

Submitted By:
JMY

TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
March 8, 2006

Approved By:

Called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Selectmen Rice and Perkins present. Selectman Douglass was attending the County Jail Budget Workshop.

1. Review and Sign:

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

2. Meetings and Hearings:

- **None**

3. Discuss the following issues:

- Posting of roads prohibiting overweight vehicles

Road Commissioner Doughty recommended that the town roads be posted as of noontime on Thursday due to the upcoming warm weather and rain. He also thanked Ed Skillin for operating from the Sportsman's Association parking lot on Route 209 rather than traveling on Clifford Road. He has been operating loaded only at night when the roads have been frozen. Selectman Rice was uncomfortable with the Thursday posting because it was not enough warning to truck operators – he was leaning towards Friday.

Peter Roberts stated that although he is not an interested party he feels that there are several businesses in town that have to move heavy loads to stay in business and the Selectmen need to address this problem – whether it be fish and gravel. There are a limited number of roads used and the roads should be built up to allow people to making a living. Selectman Rice agreed that the posting of roads does harm some businesses but is done to protect the roads.

Ed Skillin mentioned that the Maine Forest Product Council met with DOT in Augusta about the posting of roads to try and work out solutions. No one at the Selectmen's meeting was aware that this occurred.

Selectman Rice asked Commissioner Doughty if he knew how long the roads would be posted. The Commissioner stated that he could not predict the time limit – however he recommended the posting until April 15th or May 15th. Selectman Rice confirmed with the Commissioner that the roads could be posted until April 15th and then it could be extended later.

Selectman Rice mentioned that there had been a discussion with those in attendance at the February 8th Selectmen's meeting about exploring the option of using town owned property on Sam Day Hill road as a staging area for trucks. This option still exists. He stated that the reason the Sam Day Hill Road posting used to be at the Transfer Station exit was because they were under the impression that this had to be done to allow the trash truck to run to the Transfer Station. He confirmed with Commissioner Doughty that Sam Day Hill Road has not been overlaid since the construction of the Transfer Station. He further stated that the

Sam day Hill Road has done over a decade with no new pavement.

Selectman Rice asked if there were any problems with Sam Day Hill Road at this time. Commissioner Doughty replied that there is a section by the entrance that is about a truck length in size and also another section around the corner – both have problems.

Administrator Young stated that the trash trucks were exempt from posted roads because the State mandates that municipalities provide trash removal services. The Town had received an e-mail from DOT on this subject several years ago and it was discussed at that time. He also stated that the trash trucks only run twice a week on Sam day Hill Road this time of year.

Ed Skillin mentioned that Police Chief Skroski had stopped a truck with four of five tires in it going to his business on Clifford Road. The truck weighed less then the limit of 23,000 pounds but its registered weight was over that. Selectmen Rice read a section from the Posted Road ordinance which allowed the actual truck weight (vs. registered weight) as a defense. Administrator Young mentioned that the reason “registered weight” is used as a criteria rather then actual weight is because small municipalities cannot afford to purchase portable weight scales.

Selectmen Perkins stated that they (Selectmen) have stretched out posting of the roads as long as they could and have been proactive with the issue. He made a motion to post roads as of noontime on Saturday. The motion did not receive a second – Selectmen Perkins withdrew his motion. He then made a motion to post the roads at noon on Friday – this motion passed (2-0).

Jared Darling stated that there was a spot under tar by the GAC lower driveway that is being undermined by the rain and since the Town is protecting the roads (i.e. posting) he feels the area should be repaired. Commissioner Doughty asked if the water was running across the driveway. Mr. Darling replied that it was coming across the road and has gotten worse since it was graded. Commissioner Doughty stated that he has seen the water coming from the GAC driveway and that Gene Coffin never received the Town's permission to put the driveway and culvert in and probably the culvert is frozen.

Peter Roberts asked who is responsible for unplugging culverts on a driveway. Commissioner Doughty replied that the owner has to put in the first culvert and then the Town is responsible afterwards.

Selectman Rice made a motion that Sam Day Hill Road be posted at the Transfer Station exit. The motion received no second.

- Expending \$3,530.00 from School Capital Account for well work

The Selectmen voted (2-0) to expend \$3,530.00 from the School Capital Account for modifications to the well head at the School. This was done to improve water quality as requested by the State and consisted of extending the well head and casing.

4. Review the following items:

- Letter from Attorney Elliot Field concerning North Creek Farms Case

Reviewed. The letter stated concerns that the legal fees handout provided at the recent Special Town Meeting listed the North Creek Farms case as a “violation of a CEO order.” No further action taken.

- Transfer Station Monthly Report
The report was read by Administrator Young. No further action taken.
- 5. Discuss attendance at the following meetings, courses, and seminars:
 - Gateway 1 Regional Meeting
Les Smith, Road Committee Chair, briefed the Selectmen. He has not been attending Gateway meetings since the DOT divisions split-up. Selectman Rice requested that this meeting be kept on the list of "Upcoming Meetings."
- 6. Miscellaneous
 - **Administrator Young reported that Alfred Coffin, prior Transfer Station Attendant, had passed away this morning.**
 - **The Center Pond Alewife bid was reviewed by the Selectmen and Peter Roberts. It was prepared by Tom Totman, Chair of the Center Pond Alewife Committee. Peter Roberts asked if it was identical to the warrant article from the May 2005 Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Totman replied that it was verbatim, with the exception of one item in the first part which had to be changed.**
 - **Selectmen reviewed the by-laws of the "Friends of Phippsburg" (non-profit organization raising funds for the restoration of Fort Popham) and in accordance with Article #4 voted (2-0) to appoint Peggy Doughty, Phippsburg Historical Society, as the Town's representative.**
 - **Road Commissioner Doughty asked who owned the bus stop buildings that were built by the Knights of Columbus and placed in different sections of Town. Administrator Young mentioned that he had received a call from Tom Wirth concerning the one located at the intersection of Parker Head Road and Cox Head Road and was going to review the Selectmen's Minutes from several years ago to see what the agreement was. The structures were built by Rick Pope.**

Adjourned: 6:31 p.m.