

Submitted By:
JMY

TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES

Approved By:

February 22, 2006

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

1. Review and Sign:

- Accounts payable and payroll warrants
- Appointments to Patten Free Library Board and Road Committee

All items reviewed and signed.

2. Meetings and Hearings:

- Meet with Harbormaster Alexander to discuss Submerged Land Leases (tabled from last meeting).

Harbormaster Alexander explained that these leases were for existing wharfs (Sebasco Wharf, Small Point Association, and Small Point Development Corporation) whose 30 year submerged land leases with the State were expiring. Marie Varian further explained that that the program started in 1975 and leases are renewed every 30 years so that the State can get updated information.

Harbormaster Alexander stated that the leases were routine and he had no issues with them. Selectmen decided not to forward any comments to the State and took no further action. Mr. Alexander mentioned that Marie Varian has been replaced by Dave Power as Chairperson of the Harbor Commission.

- Meet with Pat McCormick (Suscom) and CATV Committee concerning Suscom/Comcast contract transfer

The meeting was held with Pat McCormick (Suscom manager) and members of the CATV Committee. Their request to transfer the Cable contract from Suscom to Comcast was submitted in December 2005. Mr. McCormick briefed the Selectmen on the procedure for transfer and the Selectmen reviewed the transfer information which included the financial status of Comcast. The current franchise agreement to be transferred will remain in affect until its expiration in 2001. Bill Perkins, Chair of the CATV Committee, stated that he has had experiences with Comcast and their support of Public Access Television in other communities and they had provided the most technical channels available. He also thanked Pat McCormick and the staff of Suscom for their help in setting up the PACTV.

The Cable TV Ordinance was reviewed and it was determined that a formal public hearing for the transfer would not be required because it is not a new or renewal contract.

Bill Perkins asked if from the Comcast staff could take a look for areas not previously serviced by cable and expand the base. Pat McCormick replied that this is typically do once a year – however if the Town had a specific request to let him know.

Selectmen Rice asked if the Town's PEG channel could be a pay per view channel for other towns. Mr. McCormick replied that a charge cannot be levied for PEG channels.

Selectman Rice asked what would happen if no action was taken by the Town. Mr. McCormick explained that if the Town takes no action by April 5th the contract transfer is deemed granted.

Selectmen voted (3-0) to approve the transfer of the Cable Franchise/Contract from Suscom and signed the agreement.

Pat McCormick stated that he will be transferring to Comcast and will remain in his current position. He also thinks that the towns will be pleased with Comcast.

3. Discuss the following issues:

- Date for posting of roads prohibiting overweight vehicles

The Selectmen tabled the decision and will review the road conditions at the next meeting.

Les Smith, Chair of the Road Committee, provided information on the method used to rate each road for repairs and funding. This is completed through the RSMS computer program and includes decisions on "importance" and "traffic."

Selectman Rice asked if counters were used to which Mr. Smith replied "no".

Selectman Douglass mentioned that the Road Capital funding for the rebuild of the Parker Head curve had been removed from the budget last prior year because of the increase in County tax. He further stated that the Parker Head curve would be a separate warrant article from the Road Capital account as was the Stoneybrook road. He stated that a decision should be made whether to include the curve for funding this year and whether to see if the town is interested in pursuing the rebuild of another section of Stoneybrook Road.

Road Commissioner Doughty stated that Stoneybrook Road was not a real priority now, however the section in the vicinity of the swamp by Danny Coombs should be considered in the near future.

For the benefit of those watching PACTV Selectman Douglass mentioned that the Road Commissioner is responsible choosing road projects and the Selectmen control the funding.

Les Smith mentioned that DOT will be approaching the Selectmen to sign a new agreement on the Popham Road rebuild and will be setting up a public hearing. They are committed to completing the rebuild in 2006.

- Appointment of Clifford Newell to replace Arthur Pierce on the Town Landing
Selectmen voted (3-0) to appoint Clifford Newell to the Town Landing Committee.

- Town Hall painting and door bids

Selectmen reviewed and approved the bids.

- Letter from Attorney Hornbeck concerning Tree Growth Case

Selectmen reviewed a letter from the Gillette family attorney requesting that the Selectmen negotiate their tree growth penalty. The Selectmen reiterated that they were still in agreement with the Town's Attorney that they have no legal ground to abate any part of the penalty so any further discussion is waste of time and money. They Selectmen voted (3-0) to support their original decision that the entire tree growth penalty of \$100,950.00 be paid or the Gillette family may appeal to the State Department of Revenue.

4. Review the following items:

- None

5. Discuss attendance at the following meetings, courses, and seminars:
 - **None**

6. Miscellaneous
 - **Selectman Douglass mentioned that the County Dept heads have been asked by the Commissioners to limit any budget increases to 4% (this does not include the County Jail Capital project.) He further stated that we won't know what the County Tax will be until we are deep in the budget process.**

 - **Selectman Rice commended the Department Supervisors for the work they did preparing for the Department of Labor Safetyworks inspection. Selectmen Douglass mentioned that the Departments should work together to save costs while correcting discrepancies.**

 - **Selectman Perkins discussed the Moderators course that he, the T/A, Marie Varian and John Morse attended and praised Mr. Morse for the fine job he does as the Town's Moderator.**

Adjourned: 6:46 p.m.