

## **SELECT BOARD MEETING**

**July 16, 2009**

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

### **Citizen Concerns:**

Several residents of Birchcrest were present to discuss hydrants. Judy Johnson and Margaret Allen stated when the Village did the sewer and water project, residents of Birchcrest were told they could connect to the water. Maps showed two hydrants placed in Birchcrest. Residents have approached the Village asking when the fire hydrants will be installed and have been told they are not responsible for them, the Town is.

Denise Lindahl stated this was an NVC project and the Town only oversaw the grant issued to the Village. Paul Rooney also stated any involvement by the Town may be to give an easement for hydrants. This was an NVC project and the Board felt they should be responsible for any hydrants.

Judy Johnson asked what the residents were to do. They have seen the plans and the placement of where the hydrants would go, but now no one wants to put them in.

Paul Nyren also stated the Belfast Water District does not have a water meter large enough to accommodate Birchcrest. If the meter is not large enough, it won't make a difference to have hydrants installed in Birchcrest.

Paul Rooney recommended the residents meet with the Village Overseers to discuss this issue. Peter Allen stated they should first meet with the Utility Committee and then go to the Overseers. The Overseers meet the second Sunday of each month. However, the annual meeting is coming up so the August Overseers meeting may be changed. Mr. Allen also recommended the residents get on the agenda for the Overseers meeting by contacting the Village Office.

The residents thanked the Board and said they would be in touch.

### **Liquor License:**

Dennis Carey of Point Lookout was present for the hearing for the liquor license renewal and Special Amusement Permit. The Clerk asked if Mr. Carey had the \$25 fee for the Special Amusement Permit. Mr. Carey agreed to stop by the office the next day with the check.

**Under motion** of Paul Rooney, second by Denise Lindahl, the Board voted 2-0 to approve the Liquor License Renewal and Special Amusement Permit for Point Lookout.

### **Ecomaine:**

Allison McCrady of Ecomaine gave a slide show presentation on single stream recycling. The company has been processing commingled recycling materials since 2007. Ecomaine is a not for profit business owned by 21 towns and there are 37 towns in the system. All recyclable materials are collected in one container and taken to the recycling plant in Portland. This is the only such recycling system in the State. Ms. McCrady stated Northport disposes of about 400 tons of trash each year, with 30 tons of recyclables.

Some recyclables include plastics 1-7, aerosol cans, newspapers, milk cartons, plastic bags, phonebooks, etc. All recycling materials can be kept together in one bin. Ms. McCrady recommended compacting the materials, which allows more to be filled in the container and saves money when hauling.

Ecomaine will give a free cost benefit analysis of the Town's system as compared to a single stream system. If the Town joined their system, we could join as an associate at no cost. The Board agreed to have Ecomaine do a cost benefit analysis for Northport.

Ms. McCrady will come back on a day the Transfer Station is open as part of her review.

### **Roads & Bridges:**

Road Commissioner Amon Morse reported the culvert at 574 Shore Road has been replaced.

Sea Street had rocks put in the ditch line for drainage.

Trees on Bluff Road were removed. These were trees hanging over the road and compromising the bank. This is also the area where the plowing contractor has trouble making the turn with the trees hanging into the road.

74 Bayridge Road needs the culvert replaced, this will be scheduled in.

Cliff Road – the culvert near Iva Hudson needs to be cleaned out. The ditch line along Cliff Road will be rocked in as well for drainage.

### **Animal Control Officer:**

Jerry Tucker reported he has been unable to serve the summons on Darlene Kazaran for dogs at large and dangerous dogs. He has been told she no longer lives in Northport and only comes back at random times.

Karen Austin dogs – the ACO had 13 calls from Mrs. Austin and two of her neighbors regarding dogs on Eagle Drive.

Paul Rooney presented a draft Dog Control Ordinance to be reviewed by the ACO and other Board members. This will be discussed at a later meeting.

### **RA Power:**

Dean Scontras and Rick Benoit of RA Power were present to discuss a new pilot program with the State regarding wind power. The Legislature has passed a bill promoting community based renewable energy. The program would limit each project to 50 megawatts, with a limit of 10 megawatts for individual sources of power. The pilot program would only issue four permits for such projects. As far as Mr. Scontras could determine, the permits will be available on a first come, first serve basis. To be eligible, the community-based project must be owned by 51% of residents of the State of Maine.

In this program, the State will guarantee to help find buyers for the electricity produced and grants may also be available.

Mr. Scontras and Mr. Benoit have been attending meetings in Augusta regarding this new program. They feel a wind farm, owned by a Town, has a good chance of getting into this pilot program, and a coastal location is a good place for such a farm.

Paul Rooney asked if the bird/bat and wind tests would still be required. Mr. Scontras replied there are already wind maps for this area, however tests may still need to be conducted and a MET tower used. Jack Driscoll noted that Professor Wormsley at Unity College has volunteered his students to help with any studies that may need to be done, at no cost.

Mr. Scontras stated that their presentation in the spring was a plan based on RA Power developing the wind farm. With this new project, the Town would own the wind farm and RA Power would help put the financing and necessary documents together.

Denise Lindahl asked what the cost would be to the Town. She pointed out no funds were approved at Town Meeting to fund such an ambitious project. Mr. Scontras stated there are enough people and businesses out there interested in alternative energy that he feels would be willing to help with backing the project. RA Power has had extensive interaction with the energy investment community and is confident they can find the right partners for this project. Denise also asked what the fee would be for RA Power. They would act as consultants for the town, helping with the permitting process and securing financial backing. They would include their fee in any fund raising they do. That cost would be \$16,000 per month for a period of up to six months. Mr. Scontras also stated the application fee is \$750,000, but this could go as high as \$1million with design and construction. This is where investors would buy into the project and help defray some of these costs.

Barbara Peabody asked about the noise level, which is a concern in other towns with wind turbines. Mr. Benoit felt the noise is minimal and Northport would probably only need three towers and with no immediate neighbors near the Transfer Station, he does not see noise as a problem.

Mr. Scontras stated the limited permits means the Town must act fast to get in on this project. Jack Driscoll asked what he needed from the Board, is a motion needed to proceed. A motion from the Board, no later than mid August would be required to go forward. Mr. Scontras and Mr. Benoit will be meeting in Augusta again next week, and will have a better idea if Northport stands a chance of getting a permit.

Jim Hanson stated if wind power is good for the environment, produces revenue, and helps residents with their tax base, he thought it could be a good project.

Paul Rooney stated if the Board felt this was worth trying, a special town meeting would need to be held to go forward with the project and appropriate funds. This would mean a special town meeting. Denise Lindahl noted that the regular notifications of leading up to a special town meeting would also have to be followed. Paul Rooney also stated if this project is not something for Northport there would be no reason to hold a special meeting. Mr. Scontras and Mr. Benoit were asked to let Jack Driscoll know the outcome of their meeting next Thursday as soon as possible. If positive, the Board would need to schedule a special Board meeting just to decide if we should go forward or not.

**Under motion** of Paul Rooney, second by Denise Lindahl, the Board voted 2-0 to hold a special Select Board meeting on Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm to further discuss the wind project if RA Powers feels it is realistic for Northport to go forward with the project.

#### **Administrator's Report:**

Jack Driscoll began his report by stating the yacht Club silent auction raised \$4000 for the Northport Food Pantry.

1. CEO Office. Jamie Drinkwater gave an estimate of just over \$1000 to make changes to the CEO office. This would include moving the front wall out 8, framing, sheetrock, new window and door. The larger space will allow more room for the CEO and Deputy CEO and additional space to go over maps with residents. Denise Lindahl asked where the funds would come from and if the quote included electrical. The Clerk stated funds could come from Town Charges or Town Hall Maintenance. Paul Rooney recommended an electrical quote and hold off on any decision until an August meeting.

2. Harbor Master – The Harbor Committee has not met to review the applications received for the Harbor Master position. The Administrator is having trouble gathering the committee together. He is hoping for a meeting on 8-10-2009. He did not contact Captain Reed to see if he is a citizen. Once a meeting is set he will call then and determine if he meets that requirement.
3. Salt Shed – the survey is not done and we can't go forward without it. Jack will contact Jayne Giles and Carol Weston for help.
4. Website – Sephone has started setting up the web page. They need more pictures. Jack showed a rough version on his laptop. The Clerk asked how the information will be loaded to the website. Sephone could do this for additional funds, but the staff will be trained on how to up load the necessary information. The Administrator is hoping the site will be up and running in August.
5. Municipay – the presentation will be given at the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, covering payments by credit card.
6. Kelly Cove – Didier Bonner-Ganter marked the trees for removal and we are ready to go forward.
7. GA – one new unqualified applicant.
8. Legal – Bill Kelly has filed the 80K action against the Carnahans and Miriam Newman regarding the septic issue.
9. ACO - addressed previously
10. Tax bills are out.
11. Ecomaine presentation given on single stream recycling.
12. RA Power – presentation given on changes with wind turbines.
13. Knights Pond – Permit by Rule submitted to the DEP.  
Illegal campers notified to leave.

Paul Rooney asked if updated cemetery information had been gathered on perpetual care and other fees. The Administrator will follow up on this as well as the status of flags on the electrical poles.

**Clerk's Report:**

Point Lookout Liquor License Renewal – complete

Tax Anticipation Note – 3 banks provided bids:	Camden National	2.64%
	Bangor Savings	1.95%
	The First	1.86%

After discussion Paul Rooney made the following motion:

**Under motion** of Paul Rooney, second by Denise Lindahl, the Board voted 2-0 to accept the Tax Anticipation Note bids of The First with an interest rate of 1.86%.

Belfast Ambulance Contract – signed

Concealed Weapons Permit – 2 approved

Tax Bills – are out with lots of questions and comments.

State Audit – Maine Revenue Services conducted its annual audit. This audit determines the States valuation rate for Northport. John Carroll conducted the audit and due to the loss in revenue from Point Lookout, Northport would see an increase of about .5%. If not for that decrease, Mr. Carroll estimated we would have had an increase of 3.5%. The Board questioned any kind of increase due to that loss. Paul Rooney asked the Clerk to check with our assessors to see if there is an appeal process.

Peacedale Drive – a resident from Peacedale Drive asked for information to prepare a petition for next year’s Town Meeting. William Kelly would like to circulate a petition to have the Town take over care and maintenance of Peacedale Drive. The Clerk explained if a petition came before the town, it is up to the residents to either approve the taking or not. Paul Rooney stated that Peacedale Drive is a subdivision road and the Subdivision Ordinance states the Town will not maintain such a road.

MCRP – the Clerk stated the bill from Mid Coast Regional Planning for the coming year is in the warrant box. She reminded the Board they have talked about not rejoining. Discussion followed and the Board agreed not to renew the membership with MCRP.

Air Conditioner – Deputy Clerk, Robin Coombs, has found air conditions on sale. Two new air conditions would cost around \$400. If the weather improves the Clerks were instructed to purchase the air conditions when they see fit.

The Clerk also reported new blinds have been ordered for the town office.

Foreclosure - the Clerk will present more information at the next meeting on accounts from 2006 back that have had liens matured and are in foreclosure. The next step will be a final letter giving the resident one last chance to pay in full. After that step the properties will be advertised for sale.

Minutes – the Clerk presented minutes from June 18, 2009 and July 2, 2009 for review.

**Upon motion** of Paul Rooney, second by Denise Lindahl, the Board voted 2-0 to approve the minutes of June 18, 2009 as corrected.

**Upon motion** of Paul Rooney, second by Denise Lindahl, the Board voted 2-0 to approve the minutes of July 2, 2009 as corrected.

New Business:

Paul Rooney asked the Board to review the proposed Dog Ordinance for discussion at the August 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

With no further business, Paul Rooney made the following motion:

Under motion of Paul Rooney, second by Denise Lindahl, the Board voted 2-0 to adjourn at 10:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara O’Leary  
Town Clerk