

MINUTES  
TOWN OF TOPSHAM  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
July 19, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.

---

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Douglass  
Marie Brilliant  
Ruth Lyons  
Roland Tufts

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: William Thompson- excused  
STAFF PRESENT: Richard Roedner, Town Manager

A meeting of the Topsham Board of Selectmen was held on Thursday, July 19, 2018 in the Donald A. Russell Meeting Room, at the Municipal Building, 100 Main Street, Topsham, Maine. (The Board held interviews for Boards/Committee at 6:30 p.m.)

**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 Chairman took the roll call and noted that four Selectmen were present, one absent.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

The Town Manager reported that Officer Decker will be leaving the Police Department and has accepted a position with the Brunswick Police Department, we are currently working on getting the Police Department up to full force. He also accepted the resignation of our Assessor Justin Hennessey who accepted a position with the Town of Brunswick. Justin will be greatly missed and we will be working on his replacement. He also reported that sign up for fall soccer through the Recreation Department ended today, if you missed it and still want to sign up there will be an added fee. Representatives from Senator Susan Collins office will be at Town Hall on Wednesday, July 25, 2018 from 3:15PM to 4:15PM in the Don Russell Meeting room to meet with constituents.

**BOARDS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES –**

John Shattuck, Director of TDI/ECD stated that they received notice that the Federal Highway Administration would be proceeding with the replacement of the Frank Wood Bridge. He asked the Board if they consider reaffirming their support for the new bridge and for the DAC as representative of the Town in continuing design discussions. BREAC continues to work with a

health care facility to consolidate two facilities into one. Staff is continuing to work with BTWD on water infrastructure at the former Annex. Head of Tide Park Committee held several events celebrating the opening of Head of Tide, all were well attended.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Letter read by Ruth Lyons that was sent to the Planning Board from Barry and Susan Lohnes in reference to proposed parking lot from Thomas Ave. Letter will be attached with minutes.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA** –

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**1. Approval of the minutes of the Regular Selectmen’s Meeting of 06-21-2018.**

Motion was made by Chairman Douglass, seconded by Selectman Lyons, and it was

**VOTED 3-0-1 (Selectman Tufts abstaining)**

To approve the minutes of the Regular Selectmen’s Meeting of June 21, 2018, as written.

**2. Approval of the minutes of the Special Selectmen’s Meeting of 06-28-2018.**

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

**VOTED**

To approve the minutes of the Special Selectmen’s Meeting of June 28, 2018, as written

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**OLD BUSINESS** - None noted.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**18-49- CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON PROPOSED LETTER TO FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTING THE REPLACEMENT OF THE WOOD BRIDGE AND THE CONTINUING ROLE OF DAC**

The Town Manager has included a letter of support from the Town of Brunswick and a draft letter from the Town of Topsham to the Federal Highway Administration, supporting the decision to replace the bridge, and reaffirming the DAC's role on behalf of the two communities. Bruce Van Note, Chairman of the Design Advisory Committee spoke to the Board and thanked them and the Town of Brunswick for their support; having two Municipality's speaking as one.

Scott Hanson of 8 Pleasant Street and a member of the Friends of the Frank Wood Bridge spoke to the Board stating that he did not think this was a done deal.

Motion was made by Selectman Tufts, seconded by Selectman Lyons, and it was unanimously

**VOTED**

The Board would sign the letter of support to the Federal Highway Administration supporting the replacement of the Wood Bridge and the continuing role of DAC.

**18-50- CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF PATRICK COEN TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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

**VOTED**

To appoint Patrick Coen to the Finance Committee.

**18-51- CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION TO DISCUSS THE CHANGING OF BROOKSIDE, HOMEPLACE AND SUMMER STREETS TO ONE NAME FOR E-911 PURPOSES**

The Town Manager discussed that when the Board discussed traffic issues on Somerset, the question of E-911 was raised, with one long street now having three names. Staff has reviewed our local ordinance and the goals of the E-911 system, and is looking for guidance. We sent notices out to the residents of these roads to let them know that this would be discussed.

Victoria Dute, 2 Somerset Place stated she felt they should not change the name of Somerset, if any changes are made, it should be done on the new section.

Randy Purington, 17 Homeplace wanted to know why they couldn't use GPS to find the addresses.

Justin Hennessey, Town Assessor explained that this issue was compounded due to different subdivisions coming in over time. This is an issue that needs to be addressed and also stated that even though the many different GPS systems take their address's

from 911, there in no way to know how often they update the systems. This could cause some confusion on emergency calls, especially when it's a mutual aid call and they don't know the streets. He is looking to the Board for some guidance on how they would like to proceed with this.

After some discussion among the Board a motion was made by Chairman Douglass to begin the process with residents of the possibility of renaming/renumbers the three streets in question. The motion failed for lack of a second.

The Chairman said he would bring item back when we have a full time Assessor on board.

**18-52- CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE DEMOLITION OF THE OLD FIRE STATION.**

Dennis Cox, Public Works Director explained that the demolition and removal of debris is the final step in this process. He went out to bid after it was determined that if the Public Works Dept. did the job themselves, it would have cost more to rent the equipment and at least three weeks of lost man power from doing other work that normally would be done. He recommends Copp Excavation, Inc the low bid at \$19,481.43. It was budgeted for \$15,000, and asks the difference come from Down Town TIF fund.

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

**VOTED**

To award the Copp bid for \$19,481.43, and to use the Downtown TIF account for additional funding, of approximately \$12,336.

**18-53- CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION TO DISCUSS REQUESTING DOT TO LOOK AT SPEED LIMITS AGAIN ON RIVER ROAD AND REDUCE SPEED FROM 40-30 AT THE INTERSECTION OF RAYMOND ROAD AND RIVER ROAD.**

The Board discussed the recent authorization to hire two new police officers, and of having more police presence in the area. The Board commented that speed details are helpful at the time, but not sure if speed enforcement has any long-term effect in reducing the speeding. The Board noted that the Police are going to do more enforcement so they decided to take no action at this time.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**18-54- CONSIDERATION AND ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) (F) TO DISCUSS THE RE-PURCHASE OF TAX FORECLOSED PROPERTY**

**Motion by Selectman Tufts, seconded by Selectman Lyons, all in favor to enter Executive Session at 8:00pm**

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:19 pm all members present.

Motion by Chairman Douglass, seconded by Selectman Lyons and it was unanimously

**VOTED**

To enter into a repayment plan for foreclosed property, based on the discussion held during the Executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:20p.m., motion was made by Chairman Douglass to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Lyons and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rose Woodd, Recording Secretary