

Submitted by: TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG Approved by Selectmen:
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
John M. Young MINUTES
Administrator April 18, 2007

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

I. Review and Sign:

1. Accounts payable and payroll warrants.
 2. Minutes from April 4th and April 11th.
 3. Sign Liquor Application for Sebasco Harbor Resort
- All items reviewed and signed.**

II. Meetings and Hearings:

1. Meet with Commissioner Connery for an update on Sagadahoc County issues.
Commissioner Connery was unable to attend due to the "Patriots Day Storm".
2. Meet with the School Board and other representatives concerning the wording of the warrant article about the new Woolwich School.

Meeting was held with David Miller (Woolwich) and School Board members Gary Read, Ronda Skillin-Grondin, and Kim Doughty. Mr. Miller and Chairman Read explained that Woolwich is required by the State to canvas surrounding communities to see if they are interested in contracting for a number of slots in the new school (grades 7 and 8) so that the actual school size can be determined. This contract would be for a 10 year period and if the reserved slots were not filled by Phippsburg students the Town would still be charged for the space. If a contract is not established then there would be no guaranteed space for Phippsburg children. The warrant article (#27) submitted by Mr. Miller and the School Union would authorize the School Board to negotiate a contract.

The Selectmen's opinion was that any sort of contract would take away free choice of school selection because a certain number of students would be required to attend the new Woolwich School. This was the reason they drafted the second article (#27A) which supports the construction of the new school, but not to the point of recommending a contract that takes away school choice. Selectman Douglass stated that he had already informed the School Union Superintendent, William Shuttleworth, that any article that that did no allow free choice would have a hard time passing Town Meeting vote.

Since the Selectmen and the School Board could not agree on a single warrant article that would satisfy both Boards the decision was made to leave both articles (#27 and #27A) on the Official Town Meeting warrant as drafted and allow the citizens to make a decision on this issue.

3. Meet with the Assessing Agent to choose a revaluation company.

The meeting was held with Juanita Wilson, Assessing Agent. She informed the Selectmen that both companies being considered (Vision and Bill Van Tuinen Tax Assessment Services) were good companies and well qualified. The final decision will be based on which company will deal with people better. She added that although she does not have a firm solid recommendation, she is inclined to prefer Bill Van Tuinen because he uses the TRIO Real Estate program vs. Vision who have their own separate software.

Selectman Pye stated that he preferred Vision because they seemed more acceptable to holding a public information session than Bill Van Tuinen who was very hesitant.

Selectman Perkins stated that he preferred Vision because of its advanced software and he is looking into the future.

Selectman Douglass stated that Bill Van Tuinen seems more comfortable where we are at now and wants to stay out of the high tech process. Both companies will get the job done, but seem to have different philosophies.

Ms. Wilson replied that since TRIO has been purchased by Harris Co. she expects the Real Estate software to be enhanced over the next several years. She added that she had recently attended a meeting where a young Vision project manager did a presentation and he could not answer questions and that left her, as a taxpayer in that town, searching for answers. The land cost schedule that was presented was heavy on the value of view – which can contribute to value, but is very subjective.

Administrator Young mentioned that changing from TRIO to Vision software will require considerable training for the staff and will also necessitate switching back and forth between TRIO and Vision whenever someone requests information on taxes.

Ms. Wilson stated that although she is not afraid of technology and moving ahead, she can do more with TRIO than Vision. She added that although both companies will have the re-valuation completed for the FY 2010 tax billing cycle - Vision will start earlier than Van Tuinen which means that some of their sales analysis will be one year old. She also stated that Bill Van Tuinen's company gave her a greater sense of simplicity and also that his work was solid and none of his assessments had been overturned by the County Commissioners.

Selectmen voted (3-0) to accept the proposal from Vision.

4. Meet with the Road Commissioner to discuss funding for emergency road repairs.

Commissioner Doughty reported that it would cost approximately \$60,000.00 for storm cleanup and road repairs – most of which may be reimbursed by FEMA. He added that Gary Morong, EMA Director, was the lead official on the FEMA reimbursement. Jared Darling (GAC) asked if the work was going to be put out for bid – to which there was no reply.

Commissioner Doughty asked how far off the road he should go with the cleanup process. Selectman Pye responded that we should only clean up what is within the Town's right of way.

Selectman voted (3-0) to put in a warrant article for Town Meeting asking to appropriate \$35,000.00 from surplus for emergency road repairs and cleanup.

5. Meet with Glen Theall concerning Town funding for Popham 400th fireworks.

The meeting was held with Mr. Theall who stated that he has 18 years of experience with pyrotechnics and has volunteered to raise funds for the Popham 400th fireworks separate from the funds being requested from the State in support of the celebration. He further explained that he would like to expand the fundraising to include enough money to start a perpetual fund to pay for fireworks in future years. He stated that his goal was for \$45,000 and he already has \$21,000 in pledges and cash which is kept in a separate account under the Popham Beach Improvement Association (Bill Racine is Treasurer). He apologized for not going through the regular budget process but he was away for the winter and when he approached a member of the Budget Committee he was told to bring his request before the Selectmen.

Selectman Douglass asked Mr. Theall if he projected more funds coming in and he replied that he did not know at this time.

Selectman Perkins asked Mr. Theall if he had all the necessary permits and he replied that he was aware of what he needed and was obtaining them.

Mr. Theall requested that the Town consider donating \$10,000 for fireworks and Selectman Pye stated that that amount was too high in light of the budget increase this year and also funding emergency road repairs and cleanup. Selectman Pye made a motion to put an article on the Town Meeting warrant for \$2,500 which passed (3-0).

The Town Administrator was asked by the Selectmen to contact the Budget Committee for a recommendation. Selectman Perkins reminded Mr. Theall that someone from his group should be at the Town Meeting to answer questions and gain support for the article.

III. New Business

1. Consider two Posted Roads violations for GAC Enterprises.

Selectman Douglass excused himself from the meeting because he has hired the company to do some work for him.

Violation #1 – On April 1st Road Commissioner Doughty had followed a loaded truck owned by GAC Enterprises onto Clifford Road. The truck then turned onto Loop Road and Mr. Doughty stopped following it and called Chief Skroski. Chief Skroski responded and found the truck parked on the road with a warm engine and empty, up the road from a construction site that GAC was working on. There were fresh loads of gravel dumped on the site. Chief Skroski then went to the GAC property and summonsed Jared Darling, the owner.

Mr. Darling was present and stated that he had no comments because he had not heard any information yet. When asked by Selectman Pye who was driving the vehicle Mr. Darling replied that he has four drivers and didn't know who was operating the vehicle. Upon questioning by Selectman Pye

Mr. Darling admitted that the site with the gravel was his work site and as a contractor he was in charge. He further stated that he had come in Sunday night with nine loads of dirt. Commissioner Doughty added that it was 41 degrees when he left his house the morning of the violation.

The Selectmen voted (2-0) to fine GAC Enterprises \$400.00 for this first violation in 2007.

Violation #2 – At 1:00 p.m. on April 11th Road Commissioner Doughty saw a GAC truck on the company property whose only entrance/exit is off Sam Day Hill Road. The truck was fully loaded with metal. Several hours later Commissioner Doughty saw the same truck in Lisbon. The temperature was 39 or 40 degrees. Police Chief Skroski stated that he had also seen the empty truck at the Center Store that afternoon.

Jarred Darling had no comment on the issue.

Selectman Perkins reconfirmed with Commissioner Doughty and Chief Skroski that the “loaded truck” and “empty truck” were the same vehicle.

Selectman Pye asked Mr. Darling what happened to the metal in the truck and Mr. Darling refused to answer any questions.

Selectmen voted (3-0) to fine GAC Enterprises \$600.00 for this second violation in 2007.

Mr. Darling stated that the Selectmen are only acting on assumptions. He was reminded by the Selectman that he could either pay the consensual fine or the violations would go to court.

IV. Selectmen/Administrator Comments and Announcements

1. Selectman Douglass

Selectman Douglass asked the Administrator if he had received a retirement letter from the Health Officer yet. The Administrator had not – but will contact Health Officer Barnes concerning the issue.

V. Public Forum

1. Ed Skillin

Mr. Skillin asked how much money would be spent on emergency road repairs and if the repairs would be done during posted roads.

Commissioner Doughty replied that the estimated costs would be \$60,000.00 and Selectman Douglass explained that there was a provision in the Posted Roads Ordinance which allows transiting posted roads for emergency repairs.

2. Commissioner Doughty

Commissioner Doughty reported that he found frost one foot down when putting in culverts. It was recommended that the roads remain posted and the issue be considered again next week.

3. Jared Darling

Mr. Darling asked why every time he goes down Route 209 he gets a visit from the police or gets followed over the roads. Selectman Pye replied that the police have been asked to be observant of heavy trucks traveling on posted roads. Mr. Darling stated that there have been issues between GAC

and the Doughty's for years. He also stated that the Road Commissioner does not have the required class "A" license for the vehicle configurations that he is operating. Harry Doughty replied that he does all the towing and has the proper license. Selectman Douglass explained that if the Road Commissioner is operating without the proper license while on payroll it is the Town's problem – if he is operating without the proper license as a private contractor it is strictly a police matter.

Jared Darling again asked why he gets visited by the Police Chief and why he is being followed. Selectman Douglass restated that the Chief was doing his job. It was also mentioned that GAC Enterprises has a history of driving on posted roads. Harry Doughty added that the Road Commissioner was elected to his position by the voters and was also just doing his job.

Mr. Darling continued to press the point after the Selectmen moved on and was asked to leave.

VI. Adjournment - Selectmen voted (3-0) to adjourn at 7:46 p.m.