

## REPORT ON SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF MAY 8, 2012

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). Reports of earlier meetings and some supplementary materials are available at my Town Meeting website:

[www.singingbridge.net](http://www.singingbridge.net)

(3) Finally, please note that 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.

THE MEETING: There were 4 members of the public present.

During the opening Public Comment period, Dolores Pinette asked me to make sure that people who receive these reports understand that they are NOT official minutes of these meetings. Please see Note (3) above.

The minutes of the meetings of April 24 and May 1 were approved.

**MOST IMPORTANT/INTERESTING ITEM:** In my judgment, the most important thing covered during the meeting was the Final Review of the Budget to be submitted to the Public Hearing on the Municipal Budget to be held on May 16. It was noted that there were still some details that had to be cleared up, especially in the School Budget. Mary McDonald recommended that the amount to be taken from Undesignated Balance be increased from the \$300 thousand recommended by the Financial Advisory Committee last week to \$375 thousand. She said this was feasible taking account of funds received from Bruce Montgomery to reimburse the Town's legal costs and funds that would not be spent during the current fiscal year by the Solid Waste Management Committee due to increases in recycling and reductions in tonnage hauled from the compactor and bulky waste container.

**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](http://www.georgetownme.com/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes.php)

The most interesting items were:

1. Information cards received from Legal Services for the Elderly about services offered. These are available at the Town Office.
2. A letter from the Hygrade Business Group asking if the Town wanted brochures from Efficiency Maine included in the mailing of Tax Bills next fall. This company handles the mailing for the Town. Efficiency Maine offers home weatherization services to homeowners. This would be at no cost to the Town. The Selectmen voted to accept this offer.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. It was reported that the application Bruce Poliquin to reclassify his land from Tree Growth to Open Space was still in the hands of the Tax Assessor.
2. The Maine Orthoimagery Project will be taking very high resolution aerial imagery of Sagadahoc County during 2013. They are asking of the Town would like access to the data. The cost would be \$5,500. After some discussion, Mary was directed to send the information to the Tax Assessor (Bill van Tuinen) and to ask his opinion about the possible value to the Town.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. The Selectmen reviewed the list of Homestead and Veteran Tax Exemptions for April 1, 2012/ The Homestead Exemption program provides a measure of property tax relief for certain individuals that have owned homestead property in Maine for at least twelve months and make the property they occupy on April first their permanent residence. Qualifying property owners receive an exemption of \$10,000 and their property assessments.
2. The Codes Enforcement Officer Bob Trabona reported that Allan Corderman wanted to sell his house (11R-14-H) but had encountered a problem. When the house was built in 1998, the building permit application placed the house at 80 ft. from the shore outside the 75 ft shoreline setback. It was discovered that when the house was built one corner was placed 10 ft. inside the required minimum setback. Bob noted that he was not CEO at that time. He recommended that the Selectmen write Mr. Corderman a "No Action Letter" that would hold him and any future owners harmless for this. It was unanimously voted to write the letter. Geoff Birdsall said that his vote was "a reluctant yes."

The next meeting of the Selectmen will be at 6:45 PM on Wednesday, May 16 for the purpose of holding a public hearing on the application of Chris Johnston to renew the liquor license for the Osprey Restaurant. This is before the Municipal Budget Hearing at 7 PM.

The next regular meeting of the Selectmen will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, May 22, at the Town Office.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Freeman