

Submitted by:

TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Approved by Selectmen:

John M. Young  
Administrator

MINUTES  
February 06, 2008

*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.

**All items reviewed and signed**

**II. Meetings and Hearings:**

1. Meet with the Budget Committee to discuss the upcoming budget preparation.

**Meeting was held with Budget Committee members Proctor Wells, Betsey Morse, Dan Coffin, Gary Read, Lisa Gurney, and Dave Barter. Administrator Young provided a briefing handout which was reviewed (attached).**

**Most of the discussion surrounded the Budget Committee's role in reviewing the Regional School Unit's (RSU) budget and what the future makeup of the Budget Committee should be since the appointed position of a School Board member would no longer exist. It was agreed by members of both boards that the Budget Committee should still be involved with reviewing the RSU budget because it represents such a large share of the taxes levied. They also agreed that the appointed position for a School Board member should be replaced with an appointed at-large position.**

**The issue of raising funds for the School Capital Account was also discussed. Gary Read, School Board Chair, stated that the School Board had been discussing the possibility of setting up a Building Advisory Committee to track the condition of the School and make recommendations to the RSU for repairs and upkeep. Some of those present felt that the Town should not set any funds aside for building upgrades and repairs because it would be the responsibility of the RSU who will own the School as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. Others felt that the Town should continue to maintain the Capital Account to pay for improvements that may not be a priority for the RSU.**

**Administrator Young will advise Superintendent Shuttleworth and RSU Directors Betsy Varian and Julie Rice of the content of this discussion and request that RSU representatives attend the Budget Committee meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup> so these issues can be discussed. He will also draft amendments to the Budget Committee Ordinance for the May Town Meeting.**

### III. Unfinished Business

1. Hatch Point agreement

**Selectman Douglass stated that he has reconsidered the issue of a written agreement between the Town and the Sportsman's Association for maintenance of Hatch Point. He will support a less formal agreement as long as the Town's insurance carriers will continue liability coverage on the property. Administrator Young confirmed that liability coverage will continue and he will re-format the agreement that was proposed by the Town Lands Management Committee.**

### IV. New Business

1. Consider the appointment of Shana Larrabee to the PACTV Committee and Gary Small to the Center Pond Alewife Committee.

**Selectmen voted (3-0) to approve both appointments. Selectman Douglass wanted to make it clear that if a member of the CATV Committee is operating a camera - the Station Manager becomes their supervisor.**

2. Consider accepting a \$500.00 donation to the Good Will Account from John and Dorothy Bradford.

**Selectmen voted (3-0) to accept the donation. It will be placed in the Good Will Account (funds are used to provide heating fuel for families in need that may not qualify for General Assistance).**

3. Discuss having a Selectmen's meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Administrator Young will not be available for the Selectmen's meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Selectman Pye requested that this issue be tabled and revisited closer to the date.**

4. Transfer Station recycling Report

**Report was read by Selectman Pye. No further action taken.**

### V. Selectmen/Administrator Comments and Announcements

1. Administrator Young

**Reported that he had attended the first meeting of the elected directors for Regional School Unit #1. He provided the Selectmen with a handout consisting of notes he had taken (attached to these minutes). He mentioned that Superintendent Shuttleworth had stated that there may be little cost savings in the beginning because the State is shifting funding around. Selectmen Douglass replied that this consolidation was supposed to save money and was one of the selling points. Administrator Young also announced upcoming meetings and events.**

2. Selectman Douglass

**Requested that Administrator Young provide an update on the status of ADA compliance, costs for the Parker Head Corner rebuild, and plans for the Transfer Station redesign. Administrator Young replied that he would have the ADA compliance update ready for the Selectmen's Budget Workshop, that he expected the Parker Head Corner costs would be available for the Road Committee to review next week, and he would check on the status of the Transfer Station redesign.**

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

## Selectmen & Budget Committee Meeting 2/6/08

1. There will be no Budget Committee input on the 2008-2009 School Budget during our normal budget process. We need to wait and see how the new RSU will be soliciting for input.
2. We will no longer have an appointed School Board Representative on the Budget Committee after this year. We will need to amend the Ordinance at Town Meeting to either:
  - Reduce the size of the Committee to 5 (and decide what other position goes – elected or appointed) OR
  - Replace the School Board position with an appointed Citizen at Large position OR
  - Have another Elected position OR
  - No longer have a Budget Committee.

The Budget Committee should think about these alternatives during the process and make a recommendation to the Selectmen at their last meeting in March.

3. Savings:
  - We will not have to raise school capital this year (last year we raised \$50,000).
  - We have not completed any Refunded Abatements (we raised \$20,000 last year).
  - The Debt Service (Bond) payment is \$9,000 less (Stoneybrook Paving).
  - We took \$30,000 out of Surplus for the Reval last year, which we will not have to do this year.
  - We received a FEMA reimbursement of \$20,366 for the Patriots Day Storm road repairs and response. We expect to receive another \$3,916 from State MEMA for a total of \$24,283. We had appropriated \$35,000 from Surplus for the road repairs at the May 2007 Town Meeting, but only used \$19,326. We divided this reimbursement as follows: \$200 for Police reimbursement, \$1,000 for EMA and \$4,200 for the Fire Department, and the remainder of \$18,883 for the Disaster Road Account.
  - We received \$3,000 back from the Winnegance Alewife project.
  - We will not have to fund the Comp Plan Account this year (savings of \$15,000).
  - We will not need funding for ADA Compliance this year (savings of \$15,000) because we have a balance of \$20,000 in the account.
4. New funding articles so far:
  - Rebuild of Parker Head Corner – unknown amount at this time. Part of this could be offset with the savings noted above, use of some road capital which the Road Committee may be recommending and using some Surplus.
5. Surplus – Estimate that we will be able to take the same amount from Surplus to reduce taxes as we did last year (\$600,000), even with allowing some funding for the Parker Head Corner.
6. Other – No idea what the County or School Budget will

**RSU #1 School District Board Briefing  
Taped by PCATV – Board members sworn in**

1. Chair is Charles Durfee (District 1 Bath/Woolwich), Vice Chair is Julie Rice (District 5 Phippsburg/Bath)
2. Terms by sealed envelopes – Julie Rice (District 5) drew a 1 Year Term, Betsy Varian (District 7) drew a 3 Year Term.
3. 4 Applications have been received for the position of RSU Superintendent, including William Shuttleworth's. The Board will review at their next meeting. If someone other than William is selected – that person and William will stay on together until July 1<sup>st</sup>.
4. 10 Committees have been established consisting of Administration and Staff. They are:
  - School Choice (letter to parents on Friday asking them to let the RSU know if they want their children to attend a different school within the RSU)
  - Technology (website and email system)
  - Curriculum
  - Special Ed
  - Big Picture (Mission and Vision)
  - Central Office and Accounting
  - Local School Operations (School Advisory Group)
  - Food Service
  - Facility and Operations
  - Budget
  - May be other committees established
5. Monthly meetings will be held at various locations throughout the RSU and will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month. Over the next few months they will be meeting more often. The next meeting will be Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at Morse High School – room to be decided later.
6. They are reviewing draft by-laws for their next meeting.
7. Although the Superintendent is hoping for change through LD 2032, we need to be ready for the possibility of a two phase budget process this year (they were hoping to have it put off for one year). It would consist of a regional wide Town Meeting followed within 10 days by a secret ballot vote in each Municipality. The “combined” vote of all Municipalities would have to be in favor of the budget.
8. William Shuttleworth also mentioned that due to the shifting of funds at the State level, we should not expect that “buckets of money” will be saved during the first year.