

MINUTES
TOWN OF TOPSHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MAY 26, 2011, 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ronald Riendeau, Chairman
James Trusiani, Vice Chairman
Marie Brillant
Andrew Mason
Donald Russell

MEMBERS ABSENT: All present

STAFF PRESENT: Town Manager, Cornell Knight

A regular meeting of the Topsham, Maine Board of Selectmen was held on Thursday, May 26, 2011 at the Municipal Building at 100 Main Street, Topsham, Maine.

CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Riendeau called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All present stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The recording secretary took the roll call and noted that all Selectmen were present.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The Town Manager's Report:

- There will be a Memorial Day Parade in which the Selectmen will participate. The parade will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, May 30, 2011.
- There will be a joint workshop with the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board on Tuesday, June 21, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room at the Municipal Building.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES - None noted.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None noted.

CORRESPONDENCE - None noted.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA - None noted.

CONSENT CALENDAR**1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SELECTMEN MEETING OF 5-5-11.**

Motion was made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Mason, and it was unanimously

VOTED

To approve the minutes of the May 5, 2011 meeting as written.

PUBLIC HEARING - None noted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None noted.

OLD BUSINESS - None noted.

NEW BUSINESS**35-11 PRESENTATION FROM JOHN CARROLL, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AT CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY ABOUT SMART METER INSTALLATIONS**

John Carroll, Manager of Public Affairs for Central Maine Power Company (CMP), made a presentation on the Smart Meter Project. Booklets were handed out to Board members with detailed information on the meters. Mr. Carroll said CMP is "out of sync with modern technology" with the way meters are read from house to house. Smart meters use electronic data recording and two-way communication technology and, in the near future, will provide detailed information about energy usage. Smart meters will enhance services and will provide state-of-the-art electricity delivery for Maine. The project is expected to cost approximately \$192 million and is funded in part by a \$96 million award from the U.S. Department of Energy Smart Grid Investment Grant Program. Customers will be able to log onto a website to obtain detailed information of their usage. This information may also be obtained by telephoning CMP directly. It is anticipated that 620,000 meters will be replaced with the smart meters. Mr. Carroll also explained an available process for those not wishing to tie into the new system. In response to an inquiry from Don Russell on the possibility of individual use records being sold, Mr. Carroll said strict security protocols are built in to assure confidentiality.

CMP has contracted with VSI meter Services to install the new electric meters throughout our service area. VSI vehicles will be marked for easy identification and VSI employees will carry picture identification and also wear uniforms displaying the CMP and VSI logos.

Following Mr. Carroll's presentation and questions from the Board, questions and comments were received from members of the public, in particular about radio frequencies and if smart meters are safe. Mr. Carroll said that during typical use at a point 20 inches in front of a meter, the average exposure to radio frequency signals is less than the background radio frequency signals naturally generated by the earth, and less than one-seven-thousandth of the safe exposure standard set by the Federal Communications Commission.

36-11 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE REQUEST FROM DIANE VERNESONI FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF \$400 FOR THE COST OF DRAINAGE PIPE INSTALLATION ON THE FORESIDE ROAD

Diane Vernesoni referenced her letter to the Board dated April 25, 2011, which is filed with these minutes, explaining her concerns. She said the Public Works Department created a ditch along the road to her next door neighbor's property and hers. She said the ditch to her neighbor's property was slight but that the ditch on her property was 3-1/2 feet deep on one side about 100-foot long and 4-feet deep across 400-feet in front of her apartment building. Ms. Vernesoni said the 4-foot deep and 400-foot long trench was 15-feet wide and would cause a dangerous situation where cars could flip over into the ditch.

Ms. Vernesoni said she tried to stop the project but was told by the Town Manager her only recourse was to have a culvert put in along the 400-foot ditch at her expense. She did this and the cost for same was \$400. She told of an incident recently where a tractor trailer left the road, and went across her driveway onto her lawn. She said the situation would have been catastrophic if the culvert she had installed would not have been there. Ms. Vernesoni told the Board she feels the Town should pay for the culvert installation.

In response to a question from the Board, Wayne Campbell, Public Works Department, said there has been a ditch on the property in question ever since he has worked for the Town and that he saw no problem with the ditch.

During discussion by the Board it was noted that although there was empathy for the request, based on the amount of ditching we have in town, it would not be feasible for the Town to pay for individual decisions to pipe them.

Motion was made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Trusiani, and it was unanimously

VOTED

To deny the request to reimburse \$400 for the cost of drainage pipe installation.

37-11 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION UPON A GRANT AWARD OF \$20,000 FROM THE MAINE STATE PLANNING OFFICE SHORE AND HARBOR PLANNING PROGRAM

Rod Melanson, Assistant Planning Director, told the Board that the Town has been awarded a \$20,000 grant from the State Planning Office Shore & Harbor Planning Program. The intent of the planning grant is to begin a planning effort that anticipates redevelopment of the Lower Village area which as been talked about since the 1996 Lower Village Plan, the 2005 Comprehensive Plan and the 2008 Main Street Plan. A time line has been developed for the phased project as follows:

- July and August: Work with successful project team and begin preliminary planning for public water access, public parking and traffic flow.
- September: Conduct Public Charrettes, hold stakeholders meeting, compile all input.
- October: Report on public input and begin preliminary design.

Fall 2011: Hold public meetings to review site plan and public access design and adjust the plan accordingly.

January 2012: Project end date. Prepare reports, review with Planning Department and finalize for submission to SPO.

Mr. Russell asked if he was correct that this grant will allow the planning process to take place to take an inventory of what is involved on site. Mr. Melanson said that is correct. There have been two public workshops to date, boundary lines have been identified, topography noted and boundary issues have been resolved. It is now time to put out bids for engineering services to be done and reports will come back to the Selectmen.

Motion was made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Mason and it was unanimously

VOTED

To authorize the Town Manager to accept the \$20,000 grant from the Maine State Planning Office Shore & Harbor Planning Program.

38-11 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE VENDOR PROPOSALS FOR DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE TDI WEBSITE

TDI Director John Shattuck expressed appreciation to Rod Melanson for his help in putting together an improved TDI website.

Mr. Shattuck said three proposals were considered and he reviewed a qualifications ranking review matrix. Respondents included Allure, MaineBOD and MHS with Allure receiving the most favorable ranking. It is anticipated that the site will be up and running in approximately 6 to 8 weeks.

Following Mr. Shattuck's presentation, motion was made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Mason and it was unanimously

VOTED:

To authorize TDI to move ahead with the development of their website, contracting with Allure to create same.

39-11 ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS FOR: CODES, CIVIL EMERGENCY, FOREST FIRE WARDEN, WEIGHTS & MEASURES, TREE WARDEN AND ROAD COMMISSIONER

Motion was made by Mr. Trusiani, seconded by Mr. Mason, and it was unanimously

VOTED

To make the following annual appointments:

Codes/Health/Plumbing/Electrical/Building Officer - **Tom Lister** with **Robert Williamson** as an alternate;

Civil Emergency - **Mike Labbe**;
Forest Fire Warden - **Brian Stockdale**;
Sealer of Weights & Measures - **Louis Levesque**;
Tree Warden - **Kyle Rosenberg**;
Road Commissioner - **Dennis Cox**

40-11 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE TAX-ACQUIRED PROPOERTY FORMERLY OWNED BY HAROLD OWEN, JR

Following an explanation by the Town Manager that the Owen family has submitted a \$3,100 check to cover all back taxes, lien charges and interest which happened because they never received the lien notice because of a Jr./Sr. mix up, motion was made by Mr. Trusiani, seconded by Mr. Mason and it was unanimously

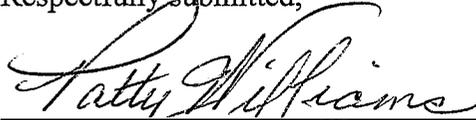
VOTED

To authorize the Town Manager to accept the \$3,100 for back taxes and to authorize a Quit Claim Deed.

ADJORNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Patty Williams, Recording Secretary