

MINUTES
TOWN OF TOPSHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
April 20, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Douglass
Ruth Lyons
William Thompson
Roland Tufts

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: Marie Brilliant

STAFF PRESENT: Richard Roedner, Town Manager

A meeting of the Topsham Board of Selectmen was held on Thursday, April 20, 2017 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, who had been excused.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

As a reminder, there will be no household hazardous waste collection this spring, as our budget for this program was spent this past fall.

Tomorrow, Friday, is BIG TRUCK DAY!!! It will be held at the Topsham Library from 10:00 a.m. to noon, rain or shine. So come down, bring the kids, and get your big truck on!

Next Saturday, April 29, is the next Medication Collection Day at the Topsham Police Department. It will run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is a good, safe, and environmentally sound way of getting rid of unwanted or out dated medication.

On Monday, May 1, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Library, Topsham Development, Inc, in conjunction with Highland Green, will be hosting a tax increment financing public meeting. There are two items on the agenda, a general TIF 101 to talk about what TIFs are, and are not, and then a discussion about a TIF proposal for Highland Green that is on our May 17 Town Meeting Warrant.

Also on May 1, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at Gelato Fiasco in Brunswick, two of Topsham's own celebrities will be serving Gelato to support the William Cone School. Ed Caron from the

Solid Waste Facility and Ray (Gus) Hanson from the Parks and Recreation Department will be the celebrities of the night.

Lastly, on May 3, 6:00 p.m., as part of its regional solar installation program, the Mid Coast Economic Development District will be hosting a Solarize Midcoast evening, with Sundog Solar, the contractor that won the bid to provide discounted solar installation for McEDD communities. This is an opportunity to learn how solar may help you cost wise, and the ins and outs of having solar panels installed at your home.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Update TDI/ECD – John Shattuck, Topsham Economic, Inc. and Community Development Director, reported on activities including:

- **Buffalo Wild Wings** – Mr. Shattuck said Buffalo Wild Wings is the question most posed to him, i.e., when is it coming? Construction is under way with an opening planned to happen sometime in June.
- **Tucker Ford** – The final site plan is pending. The goal is to open by the end of the year. Mr. Shattuck said this is a major addition to our retail center and tax base and is important, as it will draw customers deeper into the interior of the center.
- **Kume Japanese Steakhouse** – This is a Dan Catlin project and will be located by Sherman Williams and Sport Clips. There currently is a Kume Japanese Steakhouse in Augusta. It will be a restaurant within a restaurant, meaning it will have a hibachi grill, sushi bar and a main dining room with a full bar and will bring 50 to 60 jobs to Topsham.
- **Maine Beer Festival at the Topsham Fairgrounds** – Plans are underway for this to happen on June 3 and 4. The promoter has met with Public Safety and the Planning Staff and has met ordinance requirements.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None noted.

CORRESPONDENCE – None noted.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA – Motion was made by Chairman Douglass, seconded by Selectman Lyons, and it was unanimously (of those present)

VOTED

To add Item 17-42 to the agenda: **17-42 EXECUTIVE SESSION IN RESPECT TO BACK TAXES**

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **Approval of the minutes of the Regular Selectmen's Meeting of April 6, 2017.**
2. **Approval of the minutes of the Special Public Hearing Meeting for the Town Warrant on April 13, 2017.**

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

VOTED

To approve items 1 and 2 of the Consent Calendar. (approval of minutes of 4/6/17 and 4/13/17, as written).

3. Approval to appoint Ballot Clerks for the Town Meeting on May 17, 2017

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

VOTED

To appoint the following individuals as Ballot Clerks for the May 17, 2017 Town Meeting:

Roland Breton	Monica Kincaid
Jeannette Breton	Jane Welch
Peter Lepari	Linda Nesbit

PUBLIC HEARING – None noted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None noted.

OLD BUSINESS - None noted.

NEW BUSINESS**17-38 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON ACCEPTANCE OF A DONATION FROM THE ELECTIONS DIVISION OF VOTING EQUIPMENT**

Information was included in the Board package stating that the Elections Division is initiating a final disposition of obsolete property through transfer of ownership as a donation from the State to municipalities for CVR components and original Accessible Voting System equipment. This equipment was purchased with federal funding to foster compliance with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

Town Clerk, Linda Dumont, asked the Board to consider acceptance of this donation.

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

VOTED

To approve the acceptance of a donation from the Elections Division of voting equipment.

17-39 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON REVIVING THE PRESENTATION OF THE BOSTON POST CANE

Town Clerk Linda Dumont spoke to this item. Ms. Dumont said the Town has not participated in presenting the Boston Post Cane for the past 8 years and asked for the Board's opinion in re-establishing the practice.

The Boston Post Cane tradition was established in 1909 by the Boston Post Newspaper. A special gold headed ebony cane with a 14 ct. gold top and the Town's name engraved upon it was presented to the Board of Selectmen in 700 towns in New England, to be presented as an

honor to each town's oldest citizen. The recipient held the honor as long as he/she lived and upon his/her death, the cane would come back to the Town to be awarded to the next oldest citizen. Ms. Dumont said there has been recent citizen interest in this tradition being re-established.

Chairman Douglass said he was happy to see interest in the tradition. Selectman Lyons urged caution when considering recipients, as some citizens do not want the honor bestowed upon them. Ms. Dumont said if the chosen individual was not interested, the cane would be presented to the next eligible person. The process would involve a policy stating the individual being considered must be a 10-year resident of Topsham and there would be an application to complete to gather pertinent information.

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

VOTED

To approve reviving the presentation of the Boston Post Cane to the Town's oldest citizen.

17-40 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON ACCEPTING AN EPA GRANT FOR FOLLOW-UP IMPLEMENTATION WORK ON VERNAL POOL REGULATORY PROGRAM

Town Manager Roedner said the Town received a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency two years ago to complete the paperwork on the Maine Vernal Pool Special Area Management Plan (Maine VP SAMP). The grant will expire in September of 2017. The plan is being implemented in Topsham and Orono. Mr. Roedner said we have been approached about being the fiduciary responsible party for a subsequent follow-up grant that will help oversee the implementation and help develop the coordination of land trust of both Orono and Topsham. It is a two-year grant and the total is approximately \$50,000 a year, half of which is a local match in in-kind service. We have asked for the ability to bill out approximately \$3,500 the first year and \$2,200 the second year for billable time from our staff.

A memo dated April 13, 2017 from Rod Melanson, Town Planner, (filed with these minutes) states that the 2017-2019 grant timeframe will provide funding for the Director of Planning to administer the grant and use of the Maine VP SAMP in Topsham's designated development area. The grant will also provide funding for a consultant, currently working on the Maine VP SAMP, to work with the Town on implementation, to work with the Brunswick Topsham land Trust on conservation project development.

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

VOTED

To accept an EPA Grant for follow-up implementation work on the vernal pool regulatory program.

17-41 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON A REQUEST TO MAINE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO REVIEW SPEED LIMITS ON RIVER ROAD FROM ROUTE 196 TO THE RAILROAD CROSSING

Town Manager Roedner said that River Road is heavily used and, like many roads in Topsham, is the victim of drivers that do not adhere to the speed limits. There is quite a lot of truck traffic on that road. However, the local truck traffic, particularly Crooker's trucks, are aware of the speed limits and actually drive under them; which sometimes is an aggravation to vehicle traffic.

This item was added to the agenda as a result of a citizen request for the Department of Transportation (DOT) to review speed limits, or somehow control traffic on River Road. It was noted that the DOT was asked to and did a review in 2013. Approximately 1,400 trips a day was reported at that time. From past discussions with residents on River Road, the major issues include:

- Increased frequency of truck traffic to/from Crooker's pit
- Vehicles speeding on River Road
- Vehicles operating on formerly closed days
- Vehicles operating later into the day than in the past
- Seasonal dust kicked up by truck traffic

Chairman Douglass said it doesn't matter if it is Winter Street, River Road, or Middlesex Road. It is every single road in Topsham with a speeding problem. It is an enforcement issue. Until we have 15 cops sitting there and ticketing all day long, it is doubtful there will be a difference. That being said, we have to do the best we can. Chairman Douglass said, for this one instance, he has a problem that we just did this 4 years ago. He said, following action on this item, he is going to "ask that we establish a policy in Town, that we don't do this, except maybe every 5 years. We just did this in 2013. There may be a little bit more traffic, but there have been no significant developments added to the road. We can do this all the time. That being said, this will be on the agenda at a later date. If they speed on one number, they will speed at a lower number."

Motion was made by Selectman Tufts, seconded by Selectman Thompson, and it was unanimously (of those present)

VOTED

To request the MDOT to reduce speed limits on River Road from Route 196 to the railroad crossing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

17-42 EXECUTIVE SESSION IN RESPECT TO BACK TAXES

At 7:32 p.m., motion was made by Selectman Tufts, seconded by Selectman Lyons, and it was unanimously (of those present)

VOTED

To move into Executive Session to discuss Agenda Item 17-42. Attending was the Town Manager, Chairman Douglass, Selectmen Lyons, Thompson and Tufts.

At 7:54 p.m. the Board came out of Executive Session.

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

VOTED

To instruct the Town Manager to meet with the property owner to discuss the Board's concerns and how to make sure those concerns can be met as part of a Repurchase Agreement.

ADJOURN

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

VOTED

To adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Williams, Recording Secretary