

TOWN OF TOPSHAM  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
NOVEMBER 5, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.

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MEMBERS PRESENT: David Douglass  
Marie Brilliant  
Ruth Lyons  
William Thompson  
Roland Tufts

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: All present

STAFF PRESENT: Town Manager, Richard Roedner

A meeting of the Topsham Board of Selectmen was held on Thursday, November 5, 2015 at the Municipal Building at 100 Main Street, Topsham, Maine.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chairman David Douglass called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He noted that this was the first official meeting being held in the Donald A. Russell Meeting Room.

**SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED SELECTMAN ROLAND TUFTS** - Newly elected Selectman Roland Tufts was called to the podium to receive the oath of office administered by Town Clerk Linda Dumont.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL** - All present were invited to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The recording secretary took the roll call and noted that all Selectmen were present.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Good evening:

- I would like to highlight a couple of upcoming meetings.
- First, the Topsham Community Fund Committee is holding its annual public hearing on its proposals for the coming fiscal year. That hearing will be on Thursday, Nov. 12, at 6:00 p.m. here in the Don Russell Meeting Room. The TCF Committee is seeking public input on its investment proposals for the community, before it makes formal recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.
- The second meeting of note is on Wednesday, November 18, to be held at the library at 6:30 p.m.. This is the second meeting in the Topsham Back to the Future series of meetings that will be held over the next five to six months. This month's topic is Transportation. As has been noted, this meeting will only of interest to residents who walk, ride bikes, ride in cars or drive.

- A new feature has been added to our Town's web page - topshammaine.com – an interactive map that shows zoning, and links to the assessing data for each address and parcel. More information will be added to the map over the next several months. To locate this interactive map, follow the Quick Links link on the home page, or you can also get to it from the Planning Department's page under maps.
- This past Saturday, at our Halloween parade at the Mall, our Parks and Recreation Department gave away glow sticks. They ran out after giving away 350! This was the biggest crowd ever since the parades have been held.

Following the Town Manager's report, Vice Chairman Douglass commented that he attended the first Topsham Back to the Future. There were approximately 88 people in attendance (more than at the last Town Meeting). He said he would like to see that number in attendance again. He added that a whole new process of thinking was involved and found the meeting informative.

### **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

**Update from Conservation Commission** - Victor Langelo, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, presented a report of recent projects that the Commission has been working on.

**Update from the Merrymeeting Trails Board of Directors** - Selectman William Thompson presented a summary of work the Merrymeeting Board of Supervisors are doing. He and Victor Langelo represent Topsham. Mr. Thompson is Chairman of the group and Nicole Briand, Bowdoinham Town Planner, is the Vice Chairman. The Board held their first meeting on October 17th and are scheduled to meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Mr. Thompson said his goal is to have a well functioning Board by spring.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Jeanette MacNeille** - Ms. MacNeille asked the Board to consider appointing a public access officer as the point person for providing public information when it is requested. She said this is something required of each municipality and suggested the person's name should be placed on the Town's website.

#### **Linda Baker**

- Congratulated those involved in the recent celebration honoring Donald Russell. She said the occasion was well put together and everyone had a very nice time.
- Noted the hard work being done by Fire Chief Stockdale. She said he has worked untold hours on the newly formed Committee sponsored by Bill LD500, which she chairs. The purpose of the Committee is to study and make suggestions regarding the recruitment, training and retention of volunteers in municipalities with a focus on emergency responders.
- Representative Baker commented on another Bill which is looking at cancerous chemicals being used as a fire retardant in upholstery and other fabrics. It appears the chemicals are not working well and may be bringing cancer-causing chemicals into our homes.

**CORRESPONDENCE** - None noted.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA** - None noted.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SELECTMENS MEETING OF OCTOBER 1, 2015 AND OCTOBER 15, 2015**

Motion was made by Selectman Thompson, seconded by Selectman Lyons, and it was

**VOTED**

To approve the Consent Calendar, approving minutes of the October 1 and October 15, 2015 minutes as written.

(The vote was 4 in favor with 1 abstention.) The October 1st minutes were actually approved at the last meeting but that agenda listed approving the September 17th minutes, therefore tonight's vote.)

**PUBLIC HEARING** - None noted.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None noted.

**OLD BUSINESS** - None noted.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**15-67 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THOMAS SCHMOLLER TO THE TOPSHAM HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Motion was made by Selectman Thompson, seconded by Selectman Tufts, and it was unanimously

**VOTED**

To appoint Thomas Schmoller as a member of the Topsham Housing Authority.

Thanks were extended to Scott Bursey for his tenure on the Board. Mr. Bursey resigned his position, but stayed on the Board until a replacement could be identified.

**15-68 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE REPLACEMENT OF THE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM PROPOSAL AT THE POLICE STATION**

Police Chief Christopher Lewis explained the failing condition of the surveillance system at the police station. Photographs were included in the Board package showing the faulty coverage. It was noted that the audio portion of the equipment is also failing. Chief Lewis told the Board that Office Mark McDonald has the expertise to build, install and implement a new system. Quotes were submitted from a commercial dealer and pricing for the same equipment if purchased by staff. Letter is in file dated October 27, 2015 from Chief Lewis asking to utilize current Capitol funds which had been earmarked for the purchase of radios in combination with current funds within the Professional Equipment line items to pay for the project. Quote from Northeast Security Systems was \$18,855 and in-house \$9,586.

Motion was made by Selectman Thompson, seconded by Selectman Brilliant, and it was unanimously

**VOTED**

To accept the bid of \$9,586 to have the Police Department surveillance system replaced in house.

**15-69 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON ADOPTING A CLEAN AIR RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY JEANETTE MACNEILLE, ENDORSED BY THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION AND TREE COMMITTEE**

Acting Chairman Douglass read aloud the Clean Air Proclamation which Jeanette MacNeille submitted for adoption by the Board. It was noted the resolution has been adopted by the Conservation Commission and Tree Committee.

Ms. MacNeille spoke to the proclamation which has been approved by other communities in Maine, including Augusta, Bangor, Hallowell, Lewiston, Portland, South Portland and Waterville. She said the proclamation does not require any money or legislative action, but simply states we value clean air.

Selectman Lyons thanked Ms. MacNeille for bringing the proclamation forward and said it should be filed, even though there is no legislative action required. Vice Chairman Douglass added that, from a personal standpoint, the Clean Air Act is a Federal Law, which is mandated. He said he supports what the paper says, but it is a Federal Law and questioned the benefit to the Town for endorsing it.

Motion was made by Selectman Lyons, seconded by Selectman Tufts, and it was

**VOTED**

To support the Proclamation of supporting the Clean Air Act.

(The vote was 4 in favor with 1 opposed [Douglass]).

**15-70 ELECTION OF THE CHAIR FOR THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Selectman Brilliant nominated David Douglass to serve as Chairman of the Board of Selectman. Selectman Thompson seconded the nomination. There were no further nominations. Nominations ceased, vote was called and David Douglass was unanimously **VOTED** as Chairman of the Board of Selectman for the coming year.

**15-71 ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Selectman Douglass nominated Roland Tufts to serve as Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectman. Selectman Brilliant seconded the nomination. There were no further nominations. Nominations ceased, vote was called and Roland Tufts was unanimously **VOTED** as Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectman for the coming year.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**15-72 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (D) TO DISCUSS LABOR NEGOTIATIONS**

At 7:59 p.m., motion was made by Selectman Brilliant, seconded by Selectman Tufts, and it was unanimously

**VOTED**

To move into Executive Session to discuss labor negotiations.

At 8:48 p.m. the Board moved back into regular session.

Motion was made by Selectman Brilliant, seconded by Selectman Thompson, and it was unanimously

**VOTED**

To instruct the Town Manager to implement the non-union payroll adjustments and health care plan, as discussed.

**ADJOURN**

Motion was made by Selectman Tufts, seconded by Selectman Lyons, and it was unanimously

**VOTED**

To adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Patty Williams, Recording Secretary