

TOWN OF TOPSHAM  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
APRIL 16, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.

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MEMBERS PRESENT: Donald Russell  
David Douglass  
Ruth Lyons  
William Thompson

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: Marie Brilliant

STAFF PRESENT: Town Manager, Richard Roedner

A meeting of the Topsham Board of Selectmen was held on Thursday, April 16, 2015 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 Brilliant who was absent. (The Board actually gathered in the meeting room at 5:30 p.m. and conducted a workshop with Senator Linda Baker and Jonathan LaBonte from the Governors Office of Policy Management.)

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

- The Town Manager extended a note of thanks to Senator Baker and Jonathan LaBonte from the Governor's office for attending the workshop and discussing budget issues.
- 5K race to benefit the Swinging Bridge will be held this Sunday, April 19th. The race begins at 10:00 with sign-ups at 9:30.
- This past weekend the Corey Garver Legion Post held the annual Law Enforcement Breakfast at the legion. Two of Topsham's police officers, Officer Bruce Swanson and Officer Gabrielle Mathieu, were commended for saving a gentleman's life who experienced a heart attack.
- The Town Manager read a letter of appreciation read from the Police Chief in memory/honor of Officer Paul Saindon who passed away this last week. The letter is filed with these minutes.
- Funeral services for Mr. Saindon will be held at on Friday, April 17, at 10:00 a.m. in Bowdoinham.

**BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

**Topsham State Representative to the Legislature, Denise Tepler**, presented a brief update on activities in Augusta, including:

- The Age Friendly Community Initiative being brought forward through AARP and a part of the Speaker's "Keeping Maine Home Initiative" - a Community Action Program. Topsham

could take part in this program by taking certain actions and become an age-friendly community, the same way Topsham is a Business Friendly Community. There are a limited number of grants available in this program through AARP.

- Ms. Tepler held a Community Forum at the Highlands last week to talk about the Keeping Maine Home Initiative Program. She noted Topsham is short on elderly housing and low income housing.
- There is a lot of talk of bills in the legislature about alternative ways to provide municipal revenue. Also, local option sales taxes is being talked about.
- Another bill that might be an interest to Topsham, put forward by Senator Libby of Androscoggin County, to create a TIF-like districts to shelter funds to communities that collaborate on services.
- Governor's Budget - Would be a good idea to modernize its tax code by broadening the sales tax. Democrats are looking at 5.5%; Republicans 6.5%. Agreed that the Governor's Forestry Plan should not be in the budget, because of the efficiency of the Tree Growth Plan.
- There are open slots for pages at the legislature and Ms. Tepler urged local high school students to apply.

**Historic District Chairman, Gary Smart** brought the Board up to date on happenings within the Historic District Commission. The Commission is fully staffed with 5 members and Ed Mendes as an alternate. Topsham is one of 10 local Certified Local Governments in Maine. The Commission's responsibility is to oversee the architectural integrity of the district. Some recent projects, working with the 2005 Comprehensive Plan recommendation include:

- 2010 Architectural Survey was done by Scott Hanson
- 2012 Ordinance Amendments
- 2014 The Interpretative Sign Project
- On September 18, 2015 the Commission is hosting Maine's Annual CLG Conference at the Topsham Public Library.

**TDI/ECD - John Shattuck, Topsham Economic and Community Development, Inc. Director** talked about

- MCOG - progress being made to move toward consolidated regional structure; there is broad support for this.
- Lower Village Development Committee is coordinating with Brunswick on the Frank Woods Bridge.
- Head of Tide Park - Exceptional piece of property which the Town would be very well served to own.
- 5:00 p.m. the Chamber of Commerce will be conducting an Open House at ReMax.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None noted.

**CORRESPONDENCE** - None noted.

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

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SELECTMENS MEETING OF April 9, 2015**

Motion was made by Selectman Douglass, seconded by Selectman Lyons, and it was unanimously (of those present and voting)

**VOTED**

To approve the minutes of April 9, 2015 as written.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**15-18 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF A SPECIAL AMUSEMENTS LICENSE FOR COREY EDWIN GARVER, POST 202, AMERICAN LEGION**

Chairman Russell reviewed the application from the Corey Edwin Garver Post 202 for a special amusements license. Nic Hamlin was present to represent the Post.

The Public Hearing was declared open. Chairman Russell made known that he is a member of Post 202 and asked if anyone objected from his taking part in the meeting. There were no objections and the meeting continued. Mr. Hamlin explained that the post has Karaoke events from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Fridays 2 to 4 times a month and occasionally a band is present for the same hours on Saturday night. Letters were noted in file from the Fire Chief and Police Chief both saying they have no issues with the granting of an amusement license to the Post.

There being no comments to be heard from members of the public, the Public Hearing was declared closed and Chairman Russell reviewed the finding of facts:

**FINDING OF FACTS**

1. The applicant is Corey Edward Garver Post 202.
2. Address of the Post is 79 Foreside Road, Topsham, Maine
3. Contact person for the Post is Nic Hamlin.
4. The applicant is applying for a Special Amusement Permit to have Karaoke events and periodic live bands.
5. Karaoke will take place downstairs in the downstairs meeting area and the live bands will play upstairs in the building.
6. Schedule for the Karaoke will occur 2 to 4 times a month from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m.
7. Average number of people in attendance is from 1 to 30.
8. There is a bar open during the events and is operated by a trained bar tender.
9. Schedule for the periodic bands will be from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturdays, 1 per month.
10. Attendance to the band event will be a high of 117.
11. There is ample parking spaces for the events for 50 to 60 vehicles.
12. The activities of Karaoke and Band do not take place at the same time.
13. The applicant stated for the record that all licenses and permits are current.
14. Letters are in file from the Fire Chief and Police Chief stating they have no issues with the granting of licenses.

The Board was in unanimous agreement with the Finding of Facts.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The Board unanimously concluded that the issuance of an Amusement Permit to the applicant to hold Karaoke and Band activities would not be detrimental to public health and safety or welfare and would not violate Town Ordinances, rules, regulations or articles.

The Board was in unanimous agreement with the conclusions as based on the Finding of Facts.

Motion was made by Chairman Russell, seconded by Selectman Lyons and it was unanimously (of those present and voting)

## **VOTED**

To grant the Cory Edward Garver Post 202 a Special Amusement Permit for Friday Night Karaoke and periodic live band activities meeting the requirements set forth in Chapters 71-2, 71-6 and 225-27(D)(3)(i) to be valid only for the license year of the applicant's existing liquor license.

## **15-19 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON PLACING THE MERRYMEETING TRAIL INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT ON THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT FOR MAY 20, 2015**

The Public Hearing was declared open. Selectman Thompson spoke to the Merrymeeting Trail Interlocal Agreement with comments from committee member Victor Langelois.

With no comments to be heard from members of the public, the Public Hearing was declared closed.

Motion was made by Selectman Douglass, seconded by Selectman Thompson, and it was unanimously (from those present and voting)

## **VOTED**

To move the Merrymeeting Trail Interlocal Agreement forward to be placed on the Warrant for the May 20, 2015 Town Meeting Warrant.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None noted

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

## **15-20 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON PURCHASING A SHREDDER TO SHRED DOCUMENTS FOR THE TOWN AND RESIDENTS AT THE TRANSFER STATION**

Ed Caron, Director of Solid Waste, presented the possibility of the town purchasing an industrial size shredder to shred documents at the Town's Transfer Stations. A lengthy discussion followed with pros and cons of owning a shredder versus hiring a firm to come to town periodically bringing their own equipment and shredding materials.

Mr. Caron said he has looked at a couple of used shredders at a reasonable cost that would do the job. The cost would range from \$2,500 to \$3,000. The discussion moved to how the process would take place and how to be sure the material to be shredded would be kept confidential; who would do the shredding, where and when. Currently the Town pays approximately \$600 a year to have a firm come to the Town Office to do the necessary shredding. Thought was put on the table if the general public could bring their material to the Town to take advantage of the current way shredding is handled, even with a small cost to the public.

Motion was made by Selectman Douglass, seconded by Selectman Lyons, and it was unanimously (of those present and voting)

**VOTED**

To not purchase a shredder to shred documents for the Town and residents at the transfer station.

**ADJOURN** - With no further business to address, motion was made by Selectman Lyons, seconded by Selectman Thompson, and it was unanimously

**VOTED**

To adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Patty Williams, Recording Secretary