

Submitted by: TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG Approved by Selectmen:
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
John M. Young MINUTES
Administrator May 19, 2010

Meeting convened at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall with Selectmen Perkins, Pye, and Read in attendance.

I. Meetings and Hearings

1. Meet with Town, Park and Legislative officials for the annual discussion of Popham Parking issues.

Representative Percy had requested this annual discussion. It was attended by State Representative Leila Percy, Police Chief John Skroski, Patrol Officer Doug Alexander, Sagadahoc Sheriff Joel Merry, Pat Percy, Dave and Tracy Percy, Bob and Gail Butler, Park Manager Brian Murray, Town Lands Management Chair Anna Varian, and State Trooper James Leonard.

Mr. Murray stated that they had a traffic problem in the beginning of last year but added a cash register and another person at the gate – which worked fine for the rest of the summer.

Representative Percy stated that the business people in Popham wanted to know what the Town will do to lessen the interruption of vehicle passage.

Chief Skroski stated that after the weather broke last summer they had a historic rush of folks going to the beach. The police department and park staff were overrun. However, this has been a problem every year. Even though they waved the traffic through there were problems further down at the Stonehouse Manor and Ocean View Campgrounds as well as issues with pedestrians walking along the road. They did work closely with the State Police and County Sheriff's departments to provide as much coverage as possible. He reported that there was an increase in the number of parking tickets issued last year. Mr. Murray added that Park attendance was also up last year. Mr. Alexander added that the "free park day" was the worst and people couldn't get in.

Selectman Perkins recommended sending a letter to businesses asking them to review the way vehicles are parked to get them off the road quicker and requesting that people not to walk on route 209. Selectman Pye offered to assist with the letter.

Pat Percy stated that the traffic control was better then last year. She added that another place that cars are being parked is across from her son's house (Doug Percy). She would appreciate it if business parking was stopped everywhere because there are no sidewalks. She added that the Butlers on Fort Baldwin Road have a worse situation.

Bob Butler had a concern that people come to Fort Baldwin, find the parking lot full, then end up parking on the road. The solution would be to have either the park rangers or police on site to prevent people from parking on the road. Chief Skroski replied that it would be difficult to do

that because it would require two officers to be on patrol since one will need to be at the park entrance. Mr. Murray replied that in order to accommodate Mr. Butler's solution he would need to take one of his rangers from someplace else where they are needed. However, he will try to monitor the Fort Baldwin parking lot better. Representative Percy asked Mr. Murray if the ranger from Fort Popham could go back and forth between the two forts and Mr. Murray replied that they do that now.

Anna Varian stated that once the Navy Rake Station land is transferred to the Town it will give some parking options for townspeople. She asked about having a crosswalk across Popham Road. Administrator Young replied that the possibility of creating crosswalks along Popham Road had been discussed with DOT and they would not allow it because of the speed limit.

Pat Percy stated that the construction of a parking lot behind the ranger's office building has been discussed in the past and has been turned down each time because it would require an overhead walkway or crosswalk on Popham Road. She added that busing from the proposed lot was also turned down.

Mr. Butler stated that the park was overloaded less than 17 days last year.

Representative Percy asked if a sign could be posted at the Parker Head/Popham Road intersection by Francis McDonald to warn people when the parking lot is full. Mr. Murray replied that he has such a sign on Popham Road in the vicinity of the Park. Selectman Perkins added that local businesses have been resistant about having such signs. Ms. Percy recommended a sign be installed further away from the park. Mr. Murray stated that he has looked into putting a blinking sign on Main Road but he was concerned that the local businesses owners would not like it. He added that DOT may be able to loan one on a trial basis. Administrator Young will contact Pete Coughlin at DOT to see if one could be loaned to the town and get permission to use it.

Mr. Butler said several improvements that have helped in the past were the extra cash register at the park entrance and the police/rangers not talking to motorists that are being waved past to keep traffic flowing.

Dave Percy stated that there would always be pedestrians and the speed limit should be reduced during the summer to make it safer. Administrator Young replied that this possibility had already been discussed with DOT and they would not consider a seasonal reduced speed limit during the summer.

Chief Skroski stated that he has competing interests on heavy traffic days at Popham. He is unable to concentrate on his regular law enforcement duties when he is tied up at Popham and it taxes the police services at the local level. If his department is covering Popham during the day they are not available for night patrols. He asked what the long term plans were for sidewalks in Popham. Administrator Young replied that DEP had issues with widening the shoulders for sidewalks and Mr. Butler added that it would require DOT to obtain property by eminent domain.

Selectman Perkins stated that it would help if DOT would mow and trim back the bushes along the road to allow folks to walk further off the road.

Pat Percy replied that normally each property owners take care of it.

Tracy Percy asked if the park rangers could help with traffic control. Chief Skroski replied that he already uses them for traffic control, but they are limited in what they can do because they are not sworn police officers.

State Representative Percy stated that one of her constituents was “google-ing” directions to Popham and it took them through Parker Head and she is concerned with RV’s traveling that route. Administrator Young replied that there was really nothing the Town could do about the results from “google-ing” routes. Ms. Percy recommended that a sign be placed at the Center that directs people to go straight to Popham rather than turning onto Parker Head Road. She also recommended a sign at the intersection of Parker Head Road and Popham Road directing people back to Route 209.

Pat Percy stated that following last years meeting everyone worked together and it was almost like a miracle hit Popham.

Gail Butler stated that Mr. Murray had used some curbing to limit parking spaces at Fort Baldwin and that worked well.

Patrol Officer Doug Alexander stated that people in the traffic line want to talk to those directing traffic and you just can’t just ignore them. Selectman Perkins replied that it’s OK to talk for a second. Chief Skroski added that a lot of times they try to send vehicles through and the drivers will not leave until they are talked to – then the Town gets complaint letters about the officers being rude.

Representative Percy recommended a flyer that explains the traffic situation and alternative parking areas. Anna Varian offered to draft a flyer which would include a map of the peninsula showing other recreational areas to go to. Selectman Perkins stated that the funds for printing could come out the Selectmen’s Contingency Account. There was a concern among others in attendance that handing out the flyers might cause a worse traffic jam.

Cindy Brouwer recommended that the Park Service include a “Popham Status” update on their website.

Chief Skroski recommended that the Park Service have a dedicated “Popham status” recording broadcast on a radio station like other parks. Pat Percy added that most people that visit Popham are residents of Maine.

Park Manager Murray stated that they already have a sign stating that there is parking ahead. He added that maybe another sign, with a map, located further ahead would help. They could take the signs up at the end of the day.

Mr. Butler stated that the safety barrels in the roadway to reduce vehicle speed works well.

Representative Percy thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The Selectmen asked that the Code Enforcement Officer arrange a workshop for those businesses parking vehicles to discuss permitting and foot traffic on Route 209.

II. Unfinished Business

1. Update on the septic system loan for the Perry property on Sebasco Road.

The Selectmen voted (3-0) to authorize Administrator Young to sign the loan documents on their behalf. Ms. Brouwer asked about the specifics of the application and Administrator Young replied that there was not a specific application for a septic loan; he had instead conducted an interview with Mr. Perry to ascertain his financial situation.

III. New Business

1. Discuss the McInathan-Phippsburg Fire and Rescue Fund, Inc. scholarship criteria.

Roy Clark, president of the corporation, reported that the qualification criteria for the scholarship program is so restrictive that no one is applying. They will need to either scrap the program or change the criteria. They don't want to get away from the original intent of the program in providing scholarships related to the Fire and Rescue Fields, but would like to widen the program to include education in medical fields, marine, arts, or other fields that may be beneficial to the Town. They would like to keep young people in the area because it is a potential pool of volunteers.

Mr. Clark asked permission from the Selectmen to make a change in the Scholarship program and added that the Probate Court did not restrict them from doing this and they would just need to inform the IRS of the changes.

Mr. Clark stated that so far the corporation has purchased \$23,000 in fire equipment, donated \$15,000 to the Fire/Rescue Capital Account, and reimbursed the Town for the legal fees spent on accepting and transferring the McInathan Estate. In all the Town has received \$45,000 directly or indirectly.

Selectman Perkins stated that it is important to keep young people in the community. His daughter graduated from college and is working in Portland yet still living in Phippsburg. He fully supports the scholarship program change.

Selectmen Pye stated that he will support the change because it is a good thing for the Town.

Selectmen voted (3-0) to support amending the corporation mission statement and scholarship criteria.

(Note: Letter of request is attached to these minutes)

2. Review and sign the RSU #1 Warrant and Notice of Election.

Selectmen reviewed and signed the Warrant and Notice of Election.

3. Authorize the expenditure of \$4,000.00 from the Totman Library Capital Improvement Account for the first of three furnace replacement payments (Ref: Article #8 of the May 3-4, 2010 Annual Town Meeting).

Selectmen voted (3-0) to approve the Capital expenditure.

IV. Selectmen/Administrator Comments and Announcements

1. Administrator Young

Administrator Young announced upcoming meetings and events.

V. Public Forum

1. Anna Varian, Chair of Town Lands Management Committee

Ms. Varian asked if there had been any more feedback on the Basin Preserve land donation. Administrator Young replied that he had not received any more. She asked if the Selectman had reviewed The Nature Conservancy map on the land potentially available for donation. Selectman Pye replied that they had and he noticed that a lot more of the Basin property seems off limits for donation and now that the Town has the map we can make some decisions.

Ms. Varian added that she was not aware of the latest plans of the Basin Educational group. The TLM Committee has not gone forward with any plans yet, but will be having a meeting to discuss the available areas. They are hoping to have more concrete proposals from the Basin Educational group on paper and then to draft a "business plan" showing who, what, when, where, and how as well as acreages desired.

Ms Varian also discussed the Popham parking flyer. She recommended something the size of an index card. She understood that some of the businesses parking cars are not permitted to do so and recommended stars on the flyer for legitimate businesses or listing only those in compliance. Selectman Perkins replied that she had the liberty to produce a draft and use her judgment on its content.

VI. Review and Sign:

1. Accounts payable and payroll warrants.

Selectmen voted (3-0) to approve and sign all the above.

VII. Adjournment - Selectmen voted (3-0) to adjourn at 7:03 p.m.



**McLANATHAN-PHIPPSBURG
FIRE AND RESCUE FUND. INC.**

P.O. Box 83
Phippsburg, Me 04562



April 30, 2010

Selectmen, Town of Phippsburg
Town Office, 1042 Main Road
Phippsburg, Me 04562

Gentlemen,

The Board of Directors of the McLanathan-Phippsburg Fire and Rescue Fund, Inc. have asked me to bring to your attention a problem we are experiencing in connection with the response to our scholarship offering. There appears to be a lack of interest by students seeking higher education because of the limited eligibility criteria. There is no reason to believe that this lack of interest will not continue to the point that the scholarship program will be ineffective.

Currently the restrictions affecting eligibility exist only within our by-laws. Any amendment requires the approval of the selectmen. The restrictions are vague at best and exist in the wording of the mission statement; "her"(Jane McLanathan) "expressed purpose was to allow the department to continue and enhance their level of service". Our interpretation of this has been to restrict scholarships to applicants who will be attending secondary education or vocational fields of study which includes studies leading to qualification in EMT certification, paramedic certification and fire science programs.

Our board ask the selectmen to consider the following amendment to our mission statement. In Article II, Purpose-Mission Statement , in the middle of the paragraph after the sentence beginning with **contribute** and ending with **ambulance service** add the following **Education Grants will also be provided to qualified applicants, giving preference to students that include fields of study leading to qualification in EMT certification, paramedic certification and fire science programs. However, if there are no qualifying applicants meeting those criteria, preference will be given in the following order; (1) medical field, (2) marine studies, (3) art and (4) other fields of study that will be beneficial to the Town of Phippsburg, the Phippsburg Volunteer Fire Department and the Phippsburg Ambulance Service.**

The above amendment will bring clarification to our existing interpretation as well as help maintain the pool of future volunteers by making it desirous for young people to remain in the town in the future.

In our opinion, there are no restrictions in the ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT issued by the Probate Court of Lincoln County that need to be considered.

Members of the board are available to meet with you if you desire.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roy Clark".

President and Chairman