

TOWN OF TOPSHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
JULY 17, 2014 - 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Donald Russell
Marie Brilliant
David Douglass
Ronald Riendeau
William Thompson

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: All present

STAFF PRESENT: Town Manager, Richard Roedner

A meeting of the Topsham Board of Selectmen was held on Thursday, July 17, 2014 at the Municipal Building at 100 Main Street, Topsham, Maine.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL

Chairman Russell called the 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.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The Town Manager's Report included:

- Busy period at the Topsham Library. Be sure to check their website: www.topshamlibrary.org, for a listing of upcoming events, including Spray Paint Art, science programs, book discussions, computer training and more.
- From 2 to 4 p.m. this Sunday at the Head of Tide Park on Cathance Road, the Brunswick Topsham Land Trust is highlighting the development of Cathance River Corridor trails. Volunteers will be on hand at both trail heads with trail maps and information about this new feature of this park, which has been collaboration between the Town and the Land Trust for the last several years.
- The deadline for soccer registration has passed, and all new registrations are being placed on a wait list. Registration for soccer camps is still open.
- The Ararat Under-10 Babe Ruth Softball team has won the State Championship and is moving on to the regional competition in Rochester, NH. We wish them luck, and know that they would appreciate your moral and financial support to help them along. You can go to the Mt. Ararat Sports Boosters Facebook page to find out how you can support them.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES - Update TDI/ECD

John Shattuck, Topsham Economic and Development, Inc. Director presented an update on TDI/ECD including the following:

- Both General Assemblies have been very successful. The Budget Plan was unanimously approved.
- TDI will hold its Annual Strategic Planning meeting in September. The Board of Selectmen will be invited; the program will include a luncheon.
- Wicked Joe's Coffee is now in operation at the Topsham Commerce Park.
- A subdivision plan is in the works for the remainder of the Commerce Park for its future development.
- John Larson is sponsoring a "Chamber After Hours" in the office building next to Reny's next Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.. The office space available for rental will be showcased.
- The Chamber of Commerce is working with the Topsham Fair Association to hold an Octoberfest on September 20th. They have signed on to a 3-year commitment to do this and a musical program is planned for this year. (The Codes Officer notes that no formal permits are necessary for this event as the entities will comply with the ordinance Performance Standards.)

Update Topsham Sewer District Board of Trustees - Bill Fitzsimmons, Treasurer of the Topsham Sewer District, presented an overview of happenings this past year in the District. Paul Rossignol and Mark Ponziani were also in attendance representing the District. Stuart Kay was scheduled to give the overview, but was unable to attend.

Some of the items covered by Mr. Fitzsimmons included:

- Discussions were held between the Brunswick Sewer District and the Topsham Water District about possible consolidation of the two entities, but nothing came to fruition as the result of the discussions.
- Rates were raised by \$3.00 in January. An increase is expected over the next three years.
- Topsham's share, which is based on usage is expected to be between 13% and 15% in the \$22 million Brunswick Treatment Plant upgrade. This will be a 2-year project with the design phase already in the early stages.
- A GPS initiative is underway between Brunswick and Topsham.
- A new billing software package is in operation and working well.
- Our entrance fees are lower than Brunswick's as they have an impact fee involved.
- Our sewer lines are in good shape but will need to be upgraded in the next 5 to 10 years.
- Topsham has a good working relationship with Brunswick and have had a contract with them for the past 40 years. Our current contract expires in 2023.
- Comparison of rates for 8,000 cubic feet puts Topsham at \$392/yr; Brunswick \$375/yr; Bath \$580/yr/ Freeport \$319/yr; Lisbon \$488/yr and Richmond at \$555/yr.

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 JUNE 19, 2014

Motion was made by Selectman Douglass, seconded by Selectman Thompson, and it was unanimously

VOTED

To approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

PUBLIC HEARING - None noted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

36-14 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON WRITING OFF UNCOLLECTABLE TAXES

Town Manager Roedner spoke to this item saying the Board voted in June to write off a string of uncollectible taxes. While processing the write offs, it was discovered that there were a couple of cut and paste errors, resulting in incorrect values.

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

VOTED

To amend the numbers from the last approval as reflected in the memo from Deb. Fischer to Rich Roedner dated June 10, 2014, and to approve the revised numbers on the write offs as follows:

- No. 817 at \$283.00
- No. 4024 at \$282.45 and \$1,132.65
- No. 3544 at \$54.00 and \$55.20, and
- No. 2427 at \$288.42

OLD BUSINESS

39-14 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION TO ALLOW THE FIRE/RESCUE DEPARTMENT TO USE THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE BID PROGRAM FOR THE FIRE TRUCK PURCHASE

Fire Chief Brian Stockdale reported back to the Board that he spoke with Heidi Anderson in regards to the fee levied based upon the cost of the apparatus and that the fee is 1.5% of the cost and no more than \$6,000 total. The fee is paid by the vendor and is built into the original bid submitted.

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

VOTED

To allow the Fire/Rescue Department to use the Massachusetts State Bid Program for the purchase of the new fire truck.

NEW BUSINESS**44-14 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON ACCEPTANCE OF FIRE COMMAND VEHICLE BID**

Fire Chief Stockdale reviewed the bids for the Fire Department command vehicle which were opened on July 7, 2014. Bids were received from Yankee Ford, South Portland (\$23,166); Quirk auto, Augusta (\$23,773); Colonial Ford (\$25,867); and Wiscasset Ford (\$26,595). Chief Stockdale recommended acceptance of the bid from Yankee Ford.

Following a brief discussion, motion was made by Selectman Douglass, seconded by Selectman Thompson, and it was unanimously

VOTED

To accept the bid from Yankee Ford in the amount of \$23,166.

45-14 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON ACCEPTANCE OF POLICE CRUISER BID

Police Chief Chris Lewis reviewed bids received for the new police cruiser as follows: Quirk Ford (\$27,973); Wiscasset Ford (\$28,899); and Yankee Ford (\$28,286). He recommended going with the bid from Yankee Ford in an effort to stay with the same dealership as the purchase of the new Fire Department's command vehicle.

Following discussion, motion was made by Selectman Douglass, seconded by Selectman Riendeau and it was

VOTED

To accept the lowest bid from Quirk Ford from the new police cruiser in the amount of \$27,973.

The vote was 3 in favor and 2 opposed (Brillant and Thompson).

46-14 CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON APPOINTMENTS TO THE PLANNING BOARD AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

Motion was made by Selectman Riendeau, seconded by Selectman Douglass, and it was unanimously

VOTED

To appoint Tom Thompson to serve on the Planning Board with term beginning immediately.

Motion was made by Selectman Thompson, seconded by Selectman Brilliant, and it was unanimously

VOTED

To appoint Harold Hutchinson to the Finance Committee with term beginning immediately.

COMMENT FROM CITIZEN

Paul Rossignol asked to be recognized to make a "quick comment on serving on committees." He said from his understanding, the Town doesn't prohibit a person from serving on more than one committee. He said the Town of Brunswick only allows one person to serve on one board. He said he held two positions in Topsham for quite a while and didn't get appointed in the last go-around and the rationale was that he couldn't serve on two boards. Mr. Rossignol said he would like to see a policy established to clarify this.

Chairman Russell responded that the Board has taken action that a person can serve on two boards at the same time. He added that the Board also discussed that if a member is serving on a committee at present and there is only one opening and we have somebody else that has applied for that, that we will interview both members at that time, rather than just placing the new applicant in the vacant slot.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Selectman Thompson, seconded by Selectman Douglass, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Patty Williams, Recording Secretary