

Submitted By:
JMY

TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES

Approved By:

March 1, 2006

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

1. Review and Sign:

- Accounts payable and payroll warrants
All items reviewed and signed.

2. Meetings and Hearings:

- Meet with James Simmons (County EMA) and Department Supervisors concerning the National Incident Management System (NIMS)

Meeting held. Mr. Simmons passed out some handouts drafted by Chief Labbie of Brunswick, who is working on the NIMS requirements. Mr. Simmons reviewed these handouts and informed the Selectmen that this was a directive from the Bush administration and the Federal government. The objective is to have the Federal, State, and Local governments work together in a more efficient manner during emergencies. He further noted that compliance is mandatory by September of 2006.

Mr. Simmons explained that compliance is achieved by adopting the protocols into the Town's bylaws, mandating the use of the incident command system for emergencies and completion of the NIMCAST form, which is the tool passed out to each of the towns within Sagadahoc County which explains the NIMS program that the Federal government wants adopted. This form asks each town to acknowledge the requirements of the program and attempt to comply. The towns are not required to comply with all the requirements of the form but must address each item. At this time non-compliance would mean ineligibility for the Homeland Security grants tied to equipment, training and supplies. Mr. Simmons assured us that it was not tied to the emergency aid or FEMA grants. Mr. Simmons admitted that the Homeland Security grants were getting harder to obtain because less money was available and most would be going to the larger urban areas. He also admitted that the requirements will increase and we will eventually be expected to comply with all elements of the NIMCAST tool.

Everyone from town management to first responders will be required to meet the training standards as outlined in the program, whether they are directly involved in the incident or operate behind the scenes as a town official. The first objective would be to incorporate the policies and procedures from NIMS into the town policies.

Fire Chief Totman stated it was a good idea to have everyone on the same page but he questioned the cost and time commitment to implement this plan. Brunswick has a full-time staff to implement this and they projected six months to complete it. It was discussed whether there were grants available to assist with compliance and whether the policies would be voted on at a Town Meeting. The general consensus among the Selectmen was that we could not have a package completed for Town Meeting within the time line required.

The Selectmen decided to observe what the County Commissioners do about this plan and study how they structure it. It was noted that Sagadahoc County Commissioner, Sag. Communications, and the Sag. Sheriff's Office has not yet adopted the program. Mr. Simmons did not know the level of compliance nationally and stated that we could comply at a later date and only miss out on the current grants.

Former Selectman Thomas Totman stated that the most likely emergency would be weather related and we have always managed to take care of ourselves in that regard. He felt much of the NIMCAST was unrealistic. It was the consensus that further study is required before any implementation process is started.

3. Discuss the following issues:

- Posting of roads prohibiting overweight vehicles

The Road Commissioner, Curtis Doughty, made no recommendation on posting. The Selectmen decided not to post roads this week.

4. Review the following items:

- Letter to Amy Fitzpatrick (DMR) concerning overboard discharge systems that have been cleaned up.
- School Union 47 newsletter.
- Letter from the State Planning Office.
- Letter from Robert Varney, citizen, concerning marine pump out stations.
- Report from Dick Lemont, Chair of the Shellfish Commission, concerning Shellfish Commission issues and requesting a pay raise for the Shellfish Warden.

All items reviewed. No further action taken.

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

- **None**

6. Miscellaneous

- **The Selectmen tabled the authorization of payment of a plumbing bill from the school until more information could be provided.**
- **The Selectmen read the list of municipal events.**
- **Les Smith, Chair of the Road Committee, reviewed a list of road condition ratings from RSMS that had been provided to the Budget Committee.**

Adjourned: 7:15 p.m.