

Submitted By:
JMY

TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG
SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Approved By:

MINUTES
April 13, 2005

Called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Selectmen Wells, Rice and Douglass present.

1. Review and Sign:

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

2. Meetings and Hearings:

- Conduct hearing on Student Commercial Shellfish License issuance for Derek Freeman.

Mr. Freeman did not attend. The T/A explained that Mr. Freeman had disenrolled from school in January and therefore was not “actively enrolled in grades 5 through 12 upon application submission.” The Selectmen voted (3-0) not to issue the license to Mr. Freeman. The T/A was directed to issue the license to the next student on the list (Mike Percy.)

- Meet with the Assessing Agent to review annual sales report and abatement
Agent provided the annual report for review. She also presented an abatement request from David Percy who had questioned the water influence on his property. The Selectmen voted (3-0) to deny the abatement because Mr. Percy did not provide sufficient documentation.

3. Discuss the following issues:

- Posted roads – conditions, exemptions and violations

The Selectmen discussed the road postings with the Road Commissioner, Curtis Doughty, who recommended that the postings not be lifted yet because there were still some spots that had not thawed. Selectmen voted (2-0) to unpost the roads effective on Monday, April 18th. They further stated that if there were any problems with weight on the roads it would be discussed at the next meeting and problem roads could be reposted.

Ronda Skillin-Grondin requested that the Selectmen rebuild all the Town roads to carry up to 100,000 pounds. The Selectmen explained that the cost would be prohibitive and the Town would have to take abutting properties from many land owners, which was soundly defeated for Stoneybrook Road at last year's Town meeting. Selectman Rice recommended that Ms. Grondin investigate the possibility of a staging area.

The T/A reported that Purse Line Bait had violated the Posted Roads Ordinance by allowing a truck to drive on Sebasco Road without an exemption. This truck was a replacement for one the Purse Line Bait trucks that had broken

down. Because the truck had been offloaded to bring it into compliance with the exempted weights of other trucks of the same style the Selectmen voted (3-0) to assess no fine. Selectman Douglass stated that if he had known that the prior violations this year were by trucks owned by Purse Line Bait vs. hired, he would have recommended a higher fine. The Selectmen approved exemptions for two more vehicles that travel to Purse Line Bait, including the one noted in this paragraph.

- **Farmers Market Sign**

The T/A informed the Selectmen that the \$250.00 approved for the sign was available if a group decides to start up the market.

4. Review the following items:

- **None**

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

- **Regional Jail Groundbreaking Ceremony**

No one will attend.

6. Miscellaneous

- **The Selectmen voted (3-0) to approve the expenditure of \$13,338.00 from the School Capital Reserve account to repair and cover the Gym Floor. Capozza Tile and Floor Covering will complete the work.**
- **A "Basin Flyer" from "Friends of the Basin" was reviewed. No further action taken.**
- **Nancy Coffin requested that the Board of Selectmen immediately unpost Sam Day Hill Road so that GAC Enterprises could run trucks and equipment from their business. She stated that before last year they were always allowed to run their trucks in and out of the road. She mentioned that it was a personal vendetta against Gene Coffin because he started asking questions about different things going on in town. She stated that it was unconstitutional to post Sam Day Hill Road and that she was disappointed that the previous court case against GAC for failing to pay fines for running posted roads was dropped because of her husbands health.**

The Selectmen explained that the posting of roads was not unconstitutional and that it is not a personal attack against Mr. Coffin - all the roads are posted equally. The reason that Sam Day Hill Road used to be posted at the exit of the Transfer Station was because they were under the belief that it was the only way to allow solid waste trucks access to the Transfer Station. Last year they were informed that solid waste trucks are exempt from limited weights under the ordinance because solid waste removal is mandated by the State. At that point they started posting the Sam Day Hill Road at its intersection with Route 209 to protect the road from damage. They explained that it was not a personal attack – all roads are treated the same and the same standards are used.

Selectman Rice stated that the Town doesn't post roads to be fair and equitable; it is done to protect the roads.

Ms. Coffin stated that the ditching was bad on Sam Day Hill and the Town is not helping the condition of road.

Selectman Douglass stated that in the past some roads were not posted because of oversight and that Sam Day Hill was not the only one that had postings change over the last several years. Ms. Coffin mentioned that it was ironic that postings went up when Gene Coffin brought some issues up to the Town several years ago.

Selectman Rice reiterated that the posting of roads is not supposed to be punitive; it can only be done to protect roads. He also added that only the Board of Selectmen has authority to post roads.

Ms. Coffin again stated that the Selectmen have the power to do what they see best and requested that they unpost the end of Sam Day Hill Road. Selectman Wells stated that it was the responsibility of the Selectmen to take necessary action, which was done, to lift the postings on Monday. He restated that if the roads start being damaged they will be reposted.

Selectman Rice asked the Road Commissioner how Sam Day Hill Road was. The Road Commissioner stated that Sam Day Hill Road was washed out on one side and the tar was broken down in one spot and there was a soft area by the intersection with Route 209.

Selectman Douglass stated that it was not a perfect system. Nancy Coffin replied that this issue is not resolved yet – it is not over. Selectman Wells reminded Ms. Coffin that the Selectmen represent everybody.

Adjourned: 8:55 p.m.