

TOWN OF TOPSHAM  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
March 6, 2014, 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:       Chairman, Donald Russell  
                                  Vice Chair, David Douglass  
                                  Marie Brilliant  
                                  Ronald Riendeau  
                                  William Thompson

MEMBERS ABSENT:       All members present

STAFF PRESENT:         Interim Town Manager, Rich Roedner

A meeting of the Topsham Board of Selectmen was held on Thursday, March 6, 2014 at the Municipal Building at 100 Main Street, Topsham, Maine.

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL**

Chairman Russell called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All present were invited to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Tonya Jenusaitis, recording secretary took the roll call and noted that all Selectmen were present.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

The Town Manager's Report included:

- Former Town Manager, Cornell Knight, had his last day on Tuesday, March 4, 2014; thank you for his years of service.
- Planning Office has sent out notices to properties north of 196 regarding vernal pool surveys and are starting to get some back; if anyone has any questions, please feel free to call the Planning Office.
- Budget review meetings:
  - Board of Selectmen meeting for their first review on Monday, March 10, 2014 at 6:00 P.M.
  - Finance Committee meetings scheduled for 3/10, 3/11, 3/13/, 3/17 and 3/25 also at 6:00 P.M.
  - A joint committee meeting between the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee has been scheduled for 3/26.
- Library:
  - Library is continuing to hold their Music in March scheduled for Saturday, March 15 at 2:00 P.M.
  - Joy the Lens Photography Exhibit is running from April 1<sup>st</sup> through May 10<sup>th</sup>.

- Library Board of Trustees are working on a draft of their long range plan and would like any input. Public meetings have been scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. and March 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 A.M.
- Accident on 196 at the entrance to Topsham Fair Road is still being worked on and Police and crews are still present.
- William Thompson asked the status of Fire Chief Brian Stockdale Amenity Manor Training; Interim Manager Roedner to research, more information forthcoming.

## **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

- Legislative update from Senator Eloise Vitelli and Representative Andrew Mason.

Senator Eloise Vitelli introduced herself and stated that she is a resident of Arrowsic and representing District 19; she replaces former Senator Seth Goodall. Senator Vitelli stated that she is happy to be able to say that the Legislators have been able to pass the Revenue Sharing Bill and be able to assure the Town's that they would be able to return the monies that they had borrowed; the bill passed with a very strong vote and was a big victory that they are happy to be able to celebrate. Senator Vitelli stated that she is involved in two committees, one being Chair of the Agricultural Forestry Conservation Committee who has recently passed the Food Hub Bill that will create market incentives for food producers to buy from local farms and mildly process them, freeze them and sell them to local schools so that it is creating jobs through food manufacturing, helping to spur growth in our farms and ensure that there is a path to get good food to our schools.

Representative Andrew Mason introduced himself and welcomed Selectman William Thompson. Mr. Mason stated that in terms of what is effecting Topsham, the Revenue Sharing was important and the importance of that for the Town and the budget. Mr. Mason stated that it became overwhelmingly bipartisan by the end when everyone was getting contacted by the Towns that they represent. Mr. Mason stated the issue now will be the shortfalls within the budget in Fiscal 2014 and 2015; they are significant shortfalls and how they will affect the Town is more going to be figuring out where the money is going to come from. Mr. Mason strongly encourages everyone to pay attention to what the Appropriation Commission is going to be doing on different proposals and ideas on where cuts can be made and money be raised to fill these gaps. Mr. Mason stated that feedback from the Towns on how to handle these issues and what is important to the Towns is appreciated. Senator Vitelli echoed Mr. Mason's comments on feedback and contact.

Senator Vitelli stated that the other committee that she serves on is the Committee on Maine's Workforce and Economic Future that hold hearings on issues that relate to the workforce and the economy and create bills from the information they gather. Senator Vitelli said that last week the committee came out with a bond package that they will send to the Appropriations Committee that will help replenish FAME and the Red Lip Program Intermediary programs. Another new competitive grant that the Committee is working on is going through Maine Technology Institute that will help spur the Marine Resources industry.

Donald Russell thanked both Senator Vitelli and Representative Mason, but stated that some of the budget balancing works through the communities and becomes the taxpayers who are doing the work. Mr. Russell stated that he hopes that being from the local community, Senator Vitelli and Representative Mason know what makes. Mr. Russell stated that it was during the Monday night news that he learned about Radon testing and the lack of the State following up on regulations that they put in place. Senator Vitelli thanked Mr. Russell for commenting on this. Mr. Mason replied that the lack of regulation enforcement has been raised before and also thanked Mr. Russell for commenting on this.

William Thompson stated that it is not just revenue sharing but education costs that need to be evaluated.

David Douglass stated that they have glazed over the term revenue sharing and utilizing the word celebration when what they were celebrating is putting money back in that never should have been taken away. Mr. Douglass stated that for 40 years, the State has made a promise to Towns and Cities that they were going to share sales and income tax with Towns that still have to pay for Fire, EMS and road services, but since 2009, the State has raided \$1.8 million just from the Town of Topsham. Mr. Douglass stated that this year, this “celebration” was just to get back to \$472,000 in revenue sharing is still \$628,000 shy of what the State should be sharing with the Town of Topsham (7.2% of the budget). Mr. Douglass stated that he received an email along the lines of “come celebrate”, but vehemently stated that there is no celebration and that the money has been taken or stolen, an unauthorized taking. Mr. Douglass asked that all the citizens continue to ask their Senators to fully fund this as it is vitally important and helps every class of family. Andrew Mason replied that he understood and stated that the reason this occurred in the last legislature is that the income tax cut was unfunded. Mr. Mason stated that he doesn’t mind funding income tax cuts but don’t do something that you cannot pay for. Mr. Douglass replied that he understood, but noted that this was only the result of last year and not the past four years. Senator Vitelli replied that it was not so much as a celebration, but a sigh of relief that at least they were able to get that done.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – No public comment.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** No correspondence.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:** No adjustments to the agenda.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SELECTMEN MEETING FEBRUARY-20-2014**

Motion was made by Marie Brilliant seconded by William Thompson and it was unanimously

**VOTED**

To approve the consent calendar granting approval of the minutes of the regular Selectmen Meeting of February 20, 2014 as written.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION  
SELECTMEN MEETING FEBRUARY-26-2014**

Motion was made by David Douglass seconded by Marie Brilliant and it was unanimously

**VOTED**

To approve the consent calendar granting approval of the minutes of the executive session Selectmen Meeting of February 20, 2014 as written.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION  
SELECTMEN MEETING MARCH-3-2014**

Motion was made by David Douglass seconded by Marie Brilliant and it was unanimously

**VOTED**

To approve the consent calendar granting approval of the minutes of the executive session Selectmen Meeting of March 3, 2014 as written.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**13-14 Consideration and any appropriate action on posting the following roads from March 7, 2014 to May 2, 2014 or sooner if conditions allow.**

Dennis Cox, Director of Public Works, stated that this is an annual posting as the Town approaches spring season and the concern about heavy traffic and travel on certain street; this is a way to protect them. Dennis said that the posters state when heavy loads can travel and noted that there is a permitting process for those who may need to use these roads. Dennis noted that the list of roads is posted online and the streets are marked with a No Heavy Loads sign.

Motion was made by David Douglass seconded by William Thompson and it was unanimously

**VOTED**

To accept posting of the following roads from March 7, 2014 to May 2, 2014, or sooner if conditions allow.

- Winter Street / River Road from Main Street to Whitehouse Crossing Road
- Whitehouse Crossing Road
- Cathance
- Meadow Cross Road
- Ward Road
- West Merrill Road
- Robert's Hill Road
- Foreside Road from Townsend Way to the Middlesex Road

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** No unfinished business.

**OLD BUSINESS:** No old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**14-14 Consideration and any appropriate action on the list of tax acquired property and the abatement of one, per 36 M.R.S.A 841.**

Ronald Colby Jr., in the amount of \$6,717.99, was asked by Donald Russell if he had a plan to pay his outstanding taxes. Mr. Colby Jr. replied that he has been waiting for a check in the amount of \$3,400 which he can pay in one lump sum and can commit to a minimum of \$200.00 per month. Mr. Russell asked when he could start paying the \$200.00 a month and Mr. Colby Jr. replied that that he could start as early as tomorrow, March 7, 2014. Mr. Russell told Mr. Colby Jr. to meet with the Town Manager to establish a payment plan for \$200.00 minimum a month with the understanding that he will pay the \$3,400 when the tax check arrives until the taxes are paid.

Gayle Seaman, in the amount of \$3,474.33, stated that she cannot offer a large amount of money out of her monthly disability payments, most of which has been going to heating costs. She can give \$50.00 per month, possibly \$100.00. Donald Russell asked if she intended on setting up a payment plan and Mrs. Seaman replied that she did. Mr. Russell told her to meet with the Town Manger to set up a payment plan.

Vicky Black, in the amount of \$1,296.73: Interim Town Manager, Rich Roedner, stated that he has attempted to contact her and advise her that this meeting would be televised but he has not heard back from her.

Maureen Coombs, in the amount of \$2,765.73: Interim Town Manager, Rich Roedner, stated that they have a check on hold and are pending approval and issuance of a quick claim deed.

Wetonah French, in the amount of \$487.06: Interim Town Manager, Rich Roedner, stated that this was property that the family wanted the Town to have and it was determined that this would be the easiest route instead of going to probate.

Noble Mobile Home Park, in the amount of \$56.94: Interim Town Manager, Rich Roedner, stated that the assessor advised that this tax be abated as the mobile home was torn down and no longer exists.

Interim Town Manager, Rich Roedner, to attempt to contact Vicki Black, for the amount of \$1,296.73, one more time and to place property into Town Owned Inventory.

Motion was made by David Douglass seconded by William Thompson and it was unanimously

**VOTED**

To allow Ronald Coly Jr., for the amount of \$6,717.99, and Gayle Seaman, for the amount of \$3,474.33, (Ronald Colby CC: Heirs of) to meet with the Town Manger to establish a payment plan to be presented before the Board of Selectmen for approval.

Motion was made by David Douglass seconded by William Thompson and it was unanimously

**VOTED**

To accept the check from Maureen Coombs, in the amount of \$2,765.73, and to issue a quick claim deed.

Unanimous decision among the Board to allow the Wetonah French property, in the amount of \$487.06 to go into the Town Owned Inventory as the family of this property wanted the Town to have it.

Motion was made by William Thompson seconded by David Douglass and it was unanimously

**VOTED**

To abate the Noble Home Mobile Park property, for the amount of \$56.94, as it no longer exists.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** No executive session.

**ADJOURN**

Motion by William Thompson, seconded by David Douglass and it was unanimously

VOTED

To adjourn at 8:00 PM.

Attest

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tonya Jenusaitis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tonya Jenusaitis  
Recording Secretary

