

Submitted by:

TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Approved by Selectmen:

John M. Young  
Administrator

MINUTES  
January 3, 2007

*Meeting convened at 6:00 p.m. with Selectman Douglass, Chair, Selectman Perkins, and Selectman Pye in attendance.*

**I. Review and Sign:**

1. Accounts payable and payroll warrants.
2. Minutes from December 20th.
3. Letter in support of allowing members of the Phippsburg Sportsmen Association cull the deer heard if a special hunt is necessary.
4. Thank you card to Dick Palmer for serving on the Road Committee.

**All items reviewed and signed. Selectman Douglass reviewed last week's conversation concerning the Phippsburg Sportsmen Association letter.**

**II. Meetings and Hearings:**

1. Hearing – Amendments to the Ordinance for Restricting Vehicle Weight on Posted Roads (Posted Roads Ordinance).

**The hearing was opened at 6:02 p.m. Three amendments were being considered which were (1) adding "Solid Waste Trucks operating on Sam Day Hill Road" to the exemption list; (2) adding a stipulation which allows Law Enforcement Officers to turn back vehicles operating in violation of the ordinance; and (3) increasing the maximum allowed fine for violation of the Ordinance. All of the trucking companies in Phippsburg had been notified of this hearing. A workshop concerning these three amendments was held on September 27, 2006 which all of the trucking companies in Phippsburg were also invited to. The following businesses were represented: Ed Skillin (Skillin Inc.), Harry Doughty (Doughty and Son), Jared Darling (GAC), Jennie Bichrest (Purse Line Bait – who came in as hearing was closed), and Mark Hawkes (Hawkes Firewood). Dan Coombs (Stoneybrook Hauler) was unable to attend but had given verbal comments to Selectman Douglass.**

**Josh Bate questioned the addition of the "Solid Waste Trucks operating on Sam Day Hill Road" to the list of exemptions. He felt that this indicated that they were never exempt in the first place and the Selectmen had been allowing them to run in violation of the Ordinance. He further charged that if the history of the Sam Day Hill postings was reviewed it would become evident that it was done for political reasons only. The road gets heavy traffic from the solid waste trucks and maintenance vehicles and Harry Doughty had stated in the past that the road was built to handle loads to/from the Transfer Station and Sand/Salt Shed – and if it was not built to those standards it should be. GAC would only being using a fraction of that road. He requested an explanation why the road needs to be protected from**

GAC and stated that justice is not being done. The Selectmen have an obligation and could open up Sam Day Hill Road if they wanted to. A Selectman this prior spring tried to move the posting back because he thought it was the right thing to do.

Selectman Douglass replied that the Solid Waste Trucks had been exempted in the past because the town is required by State Law to provide solid waste removal. This had also been discussed with DOT. The addition of the trucks to the printed exemption list in the ordinance was for clarification - the Selectmen are putting in writing what the practice has been. He explained that exemptions are made so that necessary functions can take place – such as delivering heating fuel or firewood. He explained that the Ordinance is not perfect – a good example is the State DOT exemption for Pepsi trucks. If there was a way to stop all trucks in the spring the Selectmen would. The Selectmen are doing their best to preserve the roads. The section that gives authorization for the Police to turn vehicles around was put in because of situations that we had such as the concrete truck operator who felt that the fine was just the cost of doing business.

Harry Doughty, prior Road Commissioner, stated that if a vehicle transiting to the town owned Sand/Salt Shed or Transfer Station were to damage the road – then the Town would have to fix it, however if the road was damaged by GAC who is going to repair it. Also, if GAC can run the road then he should be able to run Sebasco Road. When asked by Josh Bate if heavy trucks were running his road Mr. Doughty replied that heavy trucks, such as those owned by Purse Line Bait, were running on Sebasco Road (*note: Purse Line Bait has an exemption*).

Mark Hawkes asked what the Police would do if a truck in violation of the Ordinance was on a road where they could not turn around without going to the end of the road. Chief Skroski replied that the Police would have to exercise some common sense to minimize damage to the road. Mr. Hawkes did not recommend increasing fines.

Curtis Doughty, Road Commissioner, asked if the Town would be using Heavyweight Posters from the State. Mike Young, Town Administrator replied that special signs would be ordered which would reflect the Posted Roads Ordinance. Selectman Douglass added that Phippsburg tried to be uniform with other towns but the issue was raised that the posters didn't reflect our Ordinance.

Josh Bate asked why Selectman Douglass was answering everyone else's questions except for his. He asked if the Selectmen felt that the road should be built to standards. Selectman Douglass replied that so far Mr. Bate has been making statements and asking rhetorical questions and that, in accordance with the State, there is no such things as an all weather road.

John Skroski, Chief of Police recommended that the fine maximum be raised because some people feel that the fine is just the cost of doing business.

Hearing was closed at 6:13 p.m.

Selectman Pye made a motion that the amendment for adding "Solid Waste Trucks" to the exemption list be approved. Motion passed (3-0).

Selectman Pye made a motion that the amendment granting authority for Law Enforcement Officers to turn around vehicles in violation be approved. Motion passed (3-0).

Selectman Pye made a motion not to amend the fines. Motion passed (3-0).

### III. Unfinished Business

#### 1. Flu vaccinations

Selectman Douglass reported that there are still flu shots available. Anyone interested should contact Sue Jones, Rescue Chief, or himself.

### IV. New Business

#### 1. Appointment of Linwood Stockwell as Deputy E-911 Addressing Officer

Mike Young, Town Administrator, stated that Mr. Stockwell had been working with Mr. Stewart over the past few months to learn this volunteer position. He also thanked Doug Stewart for his 12 years of service in this capacity and added that Mr. Stewart would still assist the town in his position until his term expires in June. Selectmen voted (3-0) to approve the appointment, which was signed.

### V. Department and Committee Reports

#### 1. Report from John Skroski, Police Chief

Chief Skroski reported that there have been some burglaries over the past few weeks. He showed photos from some Popham break-ins (2 homes and several cars). The homes were vandalized. He also reported that he and the Sheriff's Department have been working on a burglary case at the Center Store and the evidence has been sent to the crime lab.

He reported that the State now sends out a list of drivers who have suspended licenses and there are close to 40 in Phippsburg.

He reported that the Expedition was in the body shop to have some rust on the tailgate repaired. Because it is still under the 36,000 mile warranty it will be done free.

#### 2. Report from Marie Varian, Chair of the Planning Board

Ms. Varian reminded the Selectmen that there would be a joint Planning Board/Selectman Expansion of Business Site Walk and Hearing for Purse Line Bait on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

### VI. Correspondence

#### 1. Letter from Comcast concerning price adjustments.

The letter was reviewed by the Selectmen. Selectman Douglass read the increases to the public and stated that all cable subscribers should be receiving a letter in the mail.

**VII. Courses and seminars**

1. Prosperity Maine MECEP annual Conference
2. Basic Municipal Budgeting Workshop  
**Reviewed. No one will attend.**

**VIII. Selectmen/Administrator Comments and Announcements**

1. Announcements from the Town Administrator  
**Mike Young read announcements for the Saturday Dog Licensing Clinic, Purse Line Bait Expansion of Business Hearing, and Regionalization Task Force Report availability.**
2. Announcements from the Selectmen  
**Selectman Douglass elaborated on the "One Stream Recycling."**

**IX. Public Forum**

1. Josh Bate's Concerns

**Josh Bate stated that the Road Crew had not provided Liability Insurance to the Town as was requested in January of 2006. The Selectmen need to have more savvy about these requirements and tighten this up - the equipment should not be on the road. Mike Young replied that the Town did obtain Certificate of Liabilities last year, however when Mr. Bate made his request under the FOIA he had understood that Mr. Bate was looking for current ones. Mr. Young added that last years would be available for review after the meeting.**

**Selectman Douglass responded that it would probably be a good idea to have someone plow the roads and that one Selectman had been trying to push through the contracts for last year when the others wanted to wait for this year.**

**Harry Doughty stated that it was very evident that people are happy with the way things are from the vote at the polls (Road Commissioner.)**

**Mr. Bate asked when a guardrail was going to be installed on Sam day Hill Road where the replacement culvert was installed because this is a liability issue. Curtis Doughty, Road Commissioner, replied that he was not ready at this time to have the guardrail installed.**

**V. Adjournment - Selectmen voted (3-0) to adjourn at 6:31 p.m.**