

## REPORT ON SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF OCTOBER 13, 2010

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.

The minutes of the meeting of September 28 were approved with minor corrections.

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

1. Bob Trabona, Codes Enforcement Officer (CEO), came in to report on several code enforcement matters:

- The owner of property adjoining the Mountainside Cemetery put in a driveway for access to log his property last year. The driveway is within 25 ft. of the cemetery - which is not allowed. The CO is working with the owner to remove the road.

- An owner on the west side of Harmon's Harbor cut two mature trees within 75 ft. of the shore - which is a violation of Section 15 N. of the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. The CEO is working with the owner to develop and implement a plan for replacing the trees.

- The owner of a large plot on the east side of Harmon's Harbor applied for a permit to build a new dock. A condition of the permit was to remove an old existing dock. The dock has not yet been removed. The CEO will notify the owner of the need to remove the old dock.

- The owner of a shoreline lot in the North End has installed a ramp to the water without a permit. The CEO has notified him of the need to obtain permits from the Planning Board and the DEP.

- The CEO received an anonymous (unsigned)/ letter complaining about the junk on Alvin Moore's property on Moore's Turnpike. The Selectmen decided to take no action since the letter was not signed.

- The CEO reported that several people have installed temporary "hoop" structures to be used for storage and as shelters for cars. He pointed out that under our ordinances, if such structures are in place for more than 7 consecutive months, they are considered to be permanent structures and require permits.

- A property owner might not have begun work on a structure within one year under a permit issue by the Planning Board. The CEO is working with the owner to determine whether an extension of the old permit or a new permit is required.

2. Mary McDonald will be contacting Bill Van Tuinen to get the necessary data on total taxable property assessments so that the Selectmen can set the mil rate for the current fiscal year. The Selectmen scheduled a special meeting for this purpose for 5:30 PM, Thursday, October 21. Once the mil rate has been set, the tax bills will be prepared and mailed.

3. Mary McDonald reported that she had obtained bids for the tax anticipation note of \$600 thousand required to meet the Town's County tax obligation. The Bath Savings Institution submitted the low bid at 1.44%. The Selectmen authorized Mary to borrow the funds.

4. Shellfish Warden Jon Hentz came in to discuss a proposal from the Shellfish Conservation Committee to appoint a Deputy Shellfish Warden to serve as a back up in the event that Jon was unable to carry out his duties. Funding for the position will be included in the budget for fiscal year 2011/12. Jon will begin informally to see who might be interested in filling the position.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

A very brief hearing regarding adoption of the 2010-2011 General Assistance Appendices was held. There was no public input and the Appendices were adopted by the Selectmen.

Mary McDonald reported on the following correspondence:

- The State reports that its calculation of total property valuation for the Town for 2011 is \$517.3 million, down from \$526.45 million for last year.

- The Sagadahoc County Administrator reported that the Commissioners voted to establish a Board of Assessment Review, apparently to assist the Commissioners in dealing with appeals of property assessments.

The Town received four bids for the Aleda Pinkham house in Five Islands. The winning bid of \$4,000 was submitted by Patricia Mains. The Selectmen voted to accept the bid. Bill Plummer had recused himself since he was one of the bidders.

The Selectmen decided to place the question of how to respond to the Town's loss of its appeal of the DEP requirement that we delete the definition of developed area from our Shoreland Zoning Ordinance on the agenda for its meeting on November 9 and to ask the Town Attorney to attend. The question is whether the Town should immediately schedule a Special Town Meeting to amend the ordinance or whether it can wait for the Annual Town Meeting next June.

Regarding the problems with radio communications between the County and the Fire Department (see the report of the meeting of September 28 for details), Mary McDonald was asked to contact the County people to get a report on progress, if any.

The Selectmen reviewed the terms of the snow plow contract with Dale Savoie. He is to receive the first payment (1/7 th of the total for the year) on or after October 15, provided he has satisfied certain conditions regarding registration and inspection of vehicles, proof of insurance, among other things.. The Selectmen went over these conditions and requested that Mary McDonald check with Dale to get verification of these conditions.

There will be a special meeting of the Selectmen to set the mil rate for taxes for the current fiscal year at 5:30 PM, Thursday, October 21 at the Town Office.

The next regular meeting of the Selectmen will be at 7 PM on Wednesday, October 27 at the Town Office.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Freeman