



Board of Selectmen Minutes

Tuesday, July 31, 2012 @ 6:00P.M.
Southwest Harbor Fire Station

- I. Call to order/Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 6:48 p.m. Present: George Jellison, Jr., Ralph Dunbar, Jr., Dan Norwood, Dave Minctons, Chairman Tom Benson, Town Manager, Don Lagrange.

- II. Visitors: Antonio Blasi (Candidate for County Commissioner), Mike Magnani, Mary Vekasi, Barbara Fleming, Bill Fleming, Bert Willey, Hal Hale, Phillip Lauriat, Marjory Russokoff, Steve Hudson, Lydia Goetze, Sandy Johnson, Allen Willey, Dave Chapais, David Corrigan, Thia Embers, Sam Chisholm, Jim Vekasi, Anne Welles, Bob Shields, Carolyn Ball, David Shook.
Antonio Blasi spoke to the Board of Selectmen about his platform if he should be voted in the new County Commissioner. Don Lagrange asked Mr. Blasi if a charter for Hancock County would come into effect under his leadership and if the County Commissioner would be attending the local BOS meetings in the Hancock County so we could become more informed with how our money is being spent. Don Lagrange expressed that there needs to be closer contact and lines of communication need to be opened to the new Count Commissioner.
The visitors attending the meeting addressed concerns about the water drainage problem on Wesley. David Corrigan and Don Lagrange both spoke on behalf of the existing problem – suggesting looking at a different engineer to help solve the drainage problem because the first engineer hasn't solved the drainage issue. After much discussion on the issue, Ralph Dunbar, Jr. suggested to have a meeting set up with all involved in the future where they could have a more productive meeting. David Corrigan did let the property owner know that the town holds retain age for one year after the project is completed. Dan Norwood told the concerned property owner that she has the Board of Selectmen's support to correct the Town's street problem.
Sandy Johnson voiced her concerns about a member of the Board of Selectmen doing surveyor work on the Town's Water Tank project. She wanted to have the issue clarified to her. Donald Lagrange explained his reasoning for making the choice, also about the time restrictions put upon this project. Dan Norwood explained to her that the other selectmen agreed to the surveying due to the time restrictions. Ralph Dunbar, Jr. explained to her that not all citizens would agree on this issue and that he understood her concerns.
Dave Chapais spoke briefly about his department pumping gas and washing windshields at Circle K for a fundraiser for the Special Olympics recently held raising \$550.00 for the cause and having a good time. He thanked the community for contributing to their fundraiser.

- III. Approval of Minutes of July 10, 2012: It was Moved Dunbar Jr., and Seconded Norwood to approve the minutes of July 10, 2012 as presented. Vote 5-0.

- IV. Manager's Report: Don Lagrange spoke briefly about the Town of Southwest having recently been visited from Number Three of the Dept. of Agriculture to view the several projects sponsored by the USDA. The Police Department renovations were used with funds borrowed from the USDA. He reminded the BOS of the upcoming October League of Towns meeting to be held on October 17, 5:30 – 8:00 at the Somesville Fire Station. He also mentioned that John Devin, DOT Regional Director, maybe in town within the next 2 weeks for a possible venture with work that needs to be done on Main Street. He also stated that a meeting had been held on August 1st, to resolve the boundary line between the Madera property and the Manset pier.
- V. Warrants: It was moved Dunbar, Jr., and Seconded by Norwood to sign all Warrants presented except for Warrant #11. Vote 5-0. After much discussion, the BOS decided to withhold Warrant #11 to Woodard & Curran, engineers for the Wesley/Mansel Project.
- VI. Bid Review and acceptance:
- a. **Seal Cove Road** Motion to approve bid of \$114,215.00 from John W. Goodwin, Jr. made by Jellison, Jr. and Seconded by Norwood. Vote 5-0.
 - b. **Water Tank Motion** to approve bid of \$621,949.00 from Sargeant's made by Jellison, Jr., and Seconded by Dunbar, Jr. Vote 5-0.
- VII. Tax commitment: Don Lagrange spoke about the Tax Assesors restructuring the shore land zoning and the inland properties. Overall property taxes are 20% lower than 2011/2012. Mill rate went up from 10.95 to 13.4 per thousand. After much discussion about the rate increase and how the properties are assessed, the BOS would like an Assessor to be present at their next scheduled meeting to discuss the changes that were made. Don Lagrange explained to the BOS that the Assessor is not a staff person. The Assessor has full authority as required by state guidelines. Jim Geary spoke up at this point and explained to the BOS that the Assessors have a lot of power when it comes to tax commitments. Don Lagrange noted that the BOS lacked the authority to commit or not commit the taxes, this being the primary function of the Assessor. The BOS wanted to know what their options are and to possibly get legal advice about changing of the tax commitment set forth by the Assessors. Don Lagrange said he would hold out mailing of the tax bills until he heard from legal council.
- VIII. Other Business: None
- IX. Adjourn: It was moved by Dunbar, Jr., and Seconded by Minctons to adjourn the meeting. Vote 5-0.