

Submitted by: TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG Approved by Selectmen:
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
John M. Young MINUTES
Administrator December 22, 2010

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

I. Meetings and Hearings

1. Meet with the Cable TV Franchise Committee to discuss negotiations.

The meeting was held with Leif Albertson (Cable TV Franchise Committee Chairman) and Gary Morong (Cable TV Franchise Committee Member and CATV Station Manager).

Mr. Albertson reported that he had met with Attorney Patrick Scully who specializes in Cable TV Franchise negotiations (the Town had hired him to advise the prior committee for the 2001 negotiations). His Committee has reviewed the customer surveys which were sent out last year and he reminded the public that the negotiations only pertained to cable TV - not internet service.

Mr. Albertson stated that the Committee was concentrating on an assessment of the current plant and whether Comcast has complied with all their contract requirements. He added that there is a concern about the aging plant and what the Townspeople want to pay for, because any grants given to the Town (i.e. for the PEG Channel) are charged back to the subscribers.

Mr. Albertson stated that the Committee is following a standard franchise agreement model which was drafted by a group consisting of Attorney Patrick Scully, Comcast, State PUC, and several municipalities and that the Committee will be working with other towns to see what level of service should be provided. He added that property owners in Brightwater have specifically requested service and it will be discussed with Comcast.

Administrator Young mentioned that in 2001 the contract required that Comcast reimburse the Town for any attorney fees related to the negotiations.

Mr. Morong recommended hiring an engineer to report on the existing plant. The Selectmen authorized him to get an estimate on the cost and come back to them with a request and they would consider funding it out of the Selectmen's Contingency account.

2. Presentation of Eagle Scout projects by Boy Scouts Reuel Wilgus and Truman Slocum from Troop 648.

Mr. Wilgus presented his project which consisted of placing an informational kiosk at the Town parking lot which would contain historical brochures and other Phippsburg information. It would be painted white and would be in the vicinity of the recycling containers or Fire Station. He added that the kiosk project was recommended by the Phippsburg

Historical Society who would also maintain it. He expected completion in August 2011. The Selectmen approved the project with the stipulation that Mr. Wilgus get permission from Code Enforcement Officer Lee Rainey and Fire Chief Totman. Also, the kiosk would need to be placed so it didn't interfere with plowing.

Mr. Slocum presented his project which consisted of erecting a "Welcome to Phippsburg" sign on the "GAC" lot in Winnegance. It would be made out of donated materials and would consist of a wooden skiff (donated by the family of Alfred Smith) on pilings. A wooden sign with the wood burned inscription "Welcome to Phippsburg" would be attached to the skiff. He had permission of property owner Nancy Coffin to place the project in that location and it would be maintained by Troop 648. The Selectmen approved the project with the stipulation that Mr. Wilgus get permission from Code Enforcement Officer Lee Rainey.

II. Unfinished Business

1. Update on the Town Hall mold problem.

Administrator Young explained that the inside of the planning room south wall had been removed and although there were no signs of water intrusion the insulation and wall structure were full of mouse urine and excrement as well as numerous dead mice which was considered the main source of the mold spores. He added that the insulation looked like an "ant hill" with mouse tunnels. The current plan is to have the rest of the inside walls of the south room removed and the sheetrock, insulation, and carpeting disposed of. This will be completed by the mold remediation company under positive pressure to keep contaminants from spreading. At the same time Mark Alexander will continue trapping the mice (he has caught 15 over the last week) and will also apply metal flashing at the sill level around the exterior of Town Hall to keep the mice out. Administrator Young added that Kris Anderson was air testing the other two offices (Police and CEO) on the lower level and that they may need to have the same remediation effort undertaken if the contamination extends to them.

III. New Business

1. Consider the re-appointment of John M. Young as Registrar of voters.

The Selectmen voted (3-0) to re-appoint John Young for a two-year term as Registrar of Voters.

IV. Selectmen/Administrator Comments and Announcements

1. Administrator Young

Administrator Young announced upcoming meetings and events. He thanked the Fire and Rescue Department for their support of the Town Hall Open House and members of the Popham Circle for knitting hats and scarves for the attending children. Selectman Pye thanked Administrator Young and his wife, Chilloa, for organizing the Town Hall holiday festivities.

V. Review and Sign:

1. Accounts payable and payroll warrants.
2. Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

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

VI. Adjournment – Selectmen voted (3-0) to adjourn at 6:34 p.m.