

**SELECT BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 2, 2009**

PRESENT: Craig Poulin, Chairman; Paul Rooney; Denise Lindahl; Peter Allen, NVC Representative; Drexell White, Harbor Master; Amon Morse, Road Commissioner; Jack Driscoll, Town Administrator; Barbara O’Leary, Town Clerk

Citizen Concerns:

Paul Nyren and Richard McKinnon were present to discuss a Town right of way on Cross Street down to the ocean, which they stated the adjacent property owner does not allow residents to use. The owner, Mr. Witt, has used part of this Right of Way (RoW) as his lawn. Both Mr. Nyren and Mr. McKinnon stated Town RoW’s are for public use and should be kept as such. They asked the Board to protect the Town’s RoW’s for public use. Mr. Nyren stated the Town Maps should specify whether a RoW is public or private.

Craig Poulin stated the Board had looked into Town RoW’s a few years ago and Bill Kelly had been asked to research these. A grant allowed the RoW’s in Temple Heights to be investigated, but not throughout the whole Town. Jack Driscoll was instructed to check with Town Attorney Bill Kelly, to see if any further information is available on Town RoW’s before any action can be taken.

NVC:

Peter Allen mentioned the storm drains are clogged and some cannot be located due to the high volume of snow. Road Commissioner, Amon Morse stated he had noticed these were clogged and will be around fixing those he can get at. He will place blue reflectors at the drains so they can be located. Jack Driscoll asked if anyone has “adopted” a storm drain as recommended at Town meeting. Mr. Allen was not aware of anyone doing this.

Jack Driscoll had contacted Paul Bartels, NVC Office Manager, and asked if the Village had parking bans near the Golf Course. Since Bluff Road is a Town road, he stated the Village did not. Mr. Driscoll explained to Mr. Allen there is a parking problem near the Golf Course with sledders blocking the road not only for the plowing contractor, but also for emergency vehicles. Craig Poulin pointed out it is a State law that roads must be kept clear for emergency vehicles and people need to be made aware of this.

Amon Morse stated signs could be posted for either no parking or parking on one side of the road. At this time of year, they could only be placed in the snow banks. Craig Poulin also recommended a sign be placed at the entrance to the Golf Course. Amon Morse will look into getting the signs.

Roads & Bridges:

Amon Morse stated the sand pile is getting low and more sand should be ordered. Discussion followed. It was agreed to get 500yds of sand and 75tons of salt. FC Works quoted a price of \$10.25 per yard. Paul Rooney suggested keeping the newer sand and salt separate from the older material. These can be mixed at a later time.

Craig Poulin suggested asking the DOT if it would allow the Town to use part of their building on Rte 1 for our sand and salt. Jack Driscoll was instructed to check into this feasibility. Craig recommended talking with Dennis Damon, who is the Senate Chair of the Transportation Committee.

Amon and Paul will get together before the next budget meeting and finalize figures for roads and bridges.

Harbor Master:

Drexell White, Harbor Master, reported the Harbor Committee met last week. They reviewed mooring fees and recommend to the Board to keep them the same as last year; \$20 for residents and \$100 for non-residents. A late fee is charged for mooring permits after 6-1-2009.

Under motion of Craig Poulin, second by Denise Lindahl, the Board voted 3-0 to accept the recommended mooring fees of \$20 for Northport residents, \$100 for non-residents and a \$10 late fee, applied after 6-1-2009.

The Committee will be looking at long-term erosion at Saturday Cove, and repairs or replacing the floats. Jeff Schleicher was unable to attend the meeting and as Chairman, these items will be re-addressed when he is at the next meeting.

Craig Poulin asked if the Committee felt the Taylor Martens project was beating up the road. A complaint was made that the road is being destroyed. The Harbor Master did not see this as a problem. Once mud season begins, their work will stop and there is a good layer of snow on it now. Jack Driscoll pointed out Mr. Martens has agreed to fix the road when the project is complete.

The Harbor Committee will hear an appeal on March 19 at 7pm regarding removal of a mooring. Jack Driscoll will act as moderator. Mr. Driscoll pointed out this is scheduled at the same time as the Harbor Masters Conference in Castine. The hearing may be changed.

Mr. White mentioned boat excise and how other towns handle boats that have not paid their tax. A boater must register their boat before a mooring permit will be issued. In Northport most boaters pay their excise tax before putting their boats in the water and is not seen as a problem.

Administrator's Report:

1. The CEO has been looking at GIS maps for the Town. He has found a company who will produce the maps for around \$250, as apposed to MCRP for \$900.
2. Plowing/Sanding: plowing is good, but the contractor still seems to get out later than he should. The Road Commissioner agreed they need to get out sooner than they are. The same problem is with the contractor for the office, fire department and transfer station. He comes right after being called, but the he needs to be called to come plow.
Paul Rooney instructed Jack Driscoll to send letters to both contractors outlining the issues.

SW Cole: Jack spoke with Kevin Hanscom regarding the missing road survey. Mr. Hanscom stated they have been waiting for the signed contract back from the Town. Jack, and the Clerk, stated the contract had been mailed twice to them at address on the contract and recently faxed. The will get the project going again.

3. Website: a website for the Town was brought up. The fee is based on the number of residents in Town. The cost is \$650-700. The initial set up is labor intensive and a large portion of the cost is in that. Changes will be easy to make and could be updated by the Administrator or Code Officer. The company has done the Hope website and Stockton Springs. The Clerk asked if there is a monthly maintenance fee. The Administrator said there is not, just a yearly fee of \$700. Denise Lindahl que3strioned why the amount would remain high after the initial set up. The Administrator will look into this.

Extra phone line: The Administrator has requested an additional phone line. With 5-6 people in the office on Fridays, it is almost impossible for the public to call in. The Administrator was instructed to have an additional phone line installed.

New furnace: 2 quotes will be coming from Bill's Burner Service and Moonlight Oil. The Clerk reported Consumers Oil came on Friday and will also be submitting a quote.

4. Ra Power: the presentation on wind turbines will be on Monday, February 9th at 6:00pm at the Drinkwater School. Craig Poulin stated he will be out of town and unable to attend. Steve Fuller of the Republican Journal will be there. An Executive Session with Town Attorney, Bill Kelly, will begin at 5:00pm and has been posted.
5. GA: none
6. Good Deeds Survey: a sketch of the Beech Ridge cemetery was faxed to the office. Good Deeds stated they mailed this to the office months ago and they a have been waiting to hear back from the Town. The sketch was never received by the Office. Jack will bring the sketch to the next meeting.

7. Transfer Station: this was follow up to discussions regarding increasing the sticker fee. The Board agreed to increase the sticker fee to \$1.50 per bag effective Memorial Day Weekend.
8. Legal: a motion for contempt has been filed against Gregory D'Agostino. The fine assessed was paid with a stipulation which was not accepted by Bill Kelly and the check returned.
ZBA – an informational meeting was held in regards to the appeal of Mr. & Mrs. Cannell in the Village. The CEO will make his determination in the matter and the ZBA will rule either for or against the CEO's ruling.
Dhyse/Landry: A Declaratory Judgment has been served in this matter.
9. Animal Control: the ACO, Jerry Tucker has requested early payment of his quarterly stipend. The Board approved this disbursement.
The ACO shot and killed a coyote at the transfer station. There have been reports of a strange acting fox on Shore Road. The ACO has been unable to get it and residents should stay away from it.
Karen Austin of Eagle Drive has been warned about her dogs roaming free and bothering people walking.

Clerk's Report:

Two **warrants** were presented for approval.

The **Code Officer** has combined the Building Permit and the Occupancy Permit with the Building Ordinance.

Foreclosure:

The Town has received notice of foreclosure on the following properties: Don Warner, Charlie Dhyse and Robert Winslow.

A resident who is unable to pay his taxes, ahs asked if the Town would take his trailer. He is no longer living there. The Clerk explained Paul Jameson is trying to sell the property and it is already liened. She recommended the Board do nothing and wait for the Automatic Foreclosure in February of 2010 when the lien matures. This will give the resident more time to find a buyer and nothing can be done from the Town's end until that lien matures. The Board agreed to do nothing at this time.

NVC: The Clerk presented a letter from Mr. & Mrs. Cannell regarding this dispute with the Village building code.

Plowing: The office received a complaint from Jessica Moore regarding the plowing contractor. She had someone shovel her driveway and then the plow came by and filled in the end of the driveway. The Administrator spoke with her and although could

sympathize, explained there was nothing that could be done. This is one of the pitfalls of winter in Maine.

Assessment: the Assessors were here last week and did their quarter review of the Town. (report attached) 327 properties were visited. Total valuation was \$356,600; a decrease in value of \$48,500 for a net gain in valuation of \$308,100.

The Administrator pointed out the review is done during the winter each year. This does not allow for updates to seasonal homes. He recommends the review be conducted during the summer months. The Administrator was instructed to speak with our assessing agent, Rob Duplisea.

FY Change: The Clerk reported postcards will be sent out next week updating residents on the extended fiscal year of 17 months to change over to the new fiscal year in July 2010. This will mean an extended tax year with two tax payment dates. The first will be due by 9-30-2009. The second due date, in late winter needs to be determined.

Minutes: Minutes of 1-5-2009 and 1-19-2009 were presented for approval.

Under motion of Paul Rooney, second by Craig Poulin, the Board voted 3-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

With no further business, Craig Poulin moved to adjourn, second by Paul Rooney, approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara O'Leary
Town Clerk