

Submitted By:  
JMY

TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MINUTES

Approved By:

February 8, 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  
**All items reviewed and signed.**

2. Meetings and Hearings:

- Meet with the Budget Committee to discuss upcoming budget process  
**Chairman Rice thanked the Budget Committee members for attending. Budget Committee member (former Selectman) Proctor Wells asked for an update on the new County jail.**

**Selectman Douglass (Sagadahoc County Budget Advisory committee member) stated that preliminary figures for the new jail are 1.3 million for capital and 2.3 million for operations. He also stated that the current plan is to fully staff the new jail 3 months prior to the opening in November 2006. He further stated that Phippsburg will not receive the final, committed budget from the Sagadahoc County Commissioners until June 2006, a month after Town meeting.**

**Chairman Rice stated that the County budget has risen 30% in the last two fiscal years. He also noted that recent newspaper articles have projected that Lincoln County could see a 42% rise in taxes due to the new jail.**

**Chairman Rice said that the Selectmen and budget committee should look at changing from the current rolling 3-year salary adjustments to annual cost-of-living-adjustments. Rice also said, other than capital improvement accounts, all monies in carry forward accounts, (i.e., operations and maintenance accounts, etc.) must be added to any new budget requests. Projected spending of the carry forward amount and the new budget amount combined needs to be fully explained and justified. Also, it was stated that Department Heads must give their proposed budget(s) to the Budget Committee at least one week prior to their scheduled meeting.**

**Selectman Douglass reminded everyone that Stoneybrook Road has more sections identified for safety improvements, including the corner by Charlie Steven's residence. Road Commissioner Doughty said that he did not plan to request money for Stoneybrook Road in the upcoming budget year.**

**Budget Committee member Anna Varian Little asked for specific instructions from the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Douglass stated "lower taxes". Little also asked if citizens could forward written questions to the Budget Committee via Town Hall to be asked during budget presentations. The Selectmen agreed.**

**Budget Committee member Charlie Stevens asked for instructions from the Board of Selectman on proper procedure to conduct budget meetings. Selectman Douglass explained that because the Budget Committee is elected it is up to the majority of the members of the committee to decide on protocol including allowing input from the public.**

- Meet with GAC concerning issuance of a bond to allow trucks to use Sam Day Hill Road when posted to prohibit Heavyweight Vehicles

**Chairman Rice stated that the recommendation from Maine DOT is not to accept bonds to allow heavy loads to travel on posted roads. Rice stated that he agrees with the DOT recommendation based upon the fact that it is next to impossible to collect on a bond because of the difficulty in proving a responsible party when and if damage to the road occurs. Rice asked the former Road Commissioner, Harry Doughty, if, during his elected tenure, the Sam Day Hill road was posted at Route 209? Doughty responded that the road was always posted at the exit of the transfer station to allow access for heavy trucks in and out of the facility. He said that the road posting was only changed because the Board of Selectman voted to "post all local roads". This, in his words, was interpreted to mean "...if one (road) is posted, then they're all posted."**

**Chairman Rice stated that if a road isn't going to be broken during posted roads season, then it shouldn't be posted.**

**Selectman Perkins stated that he wants the Selectmen and the Road Commissioner to respond more quickly to posting and un-posting roads. Perkins said that he had read all the material on posting bonds. He stated that he was not in favor of accepting bonds for posted roads.**

**Selectman Douglass stated that the Board of Selectmen doesn't have to accept bonds. It's at the discretion of the Selectmen.**

**Rhonda Skillin Grondin asked what is required to make the local roads passable year round? Chairman Rice said the current estimate is one million dollars per mile.**

**Selectman Douglass explained that sections of State and Federal highways, (e.g., I-295) are not rated for 100,000 GVRW. Therefore, Phippsburg is ill advised to ask taxpayers to attempt to improve local roads to that standard.**

**Josh Bate asked the Selectmen under what authority are the transfer station trucks exempt? He stated that he has researched the issue and cannot find anywhere that trash and metal haulers are exempt when the road is posted.**

**Proctor Wells suggested that the Selectmen might consider a warrant article to create an area on Town owned property off Sam Day Hill road for use by Phippsburg taxpayers that operate overweight trucks. Selectman Douglass said that he thought it may be a good idea and that the local contractors should get together to discuss it further.**

**Selectman Rice said that the Selectmen would revisit the local ordinance and the State law governing posted roads in advance of any postings this year with regard to exempt vehicles and reduced loads.**

- Meet with Ed Skillin concerning County law enforcement issues

**Ed Skillin complained to the Selectman about rude and abusive treatment from two Deputies from the Sagadahoc Sheriffs Department in their response to domestic issues with tenants in his trailer park. He also complained that Sheriff Mark Westrum waited three months to respond to his complaint and that he is totally dissatisfied with the Sheriff and the Department. Skillin praised Phippsburg Police Chief John Skroski and the Maine State Police for their help in regards to this issue.**

**Chairman Rice said that the Selectmen will follow-up with Sheriff Westrum.**

- Meet with Sue Jones concerning ADA issues (accessibility, training and voting)

**The Selectmen committed to hire an ADA consultant in the spring for training and inspections. The training will be open to the public**

3. Discuss the following issues:
  - Resignation letter from Arthur Pierce (Town Landing Committee)  
**The Selectmen accepted the letter of resignation with regret and thanks for service.**
  - Clerk of the Works for the Acre Lot Project  
**Bob Butler, Clifford Newell and Richard Murphy have volunteered to share the duties.**
  
4. Review the following items:
  - Appreciation Letter for Police Chief and Fire Dept  
**Reviewed. No further action taken.**
  
5. Discuss attendance at the following meetings, courses, and seminars:
  - Basic General Assistance Course  
**Selectman Perkins and Administrator Young will attend.**
  
6. Miscellaneous
  - **None**

*Adjourned: 7:20 p.m.*