

REPORT ON SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF OCTOBER 27, 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

THE MEETING:

Dolores Pinette was absent, apparently ill. There were two members of the public present.

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

1. Several items of discussion involved property taxes in one way or another:

- Tax bills were mailed on Tuesday, October 26. Taxes are due by December 27 with interest to be charged thereafter.

- Mary McDonald reported that she had just signed the note borrowing \$600,000 in anticipation of tax receipts.

- Mary reported that she had discovered that the property of Michael and Jodi McMahan was 6.51 acres rather than the 1.5 acres that had been on the books. This means that the property had been under-assessed. As a result they will receive a bill for additional taxes for the past three years.

- Mary reported that she was finding other discrepancies in a few of the property descriptions. She will compile these into a list for Bill Van Tuinen so that assessments can be corrected.

- Mary reviewed a form received from the State Property Tax Division reporting sales prices for sales in Georgetown between July 2009 and May 2010. The Town is to add the most recent assessed values and indicate whether these sales were "arms length" or not. This information is apparently used by the State to estimate the ratio of assessed values to market values for the Town.

2. Mary read a letter from the Westport Volunteer Fire Department Chief. They are requesting the use of our Engine 2 until they can procure a replacement truck for their current pumper. They would return the truck to the Town when they get their replacement. The GVFD has also written a letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting that the Board give preference to the Town of Westport in the disposition of our Engine #2 which is being replaced by the recently purchased Engine #3. Questions discussed included whether it would be a loan, an outright gift, or a sale; could it be done in such a way that Georgetown faced no liability regarding the truck once it was in the hands of the Westport Department; and whether the truck had any significant market value. The matter was tabled until the full Board could consider it.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Since the Town is voting on the School Consolidation Proposal on November 2, Election Day is technically a Special Town Meeting and a Moderator is needed for the period between 10 AM and 8 PM when the polls close. Mary is to work on finding someone to take on this task.

Mary reported that the County has informed her that they have corrected the issues found in the radio communications between the dispatch center and the Town's emergency responders and are now looking into some further improvements to the system.

Mary also reported on an Email from Misty Green regarding the Homeland Security Grant 2010 program; indicating that one of the major priorities of the grant is fixing the communications problems within our coastal towns of Woolwich, Arrowsic, Georgetown, Bath, Phippsburg and West Bath; and that she will be looking for a letter of support from these towns. They are looking for a permanent fix and that most likely it will be a tower set up in West Bath and a simulcast system to connect the West Bath site and Phippsburg site.

Personnel reviews are due for all Town employees. This task was tabled for future action.

The next meeting of the Selectmen will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, November 9 at the Town Office.

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