

MINUTES
TOWN OF TOPSHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
DONALD A. RUSSELL MEETING ROOM
APRIL 18, 2019 – 7:00 P.M

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Douglass
William Thompson
Roland Tufts

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: Marie Brilliant and Ruth Lyons

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

A meeting of the Topsham Board of Selectmen was held on Thursday, April 18, 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, except for Selectman Brilliant and Selectman Lyons, both of whom had been excused.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- BIG TRUCK day is tomorrow, Friday, April 19, at the Topsham Public Library, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. We are asking visitors to park at the Recreation Fields on Foreside Road and walk down to the library, due to space constraints.
- The next Household Hazardous Waste collection day is almost upon us. The date is Saturday April 27, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Information is available on the Topsham website. Please note that you must pre-register in order for your items to be accepted.
- Also on Saturday, April 27, is the next Drug Take Back Collection at the Topsham Police Department 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Bring in your old, unused, expired medications for proper disposal. We cannot accept liquids or any needles.
- Last news concerns the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Friday's Flashlight Hunt will take place as scheduled at the Foreside Field. This is for 8, 9, and 10 year olds only. The event starts at 8:00 p.m.

- On Saturday, McDonald's is sponsoring breakfast with the Easter Bunny from 8:00 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. at McDonalds.
- Due to the weather, Saturday's Hunts are being relocated from the Foreside Field to the Mount Ararat High School Gym. The times are also changing to allow late stragglers to get there on time. 2, 3, and 4 year olds will be at 10:30 a.m.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

Update from Denise Tepler, Representative House District #54

Representative Denise Tepler presented an update of happenings at the House of Representatives in Augusta, including:

- Municipal Revenue Sharing
- Hearing this coming Wednesday on three bills on the Brown Tail Moth problem
- Her work on the Brunswick Naval Museum and Memorial Garden
- LD 1177 – Improving the Public Sector - Labor and Health Commission
- LD 900 – Bill that would grant public legislative court, municipal county court house, teachers, etc. the right to strike...would give employees the right to shut down government
- Talked about new site where people can post on line and become a part of public records
- Representative Tepler extended an open invitation to kids in her district to come to Augusta to be pages. The kids would have to bring along a chaperone. Also welcomed anyone from the district to come to Augusta to shadow her.

Update from Steven Levesque, Executive Director of MidCoast Regional Redevelopment Authority (MRRRA)

The Board previously sent a letter to Mr. Levesque asked for an update on the water infrastructure situation at the annex and he presented an overview of the problems involved in getting the matter resolved.

Mr. Levesque explained the steps that have already been taken and the many conveyances from the Navy to address the problem and the roadblocks that have to be worked through to get the issues addressed, including how the new BRAC works. Money is a big problem as there are no funds available from the Navy and it seems everything needed to be done on this end has to be funded by MRRRA. Plans are to remove the water tower at a cost of \$100,000. The tower can be removed without affecting the water system currently in use. There are 1.75 miles of waterline in Topsham that need to be replaced. The Federal Government has been notified that it should be a morale obligation of theirs to help, but they have not responded. The decaying waterlines were put in in the 40's and 50's and it is anticipated to cost approximately \$3 million to replace them. Mr. Levesque was told by the USDA that Topsham is too wealthy to be able to apply for a grant.

Chairman Douglass said it is important to get this situation solved as we have 200 residents living in the annex area. He asked if there have been conversations with Senator Collins. Mr. Levesque said "yes" and response was that they couldn't help. Suggestion was made to look into a Community Development Block Grant.

The Town Manager said he talked to Representative Tepler to inquire about the possibility of applying for an Infrastructure Bond. She agreed to put a request in at the November session.

PUBLIC COMMENT – **Jane Scease** commented on LD 1177 and LD 900. She said the Teacher’s Union is pushing these and their passing could be very costly. She urged the Board to help in any way they can.

CORRESPONDENCE – Chairman Douglass noted receipt of a letter from Karen Murphy (the one she read at the last Board meeting) and said the letter has been placed in file.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA – Letter dated April 18, 2019 to Senator Diamond, Chair and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation from the Board of Selectmen regarding LD 1141 Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Construct the Merrymeeting Trail from Topsham to Gardiner was noted and filed with these minutes. It was agreed that the Board would sign the original letter and put in the mail.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of the minutes of the Regular Selectmen’s Meeting of April 4, 2019.

No action was taken on the minutes.

PUBLIC HEARING – None noted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None noted.

OLD BUSINESS – None noted.

NEW BUSINESS

19-25 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION TO APPROVE HIRING WILLIAMS CONSTRUCTION FOR THE SAGADAHOC AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FAIRGROUNDS GRANDSTAND ROOF/CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT PROGRAM

Assistant Planner Carol Eyerman reviewed the 5 bids sent out and explained that only 2 of them met the specifications. The Historic District’s and Planning Board’s recommendation is to award the project to Williams Construction.

Following Ms. Eyerman’s presentation, motion was made by Chairman Douglass, seconded by Selectman Tufts, and it was unanimously

VOTED

To approve the hiring of Williams Construction for the Sagadahoc Agricultural Society Fairgrounds Grandstand Roof/Certified Local Government Grant Project.

**-19-26 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APROPRIATE ACTION ON WRITING OFF
OUTSTANDING PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES FOR A DECEASED
BUSINESS OWNER**

Town Manager Roedner explained that the business owner is deceased and the Town is unable to collect the amount of back taxes due.

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

VOTED

To write off the outstanding personal property taxes going back to 2014 for Davis Construction in the amount of \$4,791,06, plus interest.

**19-27 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON AMENDING
TRAFFIC ORDINANCE TO REMOVE THE YIELD SIGN AT THE BOTTOM
OF ELM STREET EXTENSION**

The Town Manager said this item came up at the Neighborhood Meetings. Elm Street Extension is now a one way, so the yield sign is no longer needed. Both Police Chief Chris Lewis and Public Works Director Dennis Cox have indicated that the sign can be safely removed.

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

VOTED

To remove the yield sign at the bottom of Elm Street Extension and the subsequent amendment to the Inventory List of Traffic Control Signs.

ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED

To adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Williams, Recording Secretary