

Submitted by: TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG Approved by Selectmen:  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
John M. Young MINUTES  
Administrator October 31, 2007

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

**I. Review and Sign:**

1. Accounts payable and payroll warrants.
2. Meeting minutes.
3. Appointment certificates.
4. Concealed Weapons Permit (Confidential).
5. ID Card for Chief Skroski.
6. Consensual Agreement with Kai Jacob

**All items reviewed and signed with the exception of item #2 (the minutes which the Selectmen will take home to review) and item #6 (the consensual agreement with Kai Jacob which needs to be redrafted by the Code Enforcement Officer).**

**II. Meetings and Hearings:**

1. Meet with Juanita Wilson, Assessing agent, to review and sign the Municipal Valuation Return and corrective documents.

**Ms. Wilson provided the Selectmen with a copy of the September Maine Real Estate Statistics.**

**The Selectmen reviewed and signed three abatements as follows: (1) Abatement for a 2001 travel trailer that was registered (paid excise tax) and also sent a personal property bill. Abatement was for the assessed value of \$7,900 and a tax of \$85.71. The owners will still receive a tax bill for their attached deck for the amount of \$3.00; (2) Abatement for a test account used to calculate values for personal property. This is a dummy account that was not deleted before commitment. The attached assessment to be abated is \$18,300. There is no loss in taxes; (3) Abatement for Storrs Bigelow for an old account which was deleted in 1995 but popped back up in the software during commitment. This could have been caused any number of ways and seems to be an isolated event. The assessment abated was \$48,100 for a tax of \$521.89.**

**Ms. Wilson reviewed the Maine Valuation Return with the Selectmen. She explained that it must be submitted no later than 30 days following the commitment. The declared Sales Ratio will be 74% (10% higher than actual as allowed by law and based on prior precedence). She also mentioned that the MVR is filed in the Commitment Book and is available for public inspection. Selectman Perkins mentioned that the Town collected \$396,337 for vehicle excise tax and \$3,789 for boat excise tax. These taxes stay with**

**the Town and go into surplus to reduce the property taxes.**

**Administrator Mike Young mentioned that the Town is in compliance with the LD1 tax levy by \$5,000.**

### **III. Unfinished Business**

1. Authorize funding (\$10,000) for Pine Tree Engineering to complete construction plans for Parker Head Corner.

**Administrator Young explained that at a prior Selectmen's meeting he had been authorized to obtain a bid from Pine Tree Engineering to design the rebuild of the Parker Head corner. Rob Prue from the engineering firm conducted an on site inspection with Road Commissioner Doughty and Les Smith, Road Committee Chair. Mr. Prue submitted the estimate as follows: Road design at \$10,000 and oversight of the project at \$5,000. He added that Mr. Smith felt that the estimated amount was fair. At this time he is requesting approval to fund the project design with \$10,000 from the Capital Road account.**

**Selectman Pye stated that he was not in favor of rebuilding the corner. He added that you cannot engineer a road for bad drivers and there are other areas in Town with the same conditions as Parker Head corner.**

**Selectman Perkins stated that if any money was going to be spent to help make a road safer it should be spent on this corner. This corner is particularly nasty and is scary when you have a wide load on.**

**Selectman Douglass stated that the citizens voted at Town Meeting to purchase the land with the intention of rebuilding the corner. He assumes that funding for the rebuild will be a separate warrant article at the May 2008 Town Meeting and they will need the engineering plans and cost estimates at that time. He mentioned that even though Stoneybrook Road was engineered into four sections, only one section was funded at Town Meeting for the rebuild. It is the worst corner we have in Town and he agrees that you can't engineer against bad drivers. He recommends letting the townspeople decide if they want to continue with the project. He also added that the Selectmen should have considered putting the engineering plans out to bid – but it is too late now.**

**Selectman Douglass made a motion to appropriate \$10,000 out of the Capital Road account to have Pine Tree Engineering provide plans for reconstructing Parker Head corner based on recommendations of the Road Commissioner and Road Committee. Selectman voted (2-1, Selectman Pye against) to pass the motion.**

### **IV. Correspondence**

1. Invitation from the Postal Service to attend the Installation Ceremony for Postmaster Ruth Robbins at the Sebasco Post Office.

**Administrator Young explained that the Sebasco Post Office has been upgraded from a temporary clerks position to a full fledged Postmaster. The installation Ceremony will be on Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>.**

## V. Selectmen/Administrator Comments and Announcements

### 1. Administrator Young

**Announced upcoming events.**

### 2. Selectman Douglass

**Flu Shots:** Selectman Douglass stated that the Health Officer, Sue Jones, wanted him to remind people that flu season is coming upon us and less people seem to be getting preventative shots this year. People need protection from the flu this year, the same as past years, and he encourages people to take advantage of the free flu shot clinic at the Senior Fair on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**County/Municipal Workshop Recap:** Representatives from the County Commissioners, Sheriff's Department, surrounding Municipalities, and State Legislature attended the workshop.

At the beginning of the workshop the County Tax Assessment Formula was discussed. The formula is based on the valuation of the municipality and Phippsburg has the third highest County Tax due to this, although we are seventh in population.

The discussion quickly changed to the Governor's Jail Plan which would bring all the County jails under the State's control. The State plans to use the Two Rivers Jail to house mentally ill inmates requiring the County and Municipalities to transport prisoners to York or other jails. The County (therefore municipalities) would still be responsible for the debt payments.

He stated that there is a lot of confusion and misrepresentation in the Governor's plan and the figures are questionable. It will cost us a lot of money if this plan goes through. It reminds him of the school consolidation plan because the plan will be attached to the budget bill so the legislature has a choice of either passing the plan or not having a budget to operate the State government on. It is another plan which, like LD1 and the school consolidation plan, erodes our local control through Town Meeting.

He added that out of the three legislatures present (Senator Benoit, Representatives Grose and Percy) only Senator Benoit was unequivocally opposed to it. He did not get a strong indication that Representatives Grose and Percy were against it – they wanted to wait to see more figures. For some reason the legislature does not see that it is inherently wrong that the State can swoop in, take the jail we are paying for, convert it to house mentally ill inmates, and then force us to transport our prisoners elsewhere.

Selectmen Perkins mentioned that County Commissioner Connery is upset and opposed to this plan as well as County Sheriff Mark Westrum who is very frustrated.

Selectman Pye mentioned that he didn't think that Representative Percy had a chance to read the plan yet.

### 3. Selectman Perkins

**Wished everyone a Happy Halloween.**

## VI. Adjournment - Selectmen voted (3-0) to adjourn at 6:37 p.m.