

Submitted by: TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG Approved by Selectmen:  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
John M. Young MINUTES  
Administrator May 2, 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. Meeting minutes.
3. Appointment of James Totman to the Road Committee.

**All items reviewed and signed.**

**II. Meetings and Hearings:**

1. Meet with the Town Lands Management Committee and other Agencies concerning acquisition of the Popham Navy Tower (tabled from prior meeting).

**It was the consensus of the Town Lands Management Committee, represented by Bob Cummings and Clifford Newell, that the Town should not accept the property unless the tower, which was condemned by the Navy, was removed by them. This same concern was voiced by the Selectmen and Fire Chief Totman.**

**Selectman Douglass was concerned that if the Town made the removal a stipulation prior to applying for the property we would miss the application deadline date of May 12<sup>th</sup>. The Town could continue with the process and then decide to withdraw the application at a later date if the tower is not removed.**

**Administrator Young stated that neither the State nor the County was interested in applying for the property and that the County would not build a communications tower on it, they would only rent space if someone else built a new tower.**

**Mr. Cummings strongly urged the Selectmen to have the Navy remove the existing tower no matter what happens to the land because it is a hazard to the public.**

**Selectman Douglass discussed the State Park trail that runs from the area of the tower to Fort Baldwin.**

**Selectman Perkins stated that he doesn't want to see the town assume any expense in this process. He made a motion (no second) not to apply for the property, but to contact the navy and request that they remove the tower.**

**Selectman Pye recommended that the Town ask the Navy whether they would remove the tower prior to the Town making a decision not to apply.**

**Selectman Perkins asked what the application would state for the use of the land. Selectman Douglass replied that it would be used for parking access to the Fort Baldwin trail and come under the control of the Town**

**Lands Management Committee.**

**Selectmen voted (3-0) to continue the process and request that the Navy remove the existing tower prior to the property being accepted by the Town. The use of the property would be for recreation (parking for the Fort Baldwin trail).**

2. Meet with Dick Lemont, Shellfish Chairman, concerning funding support for a third party review of the Department of Marine Resources water quality program.

**Mr. Lemont stated that funding was not discussed much at the recent Shellfish Conservation Commission meeting – there were no comments or recommendations made on the issue. The legislative workshop was postponed until next Monday. So far 280 people have donated funds for the review as well as 11 towns. The group that was collecting the donations has accumulated approximately \$26,500, plus DMR has \$5,000 and another organization has donated \$5,000. DMR estimated the 3<sup>rd</sup> party review will cost \$30,000 to \$40,000 and the legislature has capped the amount at \$50,000. The review and report must be completed by Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. It seems that there is enough money for the review at this time and if any money is left over after the review it will be returned to the towns.**

**Bob Cummings, Shellfish Commission member, stated that he should have made a motion at the meeting for a small contribution. If someone on the Commission had made a motion he was sure it would have passed.**

**Selectman Douglass stated that he would have a hard time authorizing an expenditure out of the Shellfish Account without a recommendation from the Shellfish Commission. He also has issues with funding something that has not been put out to bid yet to obtain an exact cost and also had philosophical issue with contributing money to support something that the State should fund.**

**Selectman Perkins agreed with Selectman Douglass and added that they could revisit the issue in a month if the State is still short on funding once the bids are received.**

**Mr. Cummings stated that he would make a motion at Town Meeting to increase the amount raised and appropriated for the Shellfish account to enable the Commission to contribute funds for the 3<sup>rd</sup> party review. Then it would be discussed at the next Shellfish Conservation Commission meeting and if the Commission votes against the contribution then the additional funds will not be spent.**

**Selectman Pye reminded the other Selectman that there is still \$3,000 left in the Selectman's contingency fund.**

**Mr. Lemont stated that some individuals from Town have already donated to the review.**

3. Meet with the Assessing Agent and Town Administrator to reconsider choice of Revaluation Companies.

**Mike Young, Town Administrator and Juanita Wilson, Contract Assessing Agent, requested that the Selectmen reconsider their choice of**

Vision to conduct the upcoming property re-valuation. They, as well as Lisa Wallace (Tax Collector) and Marie Varian (Assessing Field Worker), recommended Bill Van Tuinen based on the following: (1) the end product will be the same with both companies; (2) the Town would continue to use the same software (TRIO) that it does now which enables direct integration between assessing, billing and collections modules; (3) the Vision software would have to be purchased and has a higher maintenance fee than TRIO; and (4) all prior assessment information (since 1998) will be lost if a change to Vision software is made.

Selectman Douglass stated that he did not have a strong opinion either way – he would leave the decision up to Selectmen Perkins and Pye to speak on. He felt that either company would do a good job and that both had the experience of having assessed the Samoset Resort. Vision was very flashy with its software and Bill Van Tuinen was more personal – but not as high tech. He was concerned with Mr. Van Tuinen participating in the public meetings after observing his presentation to the Selectman where he spoke at a very basic level. Ms. Wilson replied that he was speaking at a level that many Selectmen operate at – he was not aware that the Phippsburg Selectmen have a better understanding of assessing than most fellow Selectmen.

Selectman Pye stated that he had been hesitant to contract with Van Tuinen because his first impression was that Mr. Van Tuinen was hesitant about participating in public meetings.

Selectman Perkins stated that he was not provided with all the figures when the first decision was made and he was willing to retract his original vote. He added that Mr. Van Tuinen would have to provide a copy of the Keyman Life Insurance policy (which was allowed in lieu of a bond).

The Selectman voted (3-0) to reverse their prior decision and award the contract to Bill Van Tuinen. They requested that Mr. Van Tuinen be informed that they have concerns with his ability to participate effectively in the Public Hearings.

### **III. Unfinished Business**

1. Retirement letter from Dave Barnes, Health Officer.

Selectman Douglass read a retirement letter from Dave Barnes, Health Officer. He added that there was one interested applicant and the Town needed to move forward quickly to get a replacement.

2. County budget formula

Selectman Pye recommended polling other communities by e-mail to see if they would be willing to attend a workshop hosted by Phippsburg to discuss changing the County funding formula.

Selectman Douglass stated that Sagadahoc County and Lincoln County are in disagreement over the jail funding formula. Currently the jail bond cost is a 50/50 split while the operating costs and revenues are a 43% (Sagadahoc) and 57% split (Lincoln County) which is based on the % of prisoners using the jail. Sagadahoc Sheriff Mark Westrum feels that the

**Jail revenues should also be a 57/43 split. Selectman Douglass also mentioned that the County Budget Advisory Committee has recommended a funding cut of \$220,000 from capital improvements and the Commissioner's budget is already \$300,000 less than last year. However, the Phippsburg cost share will increase due to the funding formula. He added that because the County Budget Hearings will be held on the same nights as the Phippsburg Town Meetings we were unable to host a hearing. However this will be considered again next year.**

#### **IV. New Business**

1. Transfer Station Recycling Report.

**The report was read. There is a possibility that FEMA may reimburse costs associated with chipping wood debris from the Patriots Day storm.**

#### **V. Correspondence**

1. Letter from MMA soliciting candidates for MMA Executive Committee.

**Selectmen will consider for the next meeting.**

2. E-mail from Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA) concerning Patriot Storm damage.

**The Small Business Administration announced a loan program at 4% for businesses damaged in the storm. This includes lobstermen who lost gear. Applicants should contact the FEMA Office. Selectman Pye stated that there was a concern that people may abuse the program which could affect this program being offered in future disasters.**

#### **VI. Selectmen/Administrator Comments and Announcements**

1. Selectman Douglass

**Selectman Douglass apologized for not attending Candidates Night (he had to work).**

#### **VII. Adjournment - Selectmen voted (3-0) to adjourn at 7:01 p.m.**