

Submitted by: TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG Approved by Selectmen:
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
John M. Young MINUTES
Administrator March 26, 2008

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. with Selectmen Perkins and Pye in attendance.

I. Review and Sign:

1. Accounts payable and payroll warrants.
2. Liquor License Application for Spinney's Restaurant

All items reviewed and signed

II. Meetings and Hearings:

1. Meet with Peter Roberts concerning upgrades to the Center Pond Fishway and Town Landings.

Because of a change in meeting time Mr. Roberts, Chair of the Center Pond Alewife Committee and Town landing Committee, was unable to attend the Selectmen's Meeting. However, he had met previously with Selectman Pye who presented the information.

Selectman Pye explained that the Center Pond Alewife Committee was going to modify the fishway by adding to the length of the chute on the Kennebec River side. Mr. Roberts has been working with the State Department of Marine Resources and U.S. Fish and Wildlife on both the plans and the possibility of a grant to assist in the funding. There has been no funding requested for maintenance of the fishway since 2004. The Committee has requested \$10,000 to be raised at the Annual Town Meeting for this project and may reduce it based on new quotes and availability of the grant. Selectman Pye added that the project is worthwhile and the Committee has put a lot of work into it. Selectmen voted (2-0) to maintain their recommendation of the warrant article for \$10,000.

Selectmen Pye explained that there were two projects planned for the Town landings. The first project was re-routing the power, cable, and telephone lines at the Meadowbrook Landing so that they would not run across the ramp entrance and cause a problem with the launching of boats with masts. The funding for this project was already available in the Town Landing Account. The second project was the installation of a set of steps, ramp and float for the Aliquippa Landing. It would be cheaper to do the entire project at once, due to mobilization costs, rather than splitting it up into smaller sections. The amount being requested at the Annual Town Meeting was \$20,000.00. The Selectmen voted (2-0) to maintain their recommendation of this warrant article for the stated amount.

III. Unfinished Business

1. Budget update from the Town Administrator.

Mike Young, Town Administrator, gave a brief update of the Budget.

The highlights included the reduction of the RSU share from \$363,950 to \$2,941,406 (due to accrued teachers salaries not being considered in the original budget) which is still an increase of \$266,860 over last year.

He further explained that the Municipal Budget will increase from \$1,497,911 to \$1,637,018 if all the warrant articles, including the Parker Head corner rebuild project, pass.

He added that although the County budget is unknown at this time, even if it stays flat the Phippsburg share will increase because of the Town's increase in State Valuation (12% for 2007-2008, 25% for 2006-2007).

It is expected that the mil rate will increase to at least \$11.50 per thousand (from last year's rate of \$10.85). The lowest mil rate over the last 10 years has been \$9.20 and the highest \$15.60.

2. Discussion of hiring of Patrol Officer to help fill part time hours.

Administrator Young explained that Police Chief Skroski was recommending that Doug Alexander, who is currently the Town's Harbor Master and Shellfish Warden, be considered for a part time Patrol Officer position in conjunction with the current Patrol Officer, Andy Anderson. The number of patrol hours (1,040) would not change, but would be divided between two people.

The Administrator further explained that while three other people had showed an interest in the position, Mr. Alexander already had the required training (100 hour Criminal Justice Academy course), was already equipped (would just need uniforms), and was already involved as a law enforcement employee within the Police Department. He added that currently there are no polices which prohibit a direct hire from within a department.

Selectman Pye added that the draft personnel policies being worked on by the Selectmen does allow hiring from within a department without taking outside applications.

Selectmen voted (2-0) to authorize departments to hire from within if the candidate meets the requirements of the supervisor.

IV. New Business

1. Affordable Housing write-up

The Selectmen voted (2-0) to allow the Affordable Housing Group to have a write-up in the Town Report.

V. Selectmen/Administrator Comments and Announcements

1. Administrator Young

Announced upcoming meetings and events.

2. Selectman Pye

Selectman Pye stated that although the Governor maintains that he is not going to increase taxes, by cutting school subsidy if forces the

municipalities to increase property taxes to make up the difference.

3. Selectman Perkins

Selectman Perkins said that he was confident that School Superintendent William Shuttleworth will do his best to produce the best budget he can. He also gave his condolences to the family of Jane Stevens (Ms. Stevens passed away on March 22, 2008) and also mentioned that the CATV Committee is trying a different meeting room setup to improve the camera angles and sound.

VI. Adjournment - Selectmen voted (2-0) to adjourn at 7:17 p.m.