

## REPORT ON SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF MARCH 22, 2011

Prepared by Rick Freeman

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(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](http://www.singingbridge.net)

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

The minutes of the meeting of March 8 were approved.

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

1. Under New Business, Dolores Pinette moved to place an article on the Warrant for the June Town Meeting to make the Town Clerk and Tax Collector appointed rather than elected positions. Apparently Cathy Collins does not intend to run for reelection and no one has taken out nominating papers for this position. The motion was seconded and passed.
2. At the end of the meeting there was some discussion of the School Budget for the next fiscal year. The School Committee has not yet arrived at a final budget, but it appears that there will have to be a substantial increase in the Town's appropriation for schools. This is because of a combination of things: decreased state aid; a decrease in tuition revenue from Arrowsic students; an increase in the number of students attending Morse. It is expected that the School Committee will set the final budget at its next meeting. But as of this writing, that meeting has not been scheduled.
3. Bernie and Sandy Goodman came before the Selectmen to discuss a drainage problem on their property at the corner of Five Islands Road and Oak Road. Apparently water is running through the culvert running under Five Islands Road from the cemetery and onto the Goodman property causing substantial erosion. Fixing the problem might require that the Town obtain an easement from the Goodmans. The Road Commissioner will be asked to develop a plan and cost estimates.
4. John Wood came before the Selectmen to discuss the status of the former Eileen Stevenson Lot (R3-Lot 33), which had been taken by the Town for taxes some years ago. There apparently might be some interest on the part of one of the abutters in acquiring the property. There is presently no road to the property. With an eye toward disposing of the property, Mary McDonald was directed to contact the land appraiser who had previously provided the Town an appraised value of \$98,000 and ask for an updated appraisal that reflects the limitations on access to the property.
5. Regarding the Aleada Pinkham house, Bill Plummer moved to add the Town's legal fees and

advertising expenses to the tax bill that will be prepared for the Pinkham heirs. This was seconded by Dolores Pinette. Since there was some question about whether this could be done, Mary was directed to ask the Legal Department at Maine Municipal Association for an opinion on this question.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

Mary reported on correspondence received. For a listing of this correspondence, see the Meeting Agenda available at:

<http://www.maine.gov/local/towninfo.php?t=166&p=1123>

#### TAX ABATEMENT REQUESTS:

Giray, Cem, and Yonca have questioned the assessed value of their lot in Bowman's Landing (03R-007-14). Their assessment is based on their having a view, which they question. Bill van Tuinen will be asked to check this out.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Mary is in the process of obtaining bids to run a computer network cable to the meeting room and for repairs to the exterior of the office building. The Selectmen decided that if the bids were acceptable, the work should be done this spring with the funds coming from the repair budget and the Maintenance and Repair Reserve Fund
2. It was reported that Mike Stevens had paid \$100 toward the past due wharf user fee. He has promised to pay the remaining \$120 within 30 days.
3. The Selectmen reviewed draft revisions to the Waterways and Harbors Ordinance submitted by the Harbor Committee. The only change is to increase the annual fees for moorings for non-residents and for rental moorings from the current \$20 to \$45. The Selectmen voted 2 to 1 to place the ordinance revisions on the warrant for Town Meeting in June. Bill Plummer voted against, stating that the fees should be increased for all moorings.
4. Mary reported a letter the Savings Bank of Maine regarding the taxation of the property owned by Michael and Patricia McAleenan (04U, Lots 17 & 19) on Indian Point Road. There is a discrepancy between the acreage shown in the deeds and the Town's tax records. The Town will correct the tax records and assessments and bill the owners for back taxes.
5. Mary reported a question from Lon Povich about combining the two lots on Robinhood Cove that he has recently purchased into one lot. There is apparently state law governing this process and how it impacts property assessments. Mary will research to law.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Selectmen then went into executive session to discuss personnel reviews and to get update on general assistance.

The next meeting of the Selectmen will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, April 12 at the Town Office.

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