

Submitted by: TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG Approved by Selectmen:
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
John M. Young MINUTES
Administrator April 4, 2007

Meeting convened at 6:00 p.m. with Selectmen Douglass, Perkins and Pye in attendance. (At 4:30 p.m. the Selectmen conducted a site walk at the Navy tower & land on Perkins Farm Lane in Popham)

I. Review and Sign:

1. Accounts payable and payroll warrants.
Items reviewed and signed.

II. Meetings and Hearings:

1. Meet with various individuals concerning the Town obtaining the Navy tower and land on Perkins Farm Lane in Popham.

Meeting was held at the Town Office after a site walk. Representatives from the BRAC, Town lands Management Committee, Sagadahoc County Communications, Popham State Park, abutters, and Fire Chief Totman attended both events.

It has been determined that the process to obtain the property will be an extensive and time consuming. Although Popham State Park, County Communications and the Town would like to work together and share the facility – the process does not easily allow it. One of the agencies would have the take the lead for obtaining the property and the other agencies would not be allowed to use it unless they also applied, using the same process, for their specific use.

The Town would like to use the property for parking and the lookout tower for emergencies, the County would like to install an antenna, and Popham State Park would like use of the lookout tower. In order to obtain the property the Town will have to submit an “intention” application by May 14th, then find a Federal sponsoring agency and submit a full application request according to that agency’s submission requirements. If approved, the Town would then accept the property through Town Meeting vote.

Selectmen voted (3-0) to table the discussion until the Town Lands Management Committee came before them with a proposal.

At 6:30 p.m. the Town Lands Management Committee approached the Selectmen and asked to further discuss this issue. Selectmen voted (3-0) to take this issue off the table for discussion. Anna Little, Town Lands Management Committee, stated that her Committee would like to obtain the property because it is valuable as a parking area at the beginning of the hiking trails. Bob Cummings would assist in preparing the “intention” application and the Town Administrator would contact the Navy to have the

Tower inspected for entry (the TLMC would like to be present for the inspection).

Selectman Douglass stated that the Town would start the process, but there were still a lot of unanswered questions such as the presence of lead paint and asbestos. Selectman Perkins reminded those in attendance that the tower and land would not be released until 2008 and that the submission of the "intention" application does not obligate the Town.

Selectmen voted (3-0) to submit an "intention application". Selectman Pye stated that the Town would continue to work with the other agencies and should ask for maintenance records on the tower. Clifford Newell, TLMC, reminded the audience that it would be very expensive to remove the tower. Doug Alexander, TLMC, stated that he knew someone who deals with bridges who may be willing to give an opinion on the condition of the tower.

2. Meet with David Barnes, Health Officer, concerning his position.

Dave Barnes stated that he has held the Health Officer position since 1970 and was considering retiring from it on July 1st – however, he would continue serving the Town as Constable. He added that he had discussed the position with Sue Jones, Rescue Chief, and she was interested in being appointed as his replacement

The Selectman thanked Mr. Barnes for his many years of service and requested that he submit his retirement in writing so that the position could be advertised and the hiring process started.

3. Meet with the Assessing Agent to review abatements and/or supplemental bills.

Selectmen reviewed and approved a supplemental bill for a Tree Growth penalty of \$115.20 to Anne and Jack Thompson (Map 004, Lot 015-17).

III. Unfinished Business

1. Review miscellaneous Town Report items.

All changes to the Town Report and Town Meeting Warrant were supported by the Selectmen with the exception of Article 27 which was submitted by the Woolwich School Construction Committee and asks the Town to "authorize the Phippsburg School Board to negotiate a contract with the Town of Woolwich School Committee for the schooling of Phippsburg students of grade 7 and 8 for a term of up to ten (10) years. This article would authorize the school committee to negotiate a contract, it's not the contract itself".

The Selectmen felt that this Article did not support free choice and refused to support it. They instead voted (3-0) to support a second article drafted by Selectman Perkins which allows the Phippsburg School Board to "continue the policy of school choice while supporting the new school construction in the Town of Woolwich for the schooling of Phippsburg students of grade 7 and 8, if they so choose."

Selectmen also voted (3-0) to support the School budget warrant articles. It was felt that the School Board worked very hard on the budget, reducing the Town's share to raise from an original 18% to 7.24%. It was further

stated that the School Board had to make some tough decisions to reduce it to this amount.

IV. New Business

1. Appointment of Bethany Wallace to the Road Committee.
6:10 p.m. – Selectmen voted (3-0) to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405(6)(A) to consider a committee appointment.
6:23 p. m. – Selectmen voted to come out of Executive Session.
Selectman voted (3-0) to appoint Bethany Wallace as a regular member of the Road Committee for a two year term.
2. Review letter to Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources concerning ground fishermen issues.
Selectman Pye explained that the letter asked communities to support the idea of having inshore management of groundfish areas along the same lines as the offshore. It would consist of management areas similar to the establishment of lobster zones. Because the stocks are being diminished by large offshore boats this would give smaller draggers a chance to fish more and makes them responsible for their own fisheries.
Selectmen reviewed a response submitted by Selectman Pye and agreed to support and sign it.
3. Workers Compensation Material Inspection
Mike Young, Town Administrator, announced that a MMA Inspector had visited all the Town facilities and met with Department Supervisors to spot check compliance with labor standards. The Town did well with the only minor discrepancies being at the School.

V. Correspondence

1. Comcast Annual Report and Letter concerning channel 522
A letter was read in which Comcast explained the establishment of channel 522 (High definition NESN). Selectman Perkins will review the Annual Report.

VI. Selectmen/Administrator Comments and Announcements

1. Meetings complaint
Selectman Douglass addressed an anonymous complaint that had been received about the Selectmen's cars being in the Town Hall parking lot after the PCATV cameras being turned off – insinuating that illegal meetings were being conducted.
Selectman Douglass stated that all public business, whether conducted by the Selectmen or other boards and committees, must be done in open session. Only under certain circumstances outlined in State Statute are Executive Sessions allowed – and even then only a discussion can be held, any action must be voted on in open session. The Selectmen can be together socially as long as they are not making decisions for the Town. He further

stated that this issue is being brought up not only to dispel any rumors, but to reiterate the process to other Boards and Committees.

Selectman Perkins added that sometimes the Selectmen wait after a meeting to sign items (i.e. minutes being amended by the Town Administrator) or waiting for copies of items to be taken home. Other times the Selectmen may meet at the Town Office to carpool to training, other meetings, or to do research.

Selectman Pye added that the issue has been covered thoroughly and that he believes most people know that Town decisions are made in public session.

Selectman Douglass further stated that if the Selectmen are together and a discussion heads towards Town business the conversation is ended and the issue goes on a Selectmen's meeting agenda. He added that if someone knows of a decision made by the Selectmen that was not done in a public session they should bring it forward.

Selectman Perkins added that whoever "they" or "anonymous" is should bring the specific complaints forward because the Selectmen deserve the right to repudiate the assertions.

Selectmen gave a final reminder to all Committee and Boards to insure that their meetings are held in accordance with the State statute on Freedom of Access.

2. Town Administrator

A. Announced upcoming meetings and events.

VII. Adjournment - Selectmen voted (3-0) to adjourn at 7:33 p.m.