

REPORT ON SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF DECEMBER 28, 2010

Prepared by Rick Freeman

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS!

I NOW HAVE OVER 100 PEOPLE RECEIVING THESE REGULAR REPORTS. BUT I AM EAGER TO EXPAND THE LIST. IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO SHOULD BE RECEIVING THEM, YOU CAN EITHER HAVE THEM E-MAIL ME AT rfreeman@singingbridge.net OR CALL ME AT 371-2447.

OR YOU COULD SEND ME THEIR NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION AND I WILL ASK THEM MYSELF.

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 three members of the public present.

The minutes of the meeting of December 14 were approved.

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

1. Susan Curran, a consultant working for the Midcoast Council of Governments (M-CoG), was scheduled to meet with the Selectmen to talk about issues facing our community. She mentioned that the M-CoG could help member towns through joint purchasing of things such as road salt and office supplies, regional planning, and economic development. The Selectmen expressed some interest in looking into joint purchasing.

As a member of the public I asked MS Curran if there were any requirement for towns to update comprehensive plans. She didn't know and promised to look into it and get back to me.

2. Lisa Reese attended the meeting to ask about progress in getting FairPoint Communications to install broadband internet access to all residents in Georgetown. The Selectmen expressed interest in the matter but seemed unwilling to take any initiative. Lisa mentioned the possibility of getting a grant to assist FairPoint in funding the project. This was apparently how Arrowsic managed it. Anyone interested in pushing the matter and looking into grant funding should contact Lisa (371-2339 or lisa@woodex-meco.com) or Peggy Kapisovsky (371-90105 or pegmark@gwi.net). People can also sign the petition that has been left at the Town Office.

3. There was a note from the Town-owned Property Management Board stating that Michael Stevens and Ira Pinkham had paid their past due commercial wharf fees by the December 17 deadline. Letters were being sent to those who had not yet paid their fees for the 2010 calendar year.

4. For the School Committee, Kristin Malin and Nina Roth-Wells reported that the 20 year old refrigerator in the School kitchen had failed and needed to be replaced. They requested permission to take up to \$4,200 from the School Reserve Fund for this purpose. The Selectmen voted unanimously to authorize this expenditure.

The School Committee members also reported that Colleen Hudson had been appointed to fill the vacancy created by Don Cowing's resignation. She is to serve until the next regular Town Meeting (June 2011).

5. Bill Van Tuinen will be available at the Town Office on January 6 and January 27 to meet with property owners who have questions about their current property assessment. People wishing to talk with him should call Mary McDonald to set up an appointment.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. There were no new requests for property tax abatements. Van Tuinen is reviewing the data for pending requests from Sampson and Magliozzi.

2. The Town has received a certificate from the State Board of Education recognizing the the Alternative Organizational Structure, Rocky Channels School System (AOS 98).

3. Regarding the ongoing dispute about the denial of a building permit to Montgomery and Haddock, Mary McDonald reported that legal costs to the Town since January, 2005 have added up to almost \$60,000. These costs are recoverable if the Town ultimately wins the Court case. Speaking for the Planning Board, Codes Enforcement Officer Bob Trabona reported that at its last meeting the Planning Board had responded to the Superior Court remand of the permit application by reaffirming its decision to deny the permit and was drafting minutes that report this decision and the reasons supporting it. These minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Board on January 5 at 7 PM.

4. Mary McDonald reported that Bill Plummer had paid the \$3,500 he had bid for the Aleada Pinkham House in Five Islands. She was instructed to have the Town Attorney draw up the necessary quit-claim deed to complete the transaction.

5. Mary McDonald reported that Ruth Kosalka had informed her that she did not wish to receive the Boston Cane. The cane will be placed in storage until another person becomes eligible.

6. Cathy Collins has said that she will accept reappointment as Registrar of Voters.

7. The Selectmen then went into Executive Session to discuss a concealed weapon permit change.

The next meeting of the Selectmen will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, January 11 at the Town Office.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Freeman