

**SELECT BOARD MEETING
JUNE 4, 2009**

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

Education:

Bruce Mailloux, School Superintendent of the new RSU 20, was present to discuss the new school budget. The combined proposed budget of SAD 34 & 56 is \$34,000,000.00. An informational meeting was held on June 10, a budget meeting will be held on June 17 and the budget referendum vote will be held on June 23, 2009. The overall budget decreased \$540,000 over last year. The school union received \$600,000 from the education stimulus package. The State is reducing money to the schools and the stimulus money will make up this shortfall. This money will be kept in a separate account from the regular budget funds. Although the budget was decreased it does not affect the quality of education.

Mr. Mailloux stated the cost for Northport decreased \$160,000 from last year. For the first time in many years, Northport's mill rate from the State has dropped. Other towns are paying 6.37 mils and Northport is 5.40 mils.

Paul Rooney asked what would be done with salaries within the new district. Mr. Mailloux stated if all teachers were brought up to the MSAD #34 salaries today it would cost \$480,000. This will not happen all at once but over time in stages.

The June 17th meeting will present the budget to all the towns for approval. The June 23rd meeting will be the referendum validating the approval at the June 17th meeting.

Paul Rooney asked if the Northport elementary school, the Drinkwater School, was seeing a decrease in population. Mr. Mailloux stated it is, but all the elementary schools in the district are seeing a decrease in elementary enrollment. Drexell White asked what the cost is per student. There are 2650 students in the district divided by \$34million would be about \$12830.00 per student.

The Board thanked the superintendent for all his hard work during this transitional time.

Citizen Concerns:

Patty & Frank Muller of 234 Shore Road came before the Board asking for an easement on town property where they have been parking their cars. They went before the Planning Board last year when they wanted to do some improvements, but were told they needed to get permission from the Selectmen. This has traditionally been used as a parking area in the past. This is in shore-land zoning.

Jack Driscoll stated this is similar to the easement granted to him and Tom Peacock last year that use a section of the Town's right of way as a parking spot. Paul Rooney asked if this would be similar to the easement request of Mr. Witt. Jack Driscoll stated the Witt requested could be handled either as an easement or as a tenant-ship in which case the easement would be granted for a period of time and could be revoked by the town.

The Board did not see the request of the Mullers as a problem but asked the Road Commissioner to look at the area in question to be sure there is no problem he could see. Drexell White asked if notice has been given to the abutters. Mr. Muller stated he is surrounded mostly by land. It was agreed to grant the easement request as long as the Road Commissioner did not see any problems. Jack Driscoll will draw up a similar agreement based on the easement issued to himself and Tom Peacock last year.

Under motion of Paul Rooney, second by Drexell White, the Board voted 3-0 to approve the easement for the Mullers subject to the findings of the Road Commissioner.

Francis and Tammy Bonin were present to request an easement from the town to get to their land locked property near Knights Pond. They would like to enter from the Route 1 end with access off the Town road. Jack Driscoll had spoken with the Bonins earlier and also spoke with Bill Kelly regarding the matter. Mr. Kelly recommended the Bonins bring to the Board a description of the land and where they are requesting the easement. The description should also state the length of the easement and where on the Town property it would be. Mr. Bonin stated their property abuts Stratton Estates and goes up to Knights Pond. He agreed to draw something up and come back before the Board.

Jim Hanson presented his bills for work at the East Side Cemetery. It was noted the cemetery mowing contractor is having trouble mowing with the added fill along the road. Mr. Hanson recommended smoothing this out. The second driveway needs more fill near Route 1 and a large hole needs to be filled in.

Steve King, Master of the Union Harvest Grange, was present to discuss the grange hall on Route 1 in Northport. Mr. King has been working on getting grants for granges. He has found that money is not available for the granges unless the municipality owns them. He has come to ask the Board if they would be interested in buying the grange for one dollar. In this way the grange would be eligible for grant money. He is working with Olympia Snow's office in getting these grants. Paul Rooney stated the Board did not have authority to make that decision and would need to bring this before the residents for approval. Town Attorney, Bill Kelly would also be contacted. The Board questioned who would be responsible for insurance if the Town did buy the grange. Mr. King stated the grange would maintain insurance on the building. Mr. King is meeting on June 12, 2009 at 10am with representatives of Olympia Snow's office and invited the Board to attend. The grange has been closed down because it needs major repairs and is not up to code. If they don't get the grants they will not be able to make the repairs, which could cost \$20,000. This will be an informational meeting. It was agreed Paul Rooney and Jack Driscoll would attend.

Website:

Susan Fitzgerald was present to discuss her proposal for a website for the Town. (Proposal attached) She explained the Town could use a website and a blog, which would be like another page on the website. Both of these could be linked together. If these were set up through Google, the sites would be free, except for a monthly hosting fee of around \$10 per month. Ms. Fitzgerald recommends keeping the site simple; it should be a means of getting information out. The Town could post its ordinances, office hours, meeting schedules, etc. Email accounts would also be set up. She will donate her time to set up the site and train who will be in charge of keeping information up to date. The staff can upload the information to the site. Drexell White asked if the site would have the Town of Northport domain name. Ms. Fitzgerald did not think so since the website would be accessed through Google. Drexell agreed with Susan that it should be kept simple and a means to inform people. Advertisers could be allowed on the site, if the Board

wanted to, which would generate some money for the Town. The Board did not want to get into advertising. Ms Fitzgerald also stated software may need to be updated periodically during the year and she would do this if her schedule allowed, otherwise she would charge \$30 per hour.

Jack Driscoll presented a proposal from Sephone for a town website. (Copy attached) Sephone uses a template for setting up websites for municipalities. Pricing is based on the number of residents in town and offers the town its own domain name at a cost of \$25 per year. Specialized graphics could be added to the site for an additional \$250 per year. The site would include emails, spam and virus filters and remote access. Additional filtering could be added to email accounts for \$1-2 per account. Three search engines would be linked to the Town's site for \$199 per year. There is an additional fee of \$500 if the Town would like Sephone to place more of the content on the site rather than a Town employee. Maintenance problems would be \$85 per hour if we exceed the one-hour free each month.

The Board felt there was a lot of information to digest and would not make a decision tonight. They thanked Susan Fitzgerald for her proposal and presentation.

NVC

Peter Allen asked if the Town had yet heard anything back on speed limit signs. Road Commissioner Amon Morse stated he had left messages but still has not heard back. He will call again.

Jack Driscoll stated Barbara Peabody had attended an Overseers meeting in regards to improving recycling in the Village. The Overseers were not receptive to placing recycling containers in the Village. It may be more productive to approach rental property owners to discuss recycling. Placement of receptacles was discussed. Denise Lindahl asked if a container could be placed at the Drinkwater School during the summer when more people are in the Village. Maintenance of such a container was also discussed. It was agreed more thought needed to be given to this issue.

Animal Control:

ACO, Jerry Tucker, was present to give his letter of intent to remain Animal Control Officer. A repeat dog issue was discussed. These are two dogs on Nealey Road, but the owner is currently staying at the Twin Maple Motel. The dogs attacked another dog causing \$800 in vet bills for its owner. These dogs have chased people as well as other dogs and the owner has been cautioned each time with no result. Drexell White asked what the ACO could do at this point. Jerry Tucker stated he could issue a summons for dogs at large and dangerous dogs. He has tried to find the dog's owner after this last episode with no luck. If necessary, he will contact the sheriff's office for assistance. Drexell White stated there is a responsibility to follow up on citizen complaints and ensure their safety. If there are no written complaints will this hold up in court? The ACO stated if it goes to court he will ask those who complained to put their concerns in writing.

Ray Tucker, Jr. has agreed to fill in as needed as the Deputy ACO. Jerry stated he would make sure someone in the Town Office knows when he will be away so Ray can be contacted if necessary. He further stated he is receiving 20-25 calls a week in regards to animal control. In most instances the animals are not present when he goes out on the call. Paul Rooney stressed it is important he document all calls, regardless of the outcome; documentation is necessary. Jerry agreed to step up turning in his reports. The Clerk suggested he email them to the office once he types them up. The ACO stated he wants to remain as ACO and hopes the Board will re-appoint him.

Roads & Bridges:

Amon Morse, Road Commissioner reported on the following items:

Street sweeping is complete of Town roads.

Prescott Hill Road – work is complete at the Jerri Finch property, she is very happy with the work done.

Cliff Street – work is done but the culvert needs to be cleaned out. Paul Rooney stated the fire truck would be used to blast out the culvert blockage with the hose.

Knights Pond Road – the boat ramp area has washed out and needs lots of gravel. The culvert near the last home also needs to be replaced. Amon will get estimates for the work. Jack Driscoll has spoken with Tim Patten who does the clean up at the Wyman Park and would like more pay for the clean up he does. He has also recommended the changing room be removed and the outhouse as well. Amon asked if permits would be required to do any work since it is in shore-land zoning. Drexell White questioned if Inland Fisheries has grant money to be used. This is something that could be researched for the boat ramp. Drexell also questioned if there are ship grants that could be used. Denise Lindahl stated CDBG monies would be available in July. The Board felt the cost of these repairs should be researched, as well as finding money to fund them, and do the work next year. Drexell White recommended using the money from boat excise to fix the boat ramp. The Clerk will check with Vicki Eugley on the set up of the Wyman Park Fund to see if the funds can be used for removal of the buildings.

Hart Road – driveway repairs at the Hanson home has begun.

S.W. Cole – test borings are complete. The results show most roads consist of silt with some gravel. Jack Driscoll stated the report from S.W. Cole goes into more detail on the boring sites, but noted the high silt content in the roads and degraded gravel.

Drexell White asked if a guardrail would be placed along Kelly Cove. Amon stated the Board agreed last year to wait till this spring to place boulders along the corner instead of putting up a guardrail. He also stated trees and shrubs can now be planted. The DEP said these should be selected from their approved list. The DEP agreed most of the trees were dead and needed to come down. The Road Commissioner was instructed to find the rocks to go in.

Administrator's Report:

1. S.C. Cole report presented.
2. Saturday Cove – the large float needs to be replaced. Drexell White stated it would be better to get a new float to match the smaller existing floats. Discussion followed on getting prices and having one made during the off-season. Denise recommended Jack Driscoll contact Art Tibbetts for pricing and his availability to make the float. The new float should also be “skid-able” for easy moving in and out of the water. Tangie Abercrombie has requested the Town place trash containers at Saturday Cove. Jack has spoken with Tim Patten who would empty the receptacles weekly and charge the town.
3. Wind Power - Camden is looking into wind turbines on Ragged Mountain, there was a meeting on Monday. The MET towers have been loaned out and Northport is on a waiting list with Efficiency Maine. Jack Driscoll stated the town could buy their own and then sell it after the study is complete, or rent them out. The cost would be \$15-20,000.
4. Salt Shed - the rest area on Route 1 is not owned by the DOT and therefore they cannot lease it. The question came up who does own the property and would they be willing to

- lease it to the town. The Administrator has left phone messages with Steve Kinney and Kevin Crosby and not heard back from either. Paul Rooney felt the Town has been waiting long enough for responses from the DOT and the Board should take more proactive steps. He suggested sending a letter to the Governor, David Cole and Jayne Giles. He also stated the DOT websites lists working with municipalities in co-locating for various projects. Therefore, if the town did co-locate with the DOT on Route 1 it would not set a president since they have already one this. The Administrator was instructed to contact David Cole by letter in follow-up to phone calls and the Town's request to use part of their Rt 1 property, as previously discussed with Craig Poulin. Depending on that response the Board will decide what steps to take next.
5. High Speed Internet - Pioneer Wireless will be getting federal stimulus grant money to be used for high speed Internet.
 - 6-9 Discussed already; town website and culverts, Knights Pond and Kelly Cove
 10. GA – Three qualified applicants were received.
 11. Transfer Station – Tim has asked for clarification on the sticker increase. Small bags are .75¢; regular \$1.50 and large \$3.00. The Clerk also asked for clarification metal and leaves. There is a charge for metal brought to the Transfer Station, but no charge for leaves. Drexell White asked if there would be a Hazardous Waste Day. Denise Lindahl stated there hadn't been one in years. Towns use to join together and split the cost with one Town hosting. Denise also mentioned Terry Hire takes computers. Jack Driscoll will contact Jim Gilway in Stockton Springs and asked about a Hazard Waste Day.
Bill Butler of the DEP has asked for the policy book for the Transfer Station. Denise Lindahl had revised the policy in 2001 and a copy was sent to Mr. Butler. She will look for her copy and email it to the office.
 12. Jail Inmates – the work crew from the jail fixed 116 cemetery stones. They will come back at the end of the summer to fix more.
 13. Legal – Jack is seeking clarification from Bill Kelly on the Witt easement.
 14. Landry/Dhyse – this issue is almost resolved with one item remaining.
 15. ACO - Jack asked if the Board would like to discuss again the resume of Heidi Blood submitted for the ACO position. The Board did not feel this was necessary.
Under motion of Paul Rooney, second by Denise Lindahl, the Board voted 3-0 to appoint Jerry Tucker Animal Control Office for Northport with Ray Tucker, Jr. Deputy ACO when needed.
 16. Town furnace – The Administrator would like to have Bill's Burner Service start work On replacing the furnace. The Clerk stated funds are getting low and would like to hold off on this until later in the summer. She also stated the monthly payment to the school will have to be delayed. The Board agreed to hold off on expenses as much as possible and start the process for a TAN>
 17. Beech Ridge Cemetery – a new plan for the cemetery was distributed and discussed. It was agreed the Administrator should contact other towns and see how they address Perpetual care, plot sizes, costs etc. for their cemeteries.

Clerk's Report:

Town Clerk Barbara O'Leary reported on the following:

Liquor License – Northport Music Theater hearing for their liquor license renewal. The application was reviewed and deemed complete.

Upon motion of Paul Rooney, second by Denise Lindahl, the Board voted 3-0 to approve the liquor license renewal for the Northport Music Theater.

RSU 20 – the warrant papers to call the school budget meeting and referendum vote were presented for signatures.

ZBA opening – one member of the Zoning Board of Appeals has decided not to remain on the Board. The Clerk will place an ad in the newspaper advertising for the opening.

80K Motion – the Code Officer has asked for approval from the Board to go forward with an 80K action in regards to the septic issue at the Carnahan/Newman residences.

Under motion of Denise Lindahl, second by Paul Rooney, the Board voted 3-0 to have the CEO contact Town Attorney Bill Kelly and go forward with the 80K action involving the residences of the Carnahans and Newmans.

Moorings – the office has received follow up calls for mooring applications that were submitted but no response has been received. Jack Driscoll will follow up on these.

Concealed Weapon Request – Two requests for concealed weapons were reviewed with no comments.

Poverty Abatement – a request for tax abatement due to poverty was discussed. The clerk will contact Bill Kelly and ask for clarification. The Clerk stated this is a property in foreclosure and she is not sure the Board can act on the request. The Board also felt more financial information was required. A decision was tabled until next meeting.

Minutes – the minutes of the Town Meeting, 5-4-2009, and Select Board of 5-18-2009 were presented for approval.

Under motion of Paul Rooney, second by Drexell White, the Board voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of the Town Meeting as presented and the minutes of 5-18-2009 as corrected.

Appointments – the appointment of a State Weight and Measures inspector was presented. **Under motion** of Denise Lindahl, second by Paul Rooney, Mr. Robert Wiggins was appointed for a one-year term as weights and measure inspector.

New Business:

Paul Rooney stated the Plumbing Inspector would like to work two hours on Tuesdays. Toupie Rooney is the primary LPI and John Larson is the backup. Working on Tuesday would allow inspections to be scheduled with less waiting time.

Under motion of Denise Lindahl, second by Drexell White, the Board voted 2-0 with Paul Rooney excusing himself, to approve two hours for the LPI on Tuesdays.

30 Day Notices – The Clerk stated 30 day notices went out reminding everyone who had balances on 2008 taxes that they have not been paid in full. Dr. Block called and voiced his dismay that he was not aware the taxes had not been paid and that he was not notified before the 30DN. The Clerk explained that tax bills are sent to the owner of record as of April 1st of each year. The Blocks purchased this property after April 1st of 2008 so the bill was sent to the prior owner. She acknowledged the Blocks generally pay on time but it is not always possible to contact individually each resident who has a balance due on his or her taxes; that is the purpose of the 30DN. Dr. Block feels the system needs improving. The Board agreed it was an unfortunate misunderstanding.

Tax Acquired Property Policy – tabled until next meeting due to the late hour.

The Town Administrator's contract was approved and signed.

With no further business the Board voted 3-0 to Adjourn at 9:50pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara O'Leary
Town Clerk