

TOWN OF TOPSHAM  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
AUGUST 18, 2016 - 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, August 18, 2016, in the Donald A. Russell Meeting Room, at the Municipal Building, 100 Main Street, Topsham, Maine.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Douglass called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**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**

Nomination papers are available at the Town Clerk's Office for two Board of Selectman's seats and one School Board seat.

We now have all soccer coaches in place for this year's soccer program. A big thank you to those who volunteered. For those who are playing -- the coaches meet the first of this coming week and you should be hearing from your coach by the end of next week.

We are accepting applications for membership on the Comprehensive Plan Committee. If you are interested in helping the community identify a plan for the next ten to fifteen years, contact the Planning Office.

The joint Frank Wood Bridge Design Advisory Committee is meeting this coming Monday at 6:00 p.m. here in the Donald J. Russell meeting room. Starting next month, the meetings will alternate with Brunswick. The specific topic for this meeting will include bike, pedestrian and accessibility issues.

Work has begun on Topsham's multi-use bike path that will extend from Main Street to Community Drive, behind Wright-Pierce and Lee Nissan. This project has been in the works since 2002. The first phase was built as part of Monument Place, and this second phase will

create approximately 3,000 feet of off-road bike path. The project should be done by the end of November. In the meantime, residents are asked to stay off of the woods trails that run through that area.

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

### **Presentation of the American Legion Legislative Awards to Representative Denise Tepler and Senator Linda Baker**

Chick Ciciotte, Legislative Chairman for the American Legion in the State of Maine, talked about his experience spending time in the House and Senate Chambers representing the best interest of the American Legion.

Mr. Ciciotte presented the American Legion 2016 Legionnaire of the Year Award to Senator Linda Baker and thanked her for her accomplishments. An award was also presented to State Representative Denise Tepler who serves on the Taxation Committee. Mr. Ciciotte noted that Rep. Tepler was responsible for the bill passed where veterans no longer have to pay state income tax.

Chairman Douglass thanked Mr. Ciciotte for the work he does representing the American Legion and said it is important to recognize the dedication and accomplishments of the people serving.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - Richard Main, from Lisbon Falls, asked to be recognized and explained a project he is working on which would involve the Army Corp of Engineers to possibly work on cleaning up the unsightly debris on Route 196 on the town line between Topsham and Lisbon Falls left by the now closed mill. A program is available which the corp works to build recreation areas, camp grounds, picnic areas, all related to water. He said there were over a thousand such projects completed in 43 states and Maine is one of 7 states not yet involved in the program. New Hampshire has 12, Vermont and Connecticut have 11 and Massachusetts has 21. Local and legislative support is needed and private funding is also involved. Mr. Main asked the Board if this was something that might be of interest to pursue between the two towns and the Board members told Mr. Main they were interested in hearing more if it wouldn't cost Topsham anything. Mr. Main said he will keep the Board informed of his progress. It was agreed to set up a workshop to discuss the possibilities further.

**CORRESPONDENCE** - None noted.

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

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **1. Approval of the minutes of the Regular Selectmen Meeting of August 4, 2016**

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

### **VOTED**

To approve the minutes of the August 4, 2016 meeting as written.

**2. Approval of the minutes of the Regular Selectmen Meeting of July 21, 2016**

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

**VOTED**

To approve the minutes of the July 21, 2016 meeting as written.

**PUBLIC HEARING** - None noted.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None noted.

**OLD BUSINESS** - None noted.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**16-81 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON AWARDED BID TO PURCHASE DPW LOADER**

Public Works Director Dennis Cox reviewed the three bids received for the purchase of a loader. \$125,000 was budgeted for the purchase and he recommended purchasing a John Deere Loader which was bid at \$118,692. The bid of \$118,149 was a little lower, but Mr. Cox said he has had repair and service issues with Beauregard Equipment and therefore recommended the John Deere from Nortax. The third bid, from Milton CAT, was \$139,832 and \$141,832.

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

**VOTED**

To approve the purchase of the John Deere Loader at bid offer of \$118,692.

**16-82 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON AWARDED BIDS TO PURCHASE THREE PLOW TRUCKS FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

PWD Director Dennis Cox said bids were opened on August 15 for the purchase of three plow trucks. These were budgeted for in the Equipment Bond. He said the low bid for all three trucks is from Daigle and Horton for 2017 Western Star 4700 chassis and Viking Cives plow equipment. The bids were discussed and Mr. Cox recommended purchasing through Daigle & Houghton on Herman, Maine. He said that firm has a Western Star unit in stock meeting all specifications which would be available immediately for use this winter and the other two trucks would have to be ordered.

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

**VOTED**

To approve the purchase of three plow trucks from Daigle & Houghton at cost of \$429,460.

**16-83 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON A REQUEST FOR DOT SPEED LIMIT REVIEW ON MEADOW ROAD**

The Town Manager said he received a citizen request from Ken Hickman of 433 Meadow Road, near the intersection of Meadow, Meadow Cross and Ward Roads. (The letter from Mr. Hickman is filed with these minutes.) Mr. Hickman has requested that the Town ask MeDOT to conduct a review of the speed limits in the vicinity of this intersection which are currently posted at 45 miles per hour. Along with his letter, Mr. Hickman included copies of a Crash Summary Report from the State for the period January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2015.

The Board entered into a lengthy discussion of Mr. Hickman's concerns and agreed that the intersection poses from danger. Public Works Director, Dennis Cox, said in 2012 the Town approached the State regarding this intersection and the State denied the request to reduce the speed limit after conducting a traffic study. Concern was expressed that the speed limit could be dropped to 30/35 mph but people would still drive at 40 to 45 mhp. Studying the Crash Summary Report showed no fatal accidents in three years. Accidents included a deer in the road; someone hit a raccoon; there was an OUI; speeding; someone passing on the right; a distracted driver eating while driving; several off roads because of snow conditions; someone drinking coffee, etc. It was noted the Mr. Cox and the Police Department do not support looking at the entire road.

It was noted that the Police Department has a flashing speed sign in their position with a second sign budgeted for. Consideration will be given to place one of the signs at the intersection of concern.

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

**VOTED**

To request MeDOT to take another look at the intersection and suggest possible options to make it more safe.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**VOTED**

To enter into Executive Session at 8:02 p.m. to discuss agenda items 16-74 and 16-84. (All Board members and the Town Manager entered into the Executive Session.)

**16-74 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL METTER PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A)**

**16-84 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION TO DISCUSS A TAX ACQUIRED PROPERTY PER 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (F)**

The Board returned from Executive Session back into regular session at 9:21 with all members and the Town Manager present.

Motion was made by Chairman Douglass, seconded by Selectman Tufts, and it was unanimously

**VOTED**

To enter into a repurchase agreement for property located at 669 Meadow Road, subject to the terms discussed in the Executive Session.

Regarding the personnel item, Chairman Douglass noted that the Board concluded its annual evaluation of the Town Manager, noting that he has done a very good job. No action was needed following the review.

**ADJOURN**

On a motion by Selectman Tufts, seconded by Selectman Brilliant, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Patty Williams, Recording Secretary