

Submitted By:  
JMY

TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MINUTES

Approved By:

December 8, 2004

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

1. Review and Sign:

- Accounts payable, payroll warrants and minutes.  
**Reviewed and signed.**

2. Meetings and Hearings:

- Conduct a Public Hearing on amending the "Order of Closing to Winter Maintenance" for Basin Road (6:00 p.m.).

**The Public Hearing was opened at 6:00 p.m. There were no comments from the Public. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:02 p.m. A motion was made and passed (3-0) to amend the "Order for Closing" on the Basin Road from its intersection with Devils Highway to its intersection with Sebasco Road.**

- Open Parker Head Septic Bids (6:15 p.m.).

**Four bids were opened as follows:**

**GAC Enterprises – Had two conditions – (1) They would break down the bid upon awarding of the contract to them and (2) Ledge type of any work would be extra. They also mentioned that they didn't think it was fair when some bidders in the past have had no insurance, workers comp, or construction liability coverage. The bid price was \$32,649.00**

**Whorff & Sons – The bid price was \$33,159.00.**

**Ronald Harrison – Had the condition that blasting would be extra. The bid price was \$43,683.00**

**Ed Skillin Excavating – The bid price was \$42,270.00.**

**The Selectmen voted (3-0) to award the bid to GAC Enterprises.**

3. Discuss the following issues:

- Video taping of meetings.

**The Board of Selectmen announced that Josh Bate was taping the meetings as a private citizen and made it clear that the comments made afterwards by Mr. Bate are not endorsed by the Board. The Selectmen are not officially endorsing his private taping and any misrepresentation that should occur will be Mr. Bate's responsibility. The Selectmen also cannot guarantee that the tape will not be edited. For further information, citizens are welcome to review the State's Freedom of Access Act at the Town Office. The official record will be the written minutes of the meeting which are reviewed by the Selectmen and signed at the following meeting. Selectman Rice made a point of order to move on and have no further discussion. Selectman Douglass stated that many citizens ask for information and a few citizens are tying up town resources with his continuous requests. The Town Administrator will respond to Mr. Bate's e-mail requests**

when he is able to. The information will be provided in a timely manner, but not immediately.

- Non-enforcement letter for the Ventry's three apartments.

Selectman Rice read the letter of non-enforcement to the Public. The letter will allow the Ventry's to continue having three apartments in their dwelling as long as the following restrictions are followed:

1. Within one year of the date of this letter, the property owner will apply for and install an approved septic system to handle the three-bedroom house and the two one-bedroom apartments.
2. The number of bedrooms in the apartments shall not be increased, i.e., they must remain one-bedroom apartments.
3. If any of the apartments cease to be used as one-bedroom apartments for a period of one year, then such use shall be deemed abandoned and may not be used as an apartment thereafter.

There were some abutters present including Angie Zimmerman, Josh Bate, and Jack Hood. They expressed concerns over the added traffic on Cranberry Point Road and asked if the Town could maintain the road better. Selectman Douglass stated that the traffic should not increase because the apartments have already been established. A discussion entailed concerning upkeep of the road. The T/A was directed to contact the Road Committee and Road Commissioner and request that they attend the next meeting to discuss the road maintenance. The Selectmen stated that they are agreeing that the apartments have existed in the past and will be allowed to continue as long as the restrictions are complied with. The motion was made and passed (3-0) to sign the letter of non-enforcement.

- Bodwell Grange update.

The T/A reported that Steve Verrill (State Grange Master) had asked Bill Gilman (Bodwell Grange Master) if the Town was willing to allow the Bodwell Grange to use the upper floor of the building for their meetings if the Town purchased the property. The Selectmen had no issues with allowing this use and directed the T/A to contact the State Grange Master and negotiate a purchase price for the land and building. The purchase of the Bowdwell Grange will be a warrant article for the May 2005 Town Meeting.

4. Review the following items:

- School Audit.
- Governors Tax Reform Plan information from MMA.
- School Board Agenda

**Items reviewed. No action taken.**

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

- **None.**

6. Miscellaneous

- A petition had been presented to the T/A from Beverly Tuttle requesting that the ditches and culverts between the properties of Mary and Amos King and that of Peter and Molly MacMurray on Parker Head Road be opened and repaired at

once. It was signed by 14 citizens. She stated that this problem has been going on for three years and is a safety issue. The ice on the road through the village continues to get higher and chunkier during the winter. Charlie Stevens (school bus driver and representative for Jean Perkins) agreed adding that the corner at the end of the hill is a sheet of ice and continues to build up throughout the winter. Selectman Rice stated that this issue should be tabled until next week so the Road Committee and Road Commissioner could be present to discuss short term and long term repairs. Selectman Rice also stated that he remembers discussing this issue before at a Selectmen's meeting. It was mentioned that any ditch widening may affect some of the rock walls along the village. Jerred Darling, representing GAC, stated that he would be willing to hammer some ledge along the road while he is working on the Parker Head Septic System. Jack Hood asked that the Road Commissioner decide what to do with Cranberry Point Road before considering any work on the Parker Head Road. Selectman Douglass advised him that we cannot bargain with public safety issues. Selectman Rice reminded the Board that repairs were completed on Wallace Circle based on a petition. Jim Bunce mentioned that the culverts within the village are plugged up with sand and that replacing culverts would help. Mr. Steven's mentioned they were also plugged with leaves. The T/A will arrange for the Road Commissioner and Road Committee to attend the next Selectmen's meeting and review past Selectmen's minutes for prior discussions.

- Selectman Wells invited the Public to attend the Town Hall open house on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

*Adjourned at 6:50 p.m.*