

SELECTMEN MEETING

Tuesday, July 12., 2016

Town Office @ 6:00 PM

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairman Thomas Benson called the Selectmen meeting to order at 6:01PM and welcomed Chad Terry as the new member of the Board. Others in attendance include George Jellison,, Dan Norwood, Lydia Goetze, Town Manager Don Lagrange and Town clerk Marilyn Lowell.

II. Visitors to be heard not on the agenda: None

III. Lydia Goetze moved to approve the minutes of June 28, 2016, seconded by Dan Norwood and voted in favor 4/0/1 with Chad Terry abstaining.

IV. Manager's Report

~ Gateway sign and flagpole is complete. Bowen Swersey finished the stone planter and filled with plants in time of the July 4th weekend. Kris Harper pruned some trees which obscured the view. Scott and Mike installed the flagpole. Noah Mohr of KVK signs designed and installed the sign. We have committed to Mansollili of MDI landscaping to maintain the planter for the remainder of the year. Approximate cost of project was \$5,800. Another \$800 for plant maintenance during the next 10 weeks.

~ The siding at the Harbor House began on June 29 on the east and south sides of the building.

~ The auditors will be at the town office on July 18 to begin the FY15-16 audit. At that time, we will discuss the potential surplus that may be available after all invoices are paid. Net increase in revenue of approximately \$69,500 with municipal budget surplus of approximately \$328,741 will be discussed with the auditors and if confirmed, a plan to transfer the funds will be submitted at the next Selectmen meeting on August 9th.

~ The sample of the letter to be sent to abutters of the proposed sidewalk will be mailed by July 15 so they may have ample time to respond or make plans to attend the public hearing.

~ Another newsletter will be sent out the last week of July to include notice of the impending sidewalk project as well as other notices. A request was made for any items to be included in this newsletter.

V. Old Business: None

VI. New Business:

~ Historical Society president Karen Craig commented on the state of repair the town cemeteries were in and requested a Cemetery Committee be formed to address those issues and asked financial support from the Town. Dan Norwood moved to form a cemetery committee, seconded by Chad Terry and voted in favor 5/0/0.

~ Manager Lagrange presented this year's tax commitment resulting in a mil rate of \$12.86/thousand. This is the fourth straight year with no increase in the mil rate and was accomplished by maintaining the municipal budget the same as the previous year. Other factors include a smaller requirement for the high school budget, a very slight increase in the County tax and the increase in the Pemetec School budget was offset by reduction of \$30,000 in the municipal overlay budget and an increase in overall evaluation by \$2,000,000.

~ Lydia Goetze moved to vote for Gary Fortier of Ellsworth and James Schatz of Blue Hill to the Maine Municipal Association's Legislative Policy Committee, seconded by Dan Norwood and voted in favor 5/0/0.

~ Selectmen Liaison appointments for the following boards and committees: Tom Benson on the Planning Board, Waste Prevention Committee, Infrastructure Committee; George Jellison on the Warrant Committee, Shellfish and Harbor Committees; Chad Terry on the Conservation Committee, School Committee and the newly formed Cemetery Committee; Dan Norwood on the Board of Appeals, Infrastructure Committee, and Lydia Goetze on the Library and School Committees and the Water-Sewer District.

~ Dan Norwood moved to affirm the Town Clerk appointments of Renee Atwater and Robert Salsbury as Deputy Clerks, seconded by George Jellison and voted in favor 5/0/0.

VII. Other Business (Selectmen)

~ Dan Norwood expressed concern with the parking availability at the Bluffs on Route 102 in Mt Desert especially after an incidence of children trying to cross the road. Tom Benson also stated he felt the Acadia National Park should address this issue by making more off road parking available to reduce the congestion in this highly traveled way at high speeds. Manager Lagrange suggested to put this item on the agenda of the League of Towns as well as send correspondence to the Acadia National Park.

~ Manager Lagrange presented a copy of the State award contract in the amount of \$12,500 to be used with matching funds of \$7,500 from the Town for the purpose of Shore and Harbor Management. Noel Musson of the Musson Group will be forwarding an agenda to begin the process for committee development and purpose.

~ A report from Engineer Greg Johnston indicated a wall displacement and roof sag on the Harbor House. The Board agreed the structure was the responsibility of the Town where the general maintenance was the responsibility of Harbor House. The consensus of the Board was to request a structural engineer to determine a reasonable solution for stability to satisfy the insurance requirements.

~ Manager Lagrange summarized the 2016 construction schedule to include repaving East Ridge and 1600' of Freeman Ridge. Spring Brook Road has been completed however unexpected issues pushed the final cost an additional \$10,000 to \$50,328. The cost of East Ridge and Freeman Ridge is expected at \$190,816. Other topics include the Water-Sewer District project for 2016 for the development of a Scada upgrade (computer) and actuator valve assemblies for the water department with anticipated cost of \$223,000. Priority projects for the three piers include cross bracing, boat ramp resurfacing and handicap ramp at the Manset Pier, a 12' x 36' harbor master office, seal gaps in the bulkhead at the lower town dock and replace the steps, walkway, deck and finger floats at the upper town dock. It was requested to cost out the railing and sidewalk replacement at the bulkhead on Clark Point Road and begin planning the expansion of the highway garage.

~ A discussion was presented by Manager Lagrange to extend the sewer line up Freeman Ridge prior to paving. There are ten properties that would benefit by connecting to the sewer line with four immediate connections. Cost of installation between \$80-90,000. Chad Terry moved not to proceed with the sewer extension and go to paving only. Seconded by Lydia Goetze and voted in favor 3/2/0 with Tom Benson and Dan Norwood voting against the motion.

~ Manager Lagrange presented year end budget reports indicating a potential surplus of \$310,009 from the expense and an additional \$74,916 revenue for a potential total of \$384,925. Lagrange did state this would need confirmation by the auditors who are expected the following Monday. There is an issue previously entered which raises a red flag that may result in a much lower surplus fund. During this discussion, Manager Lagrange commented on the surplus in the police department of \$60,387, a result of Chief Brown's efforts covering numerous shifts due to the shortage of personnel as well as restructuring the department to operate more efficiently. He suggested a stipend for the Chief's extra efforts and Chad Terry moved to provide a onetime stipend of \$5,000, seconded by Dan Norwood and voted in favor 5/0/0.

~ Lydia Goetze reported on a community meeting called by the Barn Arts Collective related to the recent violence involving police and people of color. That group questioned whether the town has a policy of what is done if police officers behave inappropriately and if so whether the policy is written. No one expressed any concerns about the police in Southwest Harbor.

VIII. Dan Norwood moved to accept General Fund Warrants, FY 15-16: 169; Payroll Warrants, FY 15-16; 1, 167 School FY15-16, 166, 168, seconded by Lydia Goetze and voted in favor 4/0/1.

Chad Terry moved to accept General Fund Warrants, FY 16-17, 3; Payroll Warrants: FY 16-17, 4; School FY16-17: 2, seconded by Lydia Goetze and voted in favor 5/0/0.

IX. Next Meeting Date: August 9, 2016

Workshop, 5:30 PM

Public Hearing, Main Street Sidewalk Project, 6:00 PM

Selectmen Meeting, following workshop

At the Southwest Town Office.

X. Chad Terry moved to adjourn meeting at 8:05 PM, seconded by Dan Norwood and voted in favor 5/0/0.