

REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 26, 2016

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

Note: (1). 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.

(2). If anyone wishes to stop receiving these reports, they may simply hit "Reply" and request to be deleted from the list or say "Unsubscribe."

(3). Reports of earlier meetings and some supplementary materials are available at Rick Freeman's Town Meeting website - www.singingbridge.net.

THE MEETING: There were 3 members of the public present.

The minutes of the meeting of January 12, 2016 were approved. They are posted on the Town website.

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

- **Town Hearing Attendance:** This is a follow-up to discussion at the last Board meeting. The issue is how do we solicit input and encourage participation at budget and ordinance hearings that are held in advance of the Town Meeting. Attendance is generally low (15-20 residents), there are few questions and there have been some complaints that responses to questions are terse. The school budget is more than half of the overall budget and some feel more detail should be provided. It was suggested that an independent moderator might benefit the question/answer session. The Board is interested in suggestions/comments from the public.
- **Mooring Renewals:** The Harbor committee advised the Selectboard that they will be sending email rather than letters to mooring owners next year.
- **AARP TaxAide:** A brochure outlining AARP's free income tax preparation was passed out and is posted around town. All tax preparers are trained and certified through the AARP/IRS/MRS partnership. This service is available at the Patten Free Library Wednesdays and Thursdays and at the Bath Senior Center Mondays and Saturdays beginning February 1st.

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:

- A request from Sagadahoc County EMA that the town include information about signing up for CodeRED into the next tax mailing (next fall). Land-line phones are already done automatically but residents have to sign up if they want the notices on cell phones, text or other media. The Board agreed to include the notices as long as it doesn't increase the cost of the mailing.
- Thank you notes/letters were received from a number of charities which the Town supports, including Bath Area Food Bank, Midcoast Maine Community Action, Patten Free Library, and Sweetster.
- A request for 2016 funding was received from the Bath Area Seniors Activity Center. It will be forwarded to the FAC.

OLD BUSINESS:

- First Church: Kate and Bill met with a group of town elders to discuss the First Church. The elders recommended the upstairs remain “as is” and that it be used for weddings, funerals and concerts. There will be further discussion about plans for the basement renovation.
- Board and Committee Vacancies: Douglas Wollmar has expressed interest in the Alternate Harbor Committee member vacancy. The Board agreed to invite him to the next meeting to discuss the position. All vacancies are listed on the Town website.

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES:

- Fishing Derby & Sliding Party on Sunday, February 14th.

The next meeting of the Selectboard will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, February 23rd at the Town Office. There will be no meeting February 9th due to NIMS training for the Board.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Cliffe