

Board of Selectpersons, Sweden, ME

Tuesday, January 11, 2011

Present were Laurie and Steve Bennett, Wyatt Ridlon, Eric Gulbrandsen, James Willey, Diana. J. Curtis, Jane Gibbons, Alberta Ridlon, John P. Smith, C. Wayne Miller. The meeting was called to order at 6:00. The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Eric Gulbrandsen gave the Selectmen a copy of an ordinance concerning wind mills. The Planning Board will consider it at their next meeting. A public hearing should be scheduled by February 14th if it is to be voted on at the Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Gulbrandsen said that lumber permits are issued by the State Forestry Service, not the town. They can be obtained on line. Ms. Gibbons asked about regulation of businesses in town. Mr. Gulbrandsen said that home businesses are allowed (such as auto repair) so long as they are not advertised (as with signs).

Roads: The lock and handle have been replaced on the Salt Shed, thanks to Wyatt Ridlon. Incorrectly sized posts for road signs have been returned to Paris Farmers Union. Larger posts must be ordered. Wyatt will find out where.

A discussion about the needed road reconstruction ensued with Mr. Bennett. If the jobs were broken down into smaller segments, a five year plan might be used to repair an average of ½ mile on Hardscrabble and Plummer School Roads. It would be necessary to raise an additional \$100,000 or more in the road repair budget (summer roads). A sheet showing how much additional tax per thousand for various scenarios was distributed. An engineer would not be necessary if the jobs were done in smaller sections. The Town would not need to borrow money and pay interest on the Bond.

The Selectmen voted to close the following roads to winter traffic: Marr Road from the Jones' residence to Hardscrabble Road, Fern Drive from Brad Dunlap's to the Lovell line, Bennett Road, Trull Brook Road from Buker Road to Route 93 (Bridgton Road). Voted 3-0.

Fire Department: Jim Willey said that Foster Russell is cheaper than Molloy on gas. Mr. Willey would be the only one to have a key. Mr. Miller moved to have Foster Russell supply fuel for the Fire Department. (Voted 3-0)

An issue concerning use of the Town Hall for non-fire association private functions was raised. Mr. Willey will see that the party involved pays the \$50 rental fee.

The initially submitted Fire Department Budget is to be reduced by \$360 due to a change in consultant fees. Mr. Miller will meet with Mr. Willey concerning inventory on January 21st.

Finance: The Warrant was signed. Steve Goldsmith, a Lovell Selectmen, met with our Selectmen concerning fees at the Lovell Transfer Station. It was determined that Sweden needs to pay \$34,670 in 2011 for use of the Lovell Transfer Station. Last year the fee was \$17,000.

Sawin Millet will be asked to moderate the Town Meeting in March. (3-0) DJ to contact him.

A draft of the Warrant for the Annual Meeting was distributed.

John Smith moved to hold the Town Meeting on Saturday, the 19th day of March AD 2011.
(voted 3-0)

Article 3 – to be examined by J. Gibbons for accuracy

Article 4 – Mr. Miller moved to raise the LD 1 limit. (voted 3-0)

Article 5a. Mr. Miller moved to recommend Town Treasurer-Tax Collector compensation at \$11,085. (Voted 3-0)

Article 5b. Mr. Miller moved to recommend Town Clerk-Registrar of Voters compensation at \$7284. (Voted 3-0)

Article 5c. Mr. Miller moved to recommend 1st, 2nd, 3rd Selectmen compensation of \$4,590.
(Voted 3-0)

Article 5d. Mr. Miller moved to recommend Fire Chief compensation of \$1584. (Voted 3-0)

Article 5e. Mr. Smith moved to recommend Road Commission compensation of \$2,000. (Voted 3-0)

Article 5 f. Mr. Smith moved to recommend Assistant Road Commissioner compensation of \$750. (Voted 2-0, one abstention)

Article 5g Mr. Miller moved to recommend Code Enforcement Officer compensation of \$2,771. (Voted 3-0)

Article 5h. Mr. Milled moved to recommend Cemetery Sexton compensation of \$264. (Voted 3-0)

Article 5i Mr. Miller moved to recommend Administrative Assistant compensation of \$16,469.
(Voted 3-0)

Article 5j Mr. Smith moved to recommend Emergency Management Director compensation of \$1020. (Voted 2-0, one abstention)

Article 6 – DJ to consult accountant about need for this article.

Article 7 – Mr. Smith moved to see if the Town will take from surplus up to \$1,200.00 for payment of interest on tax anticipation borrowing for the ensuing year. (Voted 3-0)

Article 8 Mr. Miller moved to recommend \$46,500 for Town charges. (Voted 3-0)

Article 9 Mrs. Ridlon moved to recommend \$150,000 if Article 4 passes for maintenance of roads and road sides; \$70,000 and \$30,000 from surplus if Article 4 does not pass. (Voted 3-0)

Article 10 Mrs. Ridlon moved to recommend appropriation of \$140,000 for snow removal and sanding with \$10,000 from surplus if LD1 (Article 4) does pass and appropriate \$125,000 and \$25,000 from surplus if needed if LD1 does not pass. (Voted 3-0)

Article 11 Mr. Miller moved to recommend appropriation of \$34,671 for Lovell Dump contract.
(Voted 3-0)

Article 12 Needs to await word from the State. (Voted 3-0)

Article 13 Mrs. Ridlon moved to recommend \$5,000 for grounds maintenance, upkeep and repairs for town buildings. (Voted 3-0)

Article 14 Mrs. Ridlon moved to recommend \$25,000 for support of the Sweden Volunteer Fire Department. (Voted 3-0)

Article 15 Mr. Miller moved to recommend \$2,400 for support of the Ambulance Service. (Voted 3-0)

Article 16 Mr. Miller moved to recommend \$1,000 for support of the Lovell recreation programs. (Voted 3-0)

Article 17 Mr. Miller moved to recommend \$1,500 for support of the Charlotte E. Hobbs Memorial Library. (Voted 3-0)

Article 18 Mr. Miller moved to recommend \$375 for support of the Sweden Conservation Committee. (Voted 3-0)

Article 19 Mr. Miller moved to recommend \$375 for support of the Harvest Hills Animal Shelter. (Voted 3-0)

Article 20 Mr. Smith moved to recommend \$400 for support of the Lakes Environmental Association. (Voted 3-0)

Article 21 Mrs. Ridlon moved to recommend \$150 for support of Seniors Plus. (Voted 3-0)

Article 22 Mr. Smith moved to recommend \$300 for support of the Community Concepts. (Voted 3-0)

Article 23 Mrs. Ridlon moved to recommend \$2,500 for Cemetery maintenance. (Voted 3-0)

Article 24 Mrs. Ridlon moved to recommend \$5,000 for Town Re-Evaluation and to allow the balance to carryover. (Voted 3-0)

Article 25 Mr. Smith moved to recommend \$4,000 for Legal Counsel and to allow balance to carry over. (Voted 3-0)

Article 26 Mrs. Ridlon moved to recommend use of not more than \$45,000 of the 2011 anticipated Excise monies collected in 2010 toward the amount appropriated in Articles 5a through 25. (Voted 3-0)

Article 27 Mrs. Ridlon moved to recommend authorization of \$7,900 of 2011 Tree Growth Refund collected in 2010 toward amount appropriated in Articles 5a through 25.

Article 28 Mr. Smith moved to recommend authorization of raising of the balance so appropriated, not covered in Articles 26 and 27 through taxation. (Voted 3-0)

Article 29 Mr. Smith moved to recommend \$300 from the Snowmobile account for purpose of maintaining public snowmobile and cross country ski trails with the Town of Sweden. (Voted 3-0)

Article 30 Need to wait for state rate.

Article 31 Mr. Miller moved to recommend September 15 for date of delinquent taxes. (Voted 3-0)

Article 32 Mr. Smith moved to recommend the interest rate paid on abated taxes to 4 percentage points less than the rate used in Article 30. (Voted 3-0)

Article 33 Mr. Smith moved to recommend authorization of Article 33 concerning sale of Town property. (Voted 3-0)

Article 34 Mr. Smith moved to recommend authorization of officers to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budgeted amount in each budget category of the 2011 annual budget during the period of January 1 2012 to the March annual meeting in 2012. (Voted 3-0)

Article 35 Mr. Miller moved to recommend taking from surplus up to \$10,000 for the purpose of funding capital projects on State Aid roads and allow the balance to carry over each year. (Voted 3-0)

Article 36 Mr. Smith moved to recommend taking \$2,500 from surplus to replenish the contingency fund. (Voted 3-0)

Article 37 Mr. Smith moved to recommend applying property tax payments to the oldest outstanding taxes before paying current year taxes. (Voted 3-0)

Old Business Mr. Miller will check on the boundary lines on the Town Office-Fire Station property. Wyatt Ridlon had the road signs to be installed.

New Business It was decided to dedicate the Town Report to Carroll Murphy. An overhead picture of the town was suggested for the Front cover of the Annual Report.

Mrs. Ridlon will purchase a new mail box as the current one has rotted out. The Budget Committee will meet 1/17/11 at 6:30. Ms. Gibbons will open the doors as members need to be sworn in. The Selectmen are to meet with the budget committee on 1/24/11.

Other: General Assistance – No requests were made in the 4th quarter.

Ms. Gibbons asked that a Selectman make the decision about whether the Town Hall has been adequately cleaned before returning rental deposits.

The minutes of the Dec. 21, 2010 were approved with one typing correction.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57.