

MINUTES
TOWN OF TOPSHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
DONALD A. RUSSELL MEETING ROOM
JANUARY 17, 2019 – 7:00 P.M

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

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: All present

STAFF PRESENT: Richard Roedner, Town Manager and Derek Scrapchansky,
Assistant Town Manager

A meeting of the Topsham Board of Selectmen was held on Thursday, January 17, 2019, in the Donald A. Russell Meeting Room, at the Municipal Building, 100 Main Street, Topsham, Maine.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Douglass called the regular 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

Baseball registration is now open, which is earlier than in past years. Registration for the Baseball clinic is also open.

Sunday, February 10 is our annual Valentine's Dance, for young girls and their escorts. Tickets are now on sale.

The Parks and Recreation Department is planning a train trip to Boston. Tickets will be going on sale this week.

Linda Dumont, our Town Clerk, would like to remind everyone that this is the season to register your dogs. The deadline is the end of January, unless you want to pay the \$25 fine for late registration and run the risk of the Animal control Officer coming to pay you a visit!

Wicked Joe's coffee, a Topsham brewing company, has received a prestigious Good Food Award for its Bard Coffee subsidiary. Congratulations to Bob and Carmen Garver!

This coming week we will be sending out 30-day notices on impending foreclosures. This is on 2017 taxes. So if you haven't paid your taxes for 2017 yet, you will be getting a reminder to get that done.

We are quickly entering the budget season. I will be providing my draft budget to the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee on February 7. There will be workshops held on February 11, 13, and 27 for those that would like to provide input.

Lastly, we received a generous donation from Atlantic credit Union this past week for our Fuel Assistance Fund, in the amount of \$600. Thanks are extended.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

Update from Representative Denise Tepler

State Representative Tepler presented an update of activities at the House of Representatives. Ms. Tepler represents House District #54. She said she recently has been appointed as the House Chair of the Health Coverage Insurance and Financial Services Committee at the Legislature, her first opportunity to chair a committee in Augusta. Ms. Tepler has written four bills to present to the Legislature for consideration this term.

Update TDI/ECD – Before John Shattuck, Topsham Economic and Community Development, Inc. Director began his presentation, he enjoyed announcing that in addition to baseball registration being open in the Town of Topsham, that there are only 26 more days before the Red Sox Pitchers and Catchers begin their practice sessions.

Mr. Shattuck's updates included:

Miscellaneous:

- Nick Whatley, Bob Garver and Steve Pelletier are exploring the feasibility of developing a solar project in Topsham. Staff is working to provide them with energy consumption data for this assessment.
- Linda Smith, Brunswick's ECD Director, is retiring at the end of the month. Mr. Shattuck said it has been a pleasure to work with Linda during her tenure. He said that collaboration between Topsham and Brunswick has been particularly productive.

Business Retention, Expansion and Attraction (BREA)

- Mr. Shattuck said he is working with several small businesses looking to expand their existing Topsham operations or bring their business to Topsham.
- As mentioned in the Manager's Report, Bard Coffee, owned by Topsham based Wicked Joe Coffee, was one of the winners of this year's prestigious National Good Food Awards.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

- Mr. Shattuck said he will be meeting with the Town Manager of Hallowell, Nate Rudy, to review the municipal benefits of TIF districts, based on Topsham's experience.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Douglass reminded everyone that this Tuesday night is our last Neighborhood Meeting, at the Topsham Public Library from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Snow date would be the following day, Wednesday, January 23rd from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. here at Town Hall.

CORRESPONDENCE – None noted.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA – None noted.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 1. Approval of the minutes of the Regular Selectmen’s Meeting of December 20, 2018.**
- 2. Approval of the minutes of the Regular Selectmen’s Meeting of January 3, 2019.**

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

VOTED

To accept the Consent Calendar, approving the minutes of the regular Selectmen’s Meetings of December 20, 2018 and January 3, 2019.

PUBLIC HEARING – None noted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None noted.

OLD BUSINESS – None noted.

NEW BUSINESS – None noted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION –

At 7:43 p.m. motion was made by Selectman Tufts, seconded by Selectman Lyons, and it was unanimously

VOTED

To move into Executive Session to discuss Agenda Item 19-02. (All Board members were present, along with Richard Roedner, Town Manager and Derek Scrapchansky, Assistant Town Manager and the applicant.

19-02 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A POVERTY ABATEMENT PURSUANT TO 36 M.R.S.A. §841 AND TITLE 1 405-6 (F)

Board members returned from Executive session at 7:52 p.m. with all members present.

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

VOTED

To grant poverty abatement 2019-01 in the amount of \$1,218.09 (includes all fees and interest).

ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED

To adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Williams, Recording Secretary