

REPORT ON SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 13, 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 were two members of the public present.

The minutes of the meeting of August 23, 2011 were approved.

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

1. Mary McDonald had received a report from George Jamieson that more than 40 tires had been dumped on Flying Point. There was a question about whether the Town has any responsibility for this problem. It was decided to: (a) notify the Sheriff; find out whose property the tires are on; and to ask Maine Municipal Association about the Town's responsibility.

2. Kristen Coombs, the new Town Clerk/Tax Collector to discuss the progress of the transitions from Cathy Collins. She reported that Liz Rollins has agreed to serve as Deputy Town Clerk through December. Starting after the first week in October, the Clerk's office will be open 4 days a week and will stay open until 7 PM one day per week. She will be sure to post all changes in hours.

3. Bill van Tuinen, the tax assessment contractor, has provided recommendations on all outstanding requests for abatements as well as answers to questions about current property descriptions and valuations raised by Mary and the Selectmen. On the basis of these recommendations, the Selectmen approved several abatement requests. For details, see the official minutes of this meeting when they are approved.

The Selectmen expect to be able to review the assessor's book and the updates for this year at the next meeting (September 27). After that they will set the mil rate. Then tax bills can be mailed shortly thereafter.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mary reported on correspondence received. For a complete listing of this correspondence, see the Meeting Agenda at: www.georgetownme.com/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes.php

The most interesting items were:

- Central Maine Power reported that about 3% of the smart meters have been installed and installation should proceed rapidly during September. CMP has not responded to Mary's request for information on how many Georgetown customers have opted out of this program

- There was a letter from Jeffrey Murmeister requesting a refund of part of the vehicle excise tax he had paid in April 2011. He had subsequently sold the car and purchased a much older car with a lower excise tax. Mary reported that some other towns make a practice of refunding the tax in similar situations. The Selectmen approved a refund of \$596.96.

- Claire Darrow, curator of the Town Office Gallery, reported that a potential exhibitor had raised a question about the Town's insurance coverage against loss by theft or fire. Mary found that the coverage was for up to \$10,000 and reported this to Claire.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The Town has received copies of correspondence between the Town Attorney and the attorney for Haddock-Montgomery regarding the progress of settlement negotiations. It was decided to discuss the letters in executive session.
2. Regarding the radio communications problem, Mary reported that the new equipment had been installed at the West Bath Tower site and they are now awaiting power installation scheduled for Sept 13.
3. Regarding the road and drainage issues discussed at the last meeting, Dale Savoie is working on the Hess property. The DEP is coming to inspect the problems at the Goodman property.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Bill Plummer moved to appoint Alternate Jon Goldstein as a regular member of the Planning Board. This was seconded and approved unanimously. There are two people who have expressed an interest in becoming Planning Board members. Mary will invite them to come before the Selectmen for interviews for the open position of alternate - probably in October.
2. Bill Plummer suggested that all appointed boards and committees be required to meet at 7 PM rather than during the day on the grounds that this would make it easier for working people to attend these meetings. After some discussion it was decided that Mary should write to the chairs of these committees and ask them if they can meet at 7 PM.
3. As liaison to the Conservation Commission, Geoff Birdsall reported that the Commission had a team of students from the University of New Hampshire testing well water for salt water intrusion and septic contamination.

EXECUTIVE SESSION The Board then went into executive session to discuss personnel reviews, a Workman's Compensation case, and the correspondence from the attorneys.

The next meeting of the Selectmen will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, September 27 at the Town Office.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Freeman