormaster had received a check made out to him from a boater he had towed. The T/A will send the check back to the boater with a letter stating that they can make a donation to the Harbor Account for equipment if they wish, but an employee cannot accept compensation for doing his/her job.**

Adjourned at 7:59 p.m.