

TOWN OF TOPSHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2014, 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Donald Russell
Marie Brilliant
Ronald Riendeau
William Thompson

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: David Douglass

STAFF PRESENT: Town Manager, Cornell Knight

A meeting of the Topsham Board of Selectmen was held on Thursday, February 20, 2014 at the Municipal Building at 100 Main Street, Topsham, Maine.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL

Chairman Russell called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. 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, except for Selectman Douglass, who was excused.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Knight told the Board this was his last meeting and said the last 3 years have been enjoyable working with the Board, staff and residents. On behalf of the Board, Chairman Russell thanked Mr. Knight for the service he provided to the Town and extended him best wishes.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

2014 SPIRIT OF AMERICA TRIBUTE - Bruce Flaherty, President of Maine Spirit of America, was not able to attend the meeting, as planned. However, his memo dated February 13, 2014 explaining the program was noted and is filed with these minutes. It was noted that the name of a local person, project or group, will be forwarded for consideration for the 2014 Topsham Spirit of America Foundation Tribute for outstanding community service.

UPDATE ON TDI/ECD - John Shattuck, Topsham Economic and Development, Inc. Director presented an update on development activities. He thanked the Board for the recent appointment of Larry Finch to the TDI Board. Mr. Shattuck extended a sincere thank you to Town Manager Knight for his assistance to TDI over the past 3 years.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None noted.

CORRESPONDENCE - Chairman Russell read into the record a letter from Joel Kitteridge of the Maine Department of Transportation referencing the demolition of the Black Free Bridge. Mr. Kitteridge offered to come to a Selectmen meeting to present the scope of the project. The Board agreed to place this item on the agenda for a future Selectmen meeting where members of the public can attend, learn the scope and present their comments.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA - None noted.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SELECTMENS MEETING OF FEBRUARY 6, 2014**
2. **APPROVAL OF THE SELECTMEN EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2014**

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

VOTED

To approve the Consent Calendar, including the minutes as written of the regular meeting of February 6, 2014 and of the Selectmen Executive Session of February 20, 2014.

PUBLIC HEARING - None noted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None noted.

OLD BUSINESS - None noted.

05-14 (Tabled 2/6/14) CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION FOR THE MERRYMEETING TRAIL INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT TO BE PLACED ON THE MAY TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Motion was made by Selectman Riendeau, seconded by Selectman Brilliant, and it was

VOTED

To take Agenda Item 05-14 from the table for reconsideration.

Victor Langelo told the Board he discussed concerns expressed at the last Board of Selectmen meeting with the Merrymeeting Trail Committee. A few changes were incorporated and an updated version of the agreement was included in the Board package for review. Mr. Langelo said the Merrymeeting Committee wants to keep the structure of the Interlocal Agreement as flexible as possible as necessary adjustments will need to be made from time to time.

Jim Delay with the City of Augusta and Chairman of the Board of the Kennebec River Rail Trail Association was present at the meeting. Mr. Delay presented some history on the Kennebec River Rail Trail and talked about the Interlocal Agreement. Following Mr. Delay's presentation, questions and concerns were posed by Board members.

Chairman Russell suggested that before going to Town Meeting with an agreement put together by people that we don't even know, that request be made to each Town to appoint 2 members to a committee so there is a group with credentials behind them appointed from the various towns. Then, once in place, they should go over the document to make sure it is what they want to live with. Once that has been accomplished, the agreement could be presented to the various legislative processes.

The Board was in agreement that this would provide a crew to work with that would give each town an identifiable connection to the committee.

Motion was made by Chairman Russell, seconded by Selectman Riendeau, and it was

VOTED

To table Agenda Item 05-14 until the Merrymeeting Trail Committee representatives can come back to the Board with request to have 2 members appointed from each town to serve on the committee.

Mr. Langelo said he will take the suggested proposal back to the committee for consideration and report back to a future meeting. Selectman Thompson said he would like to be considered to work on the committee to represent Topsham.

NEW BUSINESS

12-14 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO TRAIN IN AND BURN DOWN THE FORMER AMENITY MANOR AT 29 ELM STREET

Topsham's Fire Chief, Brian Stockdale, explained the process which would be involved if the Fire Department were to train in and burn down the former Amenity Manor at 29 Elm Street. He said the buildings are large and would be burned in sections after various training sessions had taken place inside with proper cuts made to contain the burns. Because of the size of the project, fire departments from other towns would be invited to participate. The actual burn would probably take place over a two-week period at various intervals. An agreement was enclosed in the Board package from the owner relieving the Town of any responsibility and stated what their responsibilities would include.

Questions were asked regarding safety, liability and odor issues. Chief Stockdale told the Board that residents within a half mile area would be notified in writing with a 30-day notice of the operation taking place and that he would keep the Board informed of its plans in preparation.

Motion was made by Chairman Russell, seconded by Selectman Thompson, and it was

VOTED

To grant permission to the Topsham Fire Department to enter into a Training Session with the owners of the former Amenity Manor and to return to this Board during the process to share plans and the finalization of the decision made by them whether they will burn or not burn.

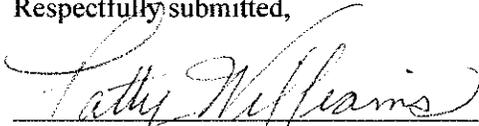
ADJOURN

With no further business to address, motion was made, seconded, and it was unanimously

VOTED

To adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Patty Williams, Recording Secretary