

REPORT ON SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF FEBRUARY 22, 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

NOTE: My thanks to Alison Freeman who attended and took notes because of my absence due to illness.

THE MEETING: There were six members of the public present at the beginning of the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of February 8 were approved as amended for spelling and clarity.

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

1. Harbor Master George Dufour came in to discuss the problem of a nonresident fisherman from Friendship who has been unloading his shrimp at the Town Wharf. This is not allowed by the Town Ordinance governing the payment of the use of the wharf and the payment of commercial users' fees. He has been informed of this. The Harbor Master has issued a summons for criminal trespass and will continue to issue summonses as long as the fisherman continues to use the wharf.
2. There was continued discussion of the tax status of the Aleada Pinkham house.
 - The Town taxes real property but not personal property. Apparently, in the cases where a house and land are in separate ownership, the house is considered personal property unless there is a contract between the house owner and the land owner.
 - Many years ago the Town arranged a division of the tax bill that had no relation to property lines or a deed.
 - The land the Aleada Pinkham house sits on does not have a proper deed.
 - The Town did not follow through on advice from the Town Attorney at some point in the past.
 - The Town had a lien on the property and they foreclosed on that lien incorrectly.
 - It is now the responsibility of the heirs to straighten out the deed.
 - Bill Plummer stated that once the deed and ownership are resolved, all back taxes, fees, and interest should be assessed, billed, and paid. Until the back taxes are paid in full no permits should be issued. There appeared to be agreement.
 - During this discussion Bob Trabona asked for clarification regarding septic permits where the owner of the house is not the same as the owner of the land, as is the case with a home built by Habitat for Humanity. The owner of the land must get the permit.

2. Rosalie Paul, Robin Moore, and Kate Gravino came in to be interviewed for appointment as associate members of the Conservation Commission. Their appointments were approved. And Jack Swift was appointed an associate member in absentia.

3. The holding tank list was reviewed briefly. Some people have been keeping the Town informed when they have their tanks pumped. Codes Enforcement Officer Bob Trabona pointed out that the ordinance does not require proof of pumping to be submitted. He has submitted a request to the Planning Board that the ordinance be revised to include language requiring proof be submitted to the Town when a tank has been pumped. Companies that provide pumping services provide the owner a tear, or receipt, that could easily be copied and submitted to the Town. This issue has been tabled.

4. Mary MacDonald has compiled a list of all the known overboard discharges in Georgetown. The DEP also provided a list which included two additional overboard discharges, one on the Budd property, which is in the process of being converted to a leach field, and one on the McIntosh property for which the license expired in 1992. The DEP recently sent notices to the owners of expired licenses for overboard discharge. Bob Trabona called the DEP and suggested they copy the town in the future so we could be aware of the status. He also has asked if they will be sending out notices to licensees nearing expiration. If the DEP does not plan to send out notices in advance of the expiration Trabona, as LPI, will send out notices.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mary reported on correspondence received. The most interesting items were:

- Sagadahoc County Budget Advisory Committee has filled all of the open positions in our district.
- There was a note from the Maine Municipal Association regarding the highlights of Governor Le Page's proposed State Budget along with a copy of the budget address. General Assistance monies will remain the same, but they may allow only one claim per year from individuals. It is unclear how that would affect Georgetown. There was some concern.
- Kristin Malin forwarded an email from Maine School Management Association regarding the Le Page budget that may restore \$63 million in education aid.
- A funding Request from the Georgetown Community Center \$7500 was included with their annual report.
- There were copies of final notice letters from the Town-owned Property Management Board to Mike Stevens and Jamie Pinkham for past due commercial user fees for the Town Wharf. Jamie Pinkham has since paid his fee.
- An invitation from the Georgetown Historical Society to attend the Patten Free Library Town History Series on February 26 at 10am. Professor Libby Bischof will preview the exhibit "Maine Moderns: Art in Seguinland, 1900-1940" which will be showing this summer at the Portland Museum of Art.

OTHER ITEMS:

1. The Selectmen were informed that, according to Pam Corrigan at the County, the obstacle to improving radio communication with the Georgetown Fire Department (GFD) is language in the insurance policy on the tower in West Bath. They are working to resolve the insurance issue. The pagers work, but the voice communication is garbled. Police scanners do work, probably because of more robust antennas than the hand-held radios. The GFD equipment has been thoroughly tested. A

half hour meeting will be scheduled during a Selectmen's meeting in March for further discussion with Larry Mann and the people working to correct the issues.

2. Animal Control Officer Kate MacKay wrote asking for guidance. She has a list of 5 dog owners with whom she has discussed licensing but they failed to renew by January 31 (late fee of \$25. begins 2/1). There are also approximately 50 people who have previously registered dogs but have not done so this year. She needs direction as to how to proceed. The Selectmen agreed the 5 owners should be issued summonses and the 50 owners should be called. Bill Plummer and Dolores Pinette offered to assist Kate in the summons process.

3. Regarding cars parking in the Town Office parking lot overnight, there is one car that is often seen parked overnight. This has made plowing difficult during the recent snow storms. After a brief discussion it was agreed Mary MacDonald would provide Geoff Birdsall with the phone number for the owner of the car. He will call and tell them overnight parking is unacceptable. If this continues to be an issue, the Town may post a sign prohibiting overnight parking.

The Board went into executive session to discuss employee reviews.

The next meeting of the Selectmen will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, March 8 at the Town Office.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Freeman