

Submitted by: TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG Approved by Selectmen:
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
John M. Young MINUTES
Administrator January 14, 2009

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

I. Review and Sign:

1. Accounts payable and payroll warrants.
2. Meeting minutes.

Selectmen voted (3-0) to approve warrants. Meeting minutes approved and signed.

II. Unfinished Business

1. Attendance at the Budget Advisory Committee District Caucuses on Jan 21st.
Selectmen will attend the Caucus instead of having a Selectmen's meeting on January 21st (next week).
2. Review the Selectmen's policy on "Meeting Agendas and Minutes".

Selectmen voted (2-0) to table discussion until the next meeting when Selectman Douglass is present.

III. New Business

1. Review abatements with Juanita Wilson, Assessing Agent.
Ms. Wilson was unable to attend due to the weather. Item was tabled until the next meeting.
2. Discuss the increase in deferred taxes and collections and discuss collection of back taxes on 58 Surf Street owned by Marguerite Small.

Administrator Young stated that the 2008 Financial Audit shows that deferred taxes (2007/2008 taxes not paid) had increased to \$98,658.00 – last year it decreased by \$13,869.00. He has reviewed the accounts that are the most in arrears and is recommending that the Selectmen start sending letters to some of the prior property owners of record reminding them that that their properties have been foreclosed on and that technically the Town owns their property, but just hasn't taken physical possession yet. He added that this was done in 2000 when deferred taxes had increased and resulted in property owners either setting up payment plans or paying the owed amounts in full.

Administrator Young recommended that the Selectmen start with the accounts that are the most in arrears – the first being Marguerite Small's summer cottage in Popham, along with the adjoining lot, which is \$26,610.00 in arrears. Selectmen voted (2-0) to table discussion until Selectman Douglass is present at the next meeting.

3. Review administrative abatement list from Lisa Wallace, Tax Collector.
Selectmen reviewed the list of administrative abatements which totaled \$418.33. This total is an accumulation of small amounts of taxes owed which she has determined to be uncollectible. The list is on file at the Town Office. Selectmen voted (2-0) to accept the list and signed the abatements.
4. Switch the Board of Appeals appointment for Tom Cashman from a regular member to an alternate member.
Selectmen voted (2-0) to appoint Tom Cashman as an alternate member of the Board of Appeals, filling the position vacated by Richard Murphy when his appointment was changed from alternate to regular to replace Mr. Cashman. This was supposed to be a switch of positions between the two, but the Administrator had not prepared Mr. Cashman's appointment papers when the change was made in June, 2008.
5. Review the Budget Committee resignation e-mail from Dan Coffin.
Selectmen reviewed the e-mail from Dan Coffin which stated that he would be resigning from the Budget Committee due to health reasons. Administrator Young explained that this was an elected position which would expire in June of 2011 and the law requires that it be filled by appointment until the 2011 municipal elections. He added that he had already received one application and another inquiry. He recommended that the open position be advertised for one week.
The Selectmen approved the Administrator's recommendation. Selectmen Perkins stated that Mr. Coffin had donated many hours to the Town on different committees such as School Board and Budget Committee. He was also very active with the Fire and Rescue Department. He was thanked by the Selectmen for his service to the community.
6. Discuss the appointment of Betsy Varian to the Budget Committee as the RSU#1 representative.
Selectmen voted to appoint Betsy Varian to an open position on the Budget Committee which was created when the School Board appointed position was changed to an at-large position due to the establishment of RSU#1 and dissolution of the local School Board. Ms. Varian is the elected Phippsburg representative to the RSU#1 Board.
Selectmen Pye stated that this was a good idea and the Selectmen voted (2-0) to make the appointment.
7. Accept a donation of \$500.00 from John and Dee Dee Bradford for the Goodwill Account.
Selectmen voted (2-0) to accept the donation.
8. Review and sign the Financial Management Discussion and Analysis Report for the Annual Audit.
Selectmen reviewed the report and voted (2-0) to approve and sign it. This report is a financial overview of the Town for FY 2008 and is required by GASB 34. It is drafted by the Town Administrator, reviewed by the Auditor, and approved by the Selectmen. It becomes part of the Annual Audit

IV. Selectmen/Administrator Comments and Announcements

1. Administrator Mike Young
 - A. Announced upcoming meetings and events.**
 - B. Announced vacant committee/commission positions.**
2. Selectman Pye
 - A. Announced that John H. Rich III, United States Magistrate Judge, had recommended that the U.S. District Court grant the Town's motion for summary judgment in the North Creek Farms, Inc. vs. Town of Phippsburg, et. al. case. The Town, et. al, had been accused of defamation and violation of unspecified federal constitutional rights towards North Creek Farms, Inc. He added that North Creek Farms, Inc. had 10 days to file an objection.**
 - B. Announced that lobstermen in Zone E would be meeting next Tuesday in Wiscasset at 6:00 p.m. to cover management issues.**

V. Public Forum

1. Les Oliver

Thanked Administrator Young for organizing the donation of food and gifts for two families in Phippsburg during the holidays. Administrator Young replied that the credit goes to Les Oliver and the Elks for providing the holiday meals and the Town staff, Tax Bracket employees, and Dave Gotlibson and his employees at Redlons for donating gifts to the parents and children of the two families.

VI. Adjournment - Selectmen voted (2-0) to adjourn at 6.26 p.m.