

TOWN OF TOPSHAM  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2014 - 7:00 P.M.

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MEMBERS PRESENT: Donald Russell  
Marie Brilliant  
David Douglass  
Ronald Riendeau  
William Thompson

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: All present

STAFF PRESENT: Town Manager, Richard Roedner

A meeting of the Topsham Board of Selectmen was held on Thursday, September 18, 2014 at the Municipal Building at 100 Main Street, Topsham, Maine.

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL**

Chairman Russell called the 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.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

- This Saturday, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., is Oktoberfest 2014 at the Fairgrounds. This event is hosted by the Southern Mid Coast Chamber of Commerce. There will be local and regional beers, including an Oktoberfest 2014 beer by Lively Brewing in Brunswick, formulated just for this event. Information can be found at [www.oktoberfestmaine.com](http://www.oktoberfestmaine.com).
- Nomination forms are due in by the end of the day on Monday for the two Selectman seats and three seats on the SAD 75 Board.
- On Monday, September 29, Topsham will be hosting Dan Burden of the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute who will lead community members in a walkability audit of the Lower Village. Any and all residents are invited to join. John will be providing more information soon.
- I encourage people to check out the Library's website for weekly events, which are always changing.
- Early this week, the Public Works Department installed the first three Topsham History Signs. One is at the site of the former Town Hall, which was located at Green and Elm Streets. There is also one on Summer Street by the parking area at the start of the Riverwalk. The third is located at the Swinging Bridge Park. The signs were funded through a Historic Preservation Grant from the State, with local matching funds coming from the Town and The Brunswick-Topsham Riverwalk Committee.
- Lastly, for those of you out there who 'tweet,' check out Topsham's new twitter site, under the name TopshamTown. I will try to keep you updated on breaking news, interesting items and ongoing and upcoming events.

There were no questions or comments following the Manager's report.

**BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

**TDI/ECD** - John Shattuck, Topsham Economic and Development, Inc. Director brought the Board up to date on items involving economic development, including:

- Oktoberfest events.
- Walking audit of the Lower Village on Monday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Bob Garber to attend the October 16 Selectmen's meeting for complete documentation paperwork on the grant. Wicked Joe's has already hired 6 people with 5 from low or moderate income. They picked up Price Chopper, a 23-store company from Massachusetts as a customer with a large order. They will be offering tours to the public soon.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Selectman Douglass** reported that while he was attending a recent school ice cream social that a gentleman approached him and to say that Topsham's Economic Developer did a great job on a radio show this date.

Jeff Deletetsky, from the Topsham Heights, offered comments expressing concern about the importance of the Finance Committee - that there are only 5 members on the committee, where there could be 9. He said the Vice Chair, Denise Tepler, is running for a legislative position and if she wins, would reduce the number of individuals on the Finance Committee to 4. He urged the Board and everyone listening to identify possible candidates for the committee.

Mr. Deletetsky said he is sponsoring a 5K for Columbus Day Weekend. The purpose of the run is to financially support the Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program and the Town's Heating Fund. He urged all citizens to participate. The goal is to get 200 runners signed up. Only 28 have done so to this point.

Mr. Deletetsky also commented on Brookfield's plan for fencing near the river by Topsham Heights. He urged the Board to stress to Brookfield the importance of being a good Corporate Neighbor and balance their interest in safety with the Town's interest as a community. He asked if there was a chance to move the existing fencing off Summer Street near the dam. He said if the barbed wire fence could be moved closer to the dam, there would be more space available to be used by citizens.

No action was taken following Mr. Deletetsky's comments, except Chairman Russell told him Brookfield had only requested to put up no swimming signs at this point and will return before the Board with plans for fencing, the meeting which will be open to the public for attendance and comment.

**CORRESPONDENCE** - None noted.

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

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SELECTMENS MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2014**

Motion was made by Selectman Riendeau, seconded by Selectman Douglass, and it was unanimously

**VOTED**

To approve the Consent Calendar.

**PUBLIC HEARING** - None noted.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None noted.

**OLD BUSINESS** - None noted.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**62-14 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT FOR PHONE SERVICE WITH FAIRPOINT**

Town Manager Roedner explained that the 3-year contract with Fairpoint is up for renewal at the end of 2014 and that the charge has been reduced from \$50 a month to \$5 a month.. The current contract charges \$18.99 per month for each outgoing Centrex Line. The new contract cuts that to \$14.99. Our PRI bundle service cost drops from \$355 per month to \$235 and our calling plan minimum charge drops from \$50 per month to \$5 per month.

Motion was made by Selectman Douglass, seconded by Selectman Thompson, and it was unanimously **VOTED**

To accept the Fairpoint Contract for a three-year period with rates outlined in memo from the Town Manager dated September 12, 2014.

**63-14 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION FOR THE BOARD TO SET UP A SCHEDULE TO HOLD NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS**

During discussion it was noted that at a previous meeting, the Board of Selectmen was in unanimous agreement to hold neighborhood meetings as was done 7 or 8 years ago. The Town Manager distributed copies of a map used at the last sessions showing the Town divided into 3 sections. The Board decided that they would like to see the map divided into 4 sections, rather than 3. It was decided that individual invitations should be sent to all citizens announcing the meetings and that it would be good to schedule one meeting on a Sunday afternoon and the others on weekday evenings. It was also agreed to not schedule any meetings until after the November elections. Town Manager Roedner agreed to develop a schedule for the meetings.

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

**VOTED**

To approve the 4-district format for our Neighborhood Meetings to take place after the election and before the holidays, and to individually invite citizens. The Town Manager will work up a schedule with times, dates and places to meet.

**ADJOURN** - The meeting was ajourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Patty Williams, Recording Secretary