

MINUTES  
TOWN OF TOPSHAM  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
DECEMBER 6, 2018  
EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:30 P.M. FOLLOWED  
BY REGULAR MEETING AT 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: Richard Roedner, Town Manager

A meeting of the Topsham Board of Selectmen was held on Thursday, December 6, 2018, in the Donald A. Russell Meeting Room, at the Municipal Building, 100 Main Street, Topsham, Maine.

(The Board met at 6:30 p.m. Motion was made by Chairman Douglass, seconded by Selectman Thompson and it was unanimously

**VOTED**

To take Item **107-18 – CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) FOR CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL** out of order. The Board entered into Executive Session at 6:31 p.m. All members were present, along with the Town Manager, Rich Roedner and Town Attorney Mary Costigan (Atty. Costigan via phone). The Board returned from Executive Session at 6:52 p.m. and took an 8 minute recess until the start of the regular meeting.

**REGULAR MEETING 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.

**ACTION RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**VOTED**

To direct the Town Manager to work with the Town Attorney to establish right, title and interest regarding Thomas Avenue recreation parking lot entrance following the Board of Appeals decision.

### **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Let me start with a couple of thank yous. Urban Garden Center has generously donated \$247 toward our Heating Assistance Fund. Urban Gardens also provided Hannaford Gift cards to go in the Thanksgiving Baskets that we put together. High Brow and the Seventh Day Adventist Church also donated baskets, as part of the 19 Thanksgiving Baskets that we distributed.

Our Fire Department noted that a husband and wife drove down from Canaan this week to thank the department for its services to them on Oct. 30. The husband had stopped for breakfast on Oct. 30, when he felt the onset of what he thought was a heart attack. He called 911, and his wife, and was attended to by our crews, who ultimately transported him to Maine Medical Center in Portland with a massive heart attack. He said that he felt if he had stopped for breakfast anywhere else, he doesn't believe he would have survived. As part of their thank you to the crew, they were able to meet the Paramedic who saved his life.

On Sunday evening, December 9, at around 7:00 p.m., the Wreaths Across America caravan will be stopping overnight in Brunswick. We have crews that will be assisting with both the arrival and the departure at 7:00 a.m. on the 10th. The final details of where we will set up are not yet worked out (somewhere on Pleasant Street), but this is a service that we proudly provide.

This year's Learn to Ski program is currently accepting registrations. The deadline to register is Dec. 15. Trips this year will be on Friday evenings.

Joy of Art applications are being accepted at the Topsham Public Library.

The Clerk's Office is now issuing Fishing Licenses, and reminds everyone with a dog that licenses are due.

A warning from our PD, about a new variety of phone scam, where someone called saying they were Chief Lewis from the Topsham PD, and asked for names, social security numbers, etc. Please be careful, and if you ever have a question about a caller who says they are from a government agency, politely hang up and call them back at that department's published number.

The Topsham FD is a certified CPR training center, so if you are looking for CPR training for your group, please call the Fire Department on the non-emergency number 725-7581 for details.

News for our younger viewers – The Jolly One himself is coming to Topsham early this year! He will be making several appearances at the Library next week. On Wednesday, December 12. He will be there at 10:00 a.m. for Story time with Santa.

Then on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday at 2:00 p.m., he will be there for Santa Reads, a program to read to kids, and to give literary gifts.

Lastly, for many of you, your exposure to Topsham government comes from our Recreation Program. If you are one of those, then you know Gerry Ouellette. Gerry will be retiring on December 19, and on Thursday, December 27, from 4-6 p.m., there will be an open house in the lobby at Town Hall if you would like to stop in and give Gerry your best wishes

### **BOARDS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

#### **Presentation and update on Maine Voc 10 efforts to create a full-time Comprehensive High School at Brunswick Landing**

Nancy Weed, VOC 10 Director distributed a handout explaining the objectives of establishing Region 10 Technical High School, a four-year comprehensive technical high school at Brunswick Landing.

The Cooperative Board of Region 10 Technical High school envisions a four-year full-day comprehensive technical high school to be located at Brunswick Landing. The school will feature rigorous, integrated academic and technical education and be an alternative to attending college while learning a trade. The school will feature technical programs and academics toward a credential of value upon graduation.

Ms. Weed introduced program director John Stivers and a student, Rachel Eramo. Miss Eramo spoke briefly to the Board saying she is a volunteer fireman for Topsham and lives upstairs in a dorm room over the fire station while attending school. She has earned 5 college credits to date.

Mr. Stivers said he would like to see our graduates stay, work, and raise their families in Maine, while earning a fair wage.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Yvette Meunier, a resident of Prospect Street, presented a thank you card and offered a thank you to the Public Works Department for their fine work during the recent snow storms.

**CORRESPONDENCE** - Chairman Douglass read aloud a letter from Dr. Terry Porter, 6 Collins Circle speaking in opposition to any Crooker rezoning. The letter is filed with these minutes. Chairman Douglass said there currently is no rezoning request from Crooker before the Town, nor has there ever been.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA** – None Noted

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 1. Approval of the minutes of the Regular Selectmen’s Meeting of November 15, 2018.**
- 2. Approval of the re-appointment of Linda Dumont as Registrar for the Town of Topsham for a two-year term.**

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

**VOTED**

To approve 1 and 2 of the Consent Calendar as proposed.

**PUBLIC HEARING** – None noted.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None noted.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**103-18 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF RALPH WILLIAMS AS THE TOWN HISTORIAN FOR ANOTHER THREE-YEAR TERM**

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

**VOTED**

To appoint Ralph Williams as the town Historian for a three-year term.

**104-18 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON AWARDDING SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING CONTRACTS**

Solid Waste Manager, Ed Caron, explained changes occurring in handling of solid waste. He submitted 3 responses from RFP's submitted - One from Casella (Pine Tree Waste), Waste Management and ECO and recommended going with the bid from Pine Tree Waste for a 3-year contract.

Four options were submitted for consideration:

OPTION 1: Change nothing and add \$40,000 to the Miscellaneous Contractual line to cover it, based on last years recycling numbers, changing the items we include in the Zero Sort to lessen the weight. Processing Fee – ACR plus transportation and handling cost = Recycling Fee.

OPTION 2: Reinvest in the infrastructure of the recycling building by purchasing two new balers at \$10,000-\$15,000 and adding two part-timers at \$16 per hour for a 24-hour week with benefits. Purchase new trailers for storage at \$4,000 each, times three. Put funds away for a storage building in the future.

OPTION 3: Only recycle OCC and other marketable material such as tin cans and such – throwing the rest in the waste stream.

OPTION 4: Only take in OCC and everything else going in the Topsham bag.

Erica Bailey from Pine Tree Waste talked about the problems with contamination as jars, etc. are not properly washed before recycling so some are turned with peanut butter, jelly, etc. still in them. Some things jam the processing machines such as Christmas tree lights, wires, etc.

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

**VOTED**

To recommend that Pine Tree Waste (Casella) be awarded the solid waste and recycling contract.

**105-18 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON CONTRACTING FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SUPPORT SERVICES**

Town Manager Roedner asked the Board for feedback on whether to continue with MMA consulting services, or go out to bid for negotiating support services. He said that getting someone on board will allow the negotiating team to meet early, and consult with Department Heads regarding collective bargaining issues before we meet with Unions in the new year.

Following a brief discussion, the Board reached a consensus to continue with MMA for consulting services.

**106-18 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON CONFIRMING THE TOWN MANAGERS APPOINTMENT OF THE ASSESSOR**

Following discussion, motion was made by Chairman Douglass, seconded by Selectman Tufts, and it was unanimously

**VOTED**

To direct the Town Manager to appoint Justin Hennessey as Assessor effective December 17, 2018.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made, seconded and unanimously,

**VOTED**

To adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Patty Williams, Recording Secretary