

REPORT ON SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF JULY 19 , 2011

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: There were two members of the public present.

The minutes of the meeting of June 28 were approved as printed.

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

1. Larry Mann (Fire Chief) came in to discuss the continuing problems with radio reception from the Sagadahoc County Dispatch Center. Mary McDonald had reported receiving a note from the County Administrator stating that the County had resolved the insurance matter and was preparing to sign the lease to install the transmitter at the West Bath Fire Station. The remaining complication was that there is now an osprey nesting on the transmitter tower. Larry described recent difficulties in receiving dispatches from the County and said that in his view the problem is getting worse and represents a threat to safety. He said that the problem is intermittent in nature and might be somewhere in the dispatchers' consoles rather than in the transmitter.

It was agreed that Bill Plummer would try to get on the agenda for the next meeting of the County Commissioners. If possible, Larry will join Bill to describe the nature of the problem Mary will also contact officials in Phippsburg about taking joint action, since that town is also having difficulties

2. Codes Enforcement Officer Bob Trabona reported that the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) is conducting a shoreline survey in Arrowsic, Phippsburg, and Georgetown to identify any failing septic systems. Three failed systems have been identified so far. The owners of two of the three are working to correct the problems. In the third case they are still working to identify the owner. Bob was not notified in advance by DMR that the survey was being done. He will draft a letter for the Selectmen to sign to send to the DMR Commissioner stating that it should be DMR policy to involve local officials in surveys of this sort in the future.

3. Mary reported that Peggy Kapisovsky had informed the Town that the grant proposal for Fairpoint to provide high-speed internet service to all parts of the Town not presently served had been submitted on July 13 and awards were expected to be announced on July 22.

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:

- The Maine Revenue Department presented their estimate of the Town's total real estate valuation for 2012. It is \$492,200,000 compared to \$517,300,000 for 2011. This is a decrease of just over \$25 million.

- Lincoln County Recycling sent its figures for the just completed fiscal year. Total recycling tonnage is down over 6% compared to its high of 2007-08, while compactor trash was up about 4% and bulky waste was down compared to last year. Both figures were well below the highs of 6-8 years ago.

- Maine Municipal Association responded to a question about whether Transfer Station attendants can open trash bags left by people, for example to remove recyclable materials. The answer was that according to common law, there could be no expectation of privacy once a bag had been left on public property by the individual.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mary reported that the Town has received a note from the Town Attorney regarding the status of the Haddock Montgomery case. The judge will soon be entering a judgment on Phase II of the case which will deal with the issue of removing the structure that was built without a permit, penalties, and attorneys' fees and costs to be awarded to the Town.

The Town received a letter from the attorney representing the Pinkham family stating that Ronald Pinkham has cleared title to the Aleada Pinkham house and is now the sole owner. The next step is to obtain an updated property tax valuation.

The guard rail at the transfer station has been repaired and the Town has received payment from the vehicle owner's insurance company.

The Selectmen approved the appointments of Nancy Riggs, Cheryl Lang and Amy Lang to the Recreation Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jonathan Goldstein appeared to be interviewed for the opening on the Planning Board. He was appointed to a 5 year term as alternate.

Mary reported that Lisa Reese had written to complain about the placement of a street light in front of their home on the Robinhood Road and that she had received a response from CMP. CMP had planned to move the light to another pole but in the process had broken the bracket. They wondered whether it was ok to not replace the light. The Selectmen agreed to ask CMP to remove that light from the list of street lights that are paid for by the Town.

The next meeting of the Selectmen will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, July 26 at the Town Office.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Freeman