

REPORT ON SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF JANUARY 25, 2011

Prepared by Rick Freeman

Note: (1). If anyone wishes to stop receiving these reports, they may simply hit "Reply" and request to be deleted from the list or say "Unsubscribe."

(2). These are not official minutes -- -- just notes taken by me. Official minutes will be available from the Town Office and will be posted on the Town web site and at the Town Office and other places following Board approval at the next meeting.

(3). Reports of earlier meetings and some supplementary materials are available at my Town Meeting website:

www.singingbridge.net

THE MEETING: There was one member of the public present at the start of the meeting. A second member joined later.

MOST IMPORTANT/INTERESTING ITEMS: In my judgment, the following items were the most important things covered during the meeting.

1. There was a lengthy executive session with the Town Attorney regarding a settlement offer from legal counsel for Wanda Haddock and a response to this settlement offer from James Poliquin, attorney for the Karbiners, objecting to the settlement. This case refers to a long running dispute about the legality of a structure built by Montgomery and Haddock on property on the Loop Road. After the executive session, the Selectmen voted unanimously to reject the settlement offer.

2. Starting at 7 PM there was a brief public hearing on the application for a (Class I-A) malt, spirituous, and vinous liquor license for Grey Havens Inn, by Evemarie and Richard Roesler, 96 Seguinland Road, Georgetown, ME. The applicants are the new owners of the Inn. They plan to open for the season on May 5. They will also be operating a restaurant.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Bill van Tuinen, who has the contract for property assessment for the Town, will meet with the Selectmen in public session at 9:30 AM on Thursday, January 27, weather permitting. The purpose of this meeting is to meet with the assessor to discuss process and time line. No other business will be conducted at this meeting. After the meeting van Tuinen will be available to meet with property owners who have questions about their assessments. Anyone wishing to speak with him should call Mary McDonald for an appointment (371-2820).

2. Mary reported on a number of items of correspondence, including:

- a request from the Maine Municipal Tax Collectors and Treasurers Association that Towns contact their legislators to express opposition to LD 79, a new bill that would change the way excise tax is calculated, thereby reducing municipal receipts.

- notification from the Department of Environmental Protection that an application for shore stabilization from Sidney Corderman has been approved. The property is at the entrance to the Little

Sheepscot River.

- A request from the State Housing authority for information regarding people who are homeless in Georgetown on the night of January 26, 2011.

- Kristin Malin forwarded an email from the Maine School Management Association (MSMA) showing the number of superintendents, the number of schools served by them, and where the money paid for school administration goes.

- Kristin also forwarded an MSMA bulletin on the presentation by Gov. Le Page's education policy advisor, Stephen Bowen, on the administration's education agenda.

- Pam Corrigan informed the Town that the Sagadahoc County Budget Advisory Committee Caucuses start on February 1. In District 2 (Bowdoinham, Georgetown, Phippsburg, Richmond and Woolwich), there are vacancies for both Municipal Officer (term expires Jan 2014) and Public Representative (term expires Jan 2012).

3. Under Old Business, the Town has received a letter from Eaton Peabody representing the Pinkham family objecting to the sale of the Aleada Pinkham house. The matter was tabled.

4. Regarding the testing of radio communications from the Sagadahoc County Dispatch Center, the Town has received a response stating that the plan is to get the West Bath Tower site up and running which should happen within the next couple of months. The County has also received a grant to simulcast the two systems together (West Bath & Phippsburg) and that it will also help immensely. This is expected to be up and running in the spring. The Selectmen directed Mary to write to the County reiterating the problem of spotty coverage of the signal and requesting a quicker remedy.

5. The Selectmen approved the letter from them to all Committees and Boards describing the upcoming budget process. Again, the Selectmen are requiring a zero-base budgeting process. The School Committee Budget Hearing will be on Tuesday, May 17. The Town Budget Hearing will be on Wednesday, May 18.

6. Animal Control Officer, Kate MacKay will be calling dog owners that have not registered to remind them of the fee as of Feb 1. She requested direction on how to handle those running at large fees that have not been paid. She was directed to issue summonses to the owners.

The next meeting of the Selectmen will be at 9:30 AM on Thursday, January 27 at the Town Office. The next regular meeting of the Selectmen will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, February 8 at the Town Office.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Freeman