

Submitted by:

TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG
SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Approved by Selectmen:

John M. Young
Administrator

MINUTES
April 9, 2008

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

I. Review and Sign:

1. Accounts payable and payroll warrants.
2. Minutes from past meetings
3. Quit Claim Deed
4. Liquor license application from Anna's Waters Edge Restaurant

All items reviewed and signed

II. Meetings and Hearings:

1. Meet with Jack Percy concerning Popham Wharf issues.

Meeting was held with Jack and Pat Percy, Harbor Master Alexander, Police Chief Skroski, and members of the Town Landing Committee.

Jackson Percy had contacted the Harbor Master for permission to tie his boat up temporarily to the Popham Wharf due to ice coming down the Kennebec River. Permission was granted, however he was later asked to move his boat when Harbor Master Alexander surveyed the river to Bath for ice and determined that the boat was no longer in danger. Pat Percy argued that there was still ice further up the river in Augusta that could have come down and damaged the boat. She added that there was ice along the shoreline and boats that morning.

Jack Percy asked why the Popham Wharf could not be used for extended tie-ups and Mickey Varian asked why the ordinance could not be changed to allow such tie-ups. Administrator Young replied that the Town did not own the dock, but leases it from the State and the lease contract does not allow extended tie-ups – which is reflected in the Town Landings Ordinance. Peter Roberts, Town Landing Committee Chair, added that the State does not want commercial use of Popham Wharf and they do not mention “emergency use” of the Wharf in their lease. Also, the State wants no extended tie-ups beyond unloading.

Harbormaster Alexander explained that he had received a few complaints about Jackson Percy's boat being tied up at the Popham Wharf and he contacted Mr. Percy and asked that he move his boat as soon as possible and Mr. Percy stated that he would do so in the morning. Mr. Alexander added that he would never have asked Jackson Percy to move his boat if he thought it could be damaged by ice. He also stated that Jack Percy should have contacted him if there was an issue with his decision and

that he has to follow the Town's Ordinance.

Pat Percy said that Billy Totman had lodged the complaint with Mike Young and Chief Skroski replied that he had received complaints from people other than Mr. Totman. Ms. Percy stated that if she knows who is lodging the complaints she could contact them and explain the circumstances.

Selectman Douglass read a letter from the Town that had been hand delivered to Jackson Percy last year which stated that he should make other arrangements for a winter mooring because ice would not be considered an emergency. Pat Percy replied that Jackson had kept his boat in Boothbay over the winter and only brought it back to Popham because he thought the ice threat was over.

Peter Roberts stated that the landings were for everyone to use and the Committee has tried to ensure that no one group deprives others from using the landings. There is ice in Popham every year and Mr. Percy's boat should have remained in Boothbay. He added that if there was a real emergency the Wharf would not have been available for a tie-up because the Percy's boat was there. Jack Percy replied that there was plenty of space to tie up another boat and Mr. Roberts explained that the only sheltered spot is between the wall and wharf.

Selectman Pye stated Harbormaster Alexander was just doing his job and Pat Percy replied that she had no complaints with Mr. Alexander. Ms. Percy added that she is the majority owner of the boats and should be notified of issues.

Selectman Perkins told Harbormaster Alexander that he was doing a fine job and to keep up the good work. He explained to Pat Percy that he did not consider ice an emergency.

Jack Percy explained that he wanted to express his concerns because his sons use the Wharf.

It was a consensus of the Selectmen that the policies and procedures in place for Popham Wharf were followed and would not be changed.

2. Meet with Lee Rainey to discuss support for the Uniform Building and Energy Code (LD 2257) and the appointment of Lynn Totman as an alternate member of the Land Use Ordinance Committee.

Lee Rainey, Code Enforcement Officer, explained LD 2257. The Selectmen had received information prior to the meeting on this subject. If LD 2257 passes there would be a mandatory building and energy code which all municipalities would be required to enforce. Mr. Rainey supported the majority report. Selectmen voted (2-0) to support the minority report as recommended by the Maine Municipal Association due to the bill being an unfunded mandate.

Selectmen also voted (2-0) to appoint Lynn Totman as an alternate member of the Land Use Ordinance Committee.

III. Unfinished Business

1. Patrol Officer hire

Police Chief Skroski stated that next week he would be setting up an interview board for Doug Alexander, who had applied for the part time Patrol Officer position. He requested that one of the Selectmen participate on the board. Selectman Perkins replied that one of the Selectmen would be present.

IV. New Business

1. Accept a \$100.00 donation to the Fire Department.
Selectmen voted (2-0) to accept the donation from Mr. Hill.
2. Accept a grant of \$2,400 for the position of Parking Enforcement Officer.
Selectmen voted (2-0) to accept the \$2,400 State grant.
3. Review monthly Transfer Station Report.
Selectmen Pye read the report.

V. Selectmen/Administrator Comments and Announcements

1. Administrator Young
Announced upcoming meetings and events.
2. Selectman Douglass
Explained that he was late for the meeting because he was discussing County Budget issues with a Woolwich Selectmen.

VI. Adjournment - Selectmen voted (3-0) to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.