

Submitted By:
JMY

TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES

Approved By:

December 15, 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.
- Utility pole application.

Items reviewed and signed.

2. Meetings and Hearings:

- Meet with the Road Committee and Road Commissioner to discuss the icing problem on Parker Head Road (village section) and maintenance of Cranberry Point Road.

Meeting held with the Road Commissioner, Road Committee and concerned citizens. The Selectmen had received a petition on December 8th requesting that the icing problem on Parker Head Road within the village be corrected. This is an ongoing problem each year which is caused by poor drainage due to culverts and ditching. Jerred Darling from GAC Enterprises Inc. offered to do any necessary ledge removal while he has equipment on site installing the Parker Head septic system. The Town's right of way through the village is 24.75 Feet (1 ½ rods.)

A discussion entailed whether ledge removal should be done now or at a later date due to winter weather and possible easement issues for ledge that would have to be removed outside the Town's right of way. Culvert replacement was also discussed.

Action: The Road Commissioner will do additional ditching and clean out the culverts. He will also inspect the areas of ledge that have to be removed and which culverts will need replacing and determine if the work should be done now or after winter. The T/A will send notification of the current work to be done to the property owners along the village section of Parker Head Road.

- Cranberry Point Road

The Selectmen received a petition from four property owners along Cranberry Point Road requesting that the Board of Selectmen "recognize the inferior condition of our road and prioritize its repairs during the next year." Selectman Rice read the petition, which is on file at the Town Office, to those attending.

Les Smith, Chair of the Road Committee, had visited the road during the recent 12.4 foot tide and described the flooding that he observed. He stated that personnel from DOT Local Roads had visited the site and made suggestions for the culvert area (build it up by 9 inches which would eliminate ½ of the flooding.) They also recommended 600 feet of stone to build up the road from 3 to 6 inches, which would help - but not alleviate the flooding. If the road was raised 14 or 15 inches to allow travel at all tides it would require a study and DEP/DMR permission. Mr.

Smith also went over the RSMS survey information. The Road Committee projected \$4,000 in capital for 2010 to resurface the road, but not to rebuild it.

The Road Commissioner stated that he has been just grading the road because it is not a highly traveled roadway.

Selectman Douglass explained the formation of the Road Committee and why Stoneybrook Road has received attention as a safety issue. He also discussed funding and prioritization.

Josh Bate gave copies of the Cranberry Point Road property survey to each property owner. Mr. Bate also presented the Selectmen with a series of photos showing flooding problems with the road (one photo was a comparison from 1970.) These photos are on file at the Town Office. Mr. Bate stated that the Cranberry Point Road has been an ongoing problem and that he would like to see it built up to the level it was originally, recognizing that it will still flood sometimes. He also stated that he would like ditching and culvert work delayed until spring to see if there will be a change in Road Commissioners.

Other Cranberry Point Road property owners in attendance described the road as having severe rutting and a lot of potholes.

Action: The Road Commissioner will inspect Cranberry Point Road and see what he can do to alleviate some of the problems.

3. Discuss the following issues:

- Briefing from the Code Enforcement Officer on the Norris/Stimson appeal.

Briefing held. The Court declared that Mr. Norris has no standing to bring forth an appeal. The case is on file at the Town Office.

- Briefing from the Administrator on the removal of mercury components on appliances dropped off at the Transfer Station

Starting in January 2005 the State DEP will require that mercury switches be removed from appliances before they are shipped as scrap from Transfer Stations. Municipalities may hire a company or have their own personnel trained to remove switches. The T/A will discuss this issue with the Transfer Station Attendants and arrange training.

- Appointment of CATV Committee members.

Selectmen voted to appoint Tom Totman, Bunny Geisler, Everett Perkins, Bill Perkins, Brent Hershey, and Jason Wells to the committee.

- Discuss the e-mail from Katrina Van Dusen (MCBDP) requesting a representative for an affordable housing work group.

The T/A will contact Merry Chapin to see if she has any recommendations.

4. Review the following items:

- School Union Newsletter

Not available for review.

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

None.

6. Miscellaneous

- **The Code Enforcement Officer, Lee Rainey, informed the Selectmen that he and the Health Officer, Dave Barnes, had inspected the old Murphy trailer on Lavery Lane (which was given to the property owner by the Town) and required that the family inhabiting it move due to the poor condition of the trailer. The CEO recommended that any future buildings obtained by the Town be inspected by the Fire Chief, Health Officer and Codes Enforcement Officer. Selectman Douglass recommended that stipulations be placed on foreclosed properties which are sold based on the inspections.**
- **The Tax Collector/Treasurer will be on vacation December 27th and 28th. The T/A will tend the front counter during that time.**
- **The Road Commissioner, Road Committee Chair and Rob Prue from Pine Tree Engineering will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, December 17th at Town Hall to review the amended preliminary Stoneybrook Road Rebuild Plans. The Road Committee will then meet at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 4th at the Town Hall to review the plan.**
- **The Selectmen reviewed the OUI Work Program and Transfer Station articles in the Seguin Beacon newspaper.**
- **The T/A gave the Selectmen information from MMA on the implementation of referendum 1A.**
- **Selectman Wells stated that the Recreation Commission has raised enough money through cookie dough sales to reduce the playground balance due to approximately \$2,000.00. The T/A will contact the School Board Chairman, Dan Coffin, to obtain authorization to take the balance from the School Capital Improvement account.**
- **The Road Commissioner reported that people are still taking more sand from the Sand/Salt shed than allowed. A fish tray or a couple of buckets for personnel use is fine, but some people are again taking large loads.**
- **The Chief of Police, John Skroski, gave the Selectmen a letter from Wiscasset Ford which listed their special municipal repair rate at \$54.00 per hour and also included a list of the municipalities which they do repair work for.**
- **Jack Hood asked if the Town could assess a special tax on buildings with apartments. The Selectmen explained that the only taxes the town can collect are property and excise. The Selectmen recommended that he contact his local state officials concerning this idea.**
- **Josh Bate requested that the Selectmen change some of their past meeting minutes. The Selectmen took no action.**

Mr. Bate also gave the Selectmen \$100.00 to be put into an account to allow people to purchase copies under the "Freedom of Access" law as long as they had not signed the petition last year to take his property on Cranberry Point by eminent domain. He later rescinded that specification. Because there is no process set up to accommodate this type of request the Selectmen returned the money to Mr. Bate.

Mr. Bate requested that the Town produce copies for citizens and then bill him on a monthly basis. Again, since there is no process set up to accommodate this

request the Selectmen declined.

Mr. Bate requested that the Selectmen add him to the "copy" list on e-mails that are sent from the Town with draft minutes attached. The Selectmen took no action.

Mr. Bate accused the Selectmen of violating the "Freedom of Access" law by not following proper procedures and illegally going into executive sessions five times over the last nine years concerning him. Selectmen took no action.

Mr. Bate requested a list of people who have purchased copies over the past few months. The T/A stated that the list would be available the next day.

Adjourned at 7:28 p.m.