

Board of Selectpersons, Sweden, ME

January 12, 2010

Present: John Clifford, Rob Drew, JP Smith, Wm. Jones, Jane Gibbons, Alberta Ridlon, DJ Curtis

The Pledge of Allegiance was delivered at 6:10 p.m.

The Warrant was signed.

Roads: Rob Drew asked about the results of a bid on the Hardscrabble Road paving project. Mr. Clifford said that he would show Mr. Drew the bids. Mr. Smith said that the town was attempting to format the specifications so that all who placed bids would be bidding on the same thing. Mr. Smith spoke about inviting a state "Road Ranger" (Phil Curtis) to come in April to inspect Sweden Roads and help us formulate specifications on work to be done. Mr. Clifford stressed the importance of ditching. Mr. Smith discussed the merits of salt versus salt and sand application. When one considered the cost of picking up the sand, it might be cheaper to use just salt. Mr. Smith also pointed out that unless the town has an ordinance to post roads, we'd have no way to enforce the posting of roads. It was pointed out that the state posts Route 93, Knights Hill Road and the Waterford Road.

Mr. Smith moved that the Budget Committee be asked to come back for discussion of their proposals with the Select board. Voted 3-0.

Fire Department: Mr. Smith had spoken to the Bridgton Convenience Store about purchasing gas for the fire trucks. An account will be set up so that only vehicles registered as Sweden Fire trucks could use the account. A letter will be written to Dead River to close the town gas account and limit the purchase to diesel only. An account will be opened with Bridgton Convenience Store for gas.

DJ Curtis is to ask Chandell about getting the gas tax eliminated and to see if the town can get a rebate on State and Federal gas tax. DJ was also asked to call the company from whom we purchase road salt to inquire about delivery charges.

Other: DJ Curtis said that she has 6 foreclosure letters to go out. Feb. 18 is the deadline for paying 2007 taxes before foreclosure automatically happens. Title would be recorded 30 days later.

Building Inspector Joseph Neville will be inspecting the School House for structural safety.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05

Board of Selectpersons, Sweden, ME

January 26, 2010

Present were Ron Kiesman, John Clifford, Carroll Murphy, Warren Noble, DJ Curtis, Morris Gibely, Jane Gibbons, and Selectpersons Alberta Ridlon, William Jones, and John P. Smith. The Meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6 p.m.

The warrant was signed. There was one question about telephone calls to a person who wished to register a vehicle in Maine.

Roads: (1) Stone dust was used to fill pot holes on Hardscrabble Road. (2) Mr. Smith reported a conversation with Phil Curtis, the Road Ranger, who would come to help us with specifications for Sweden roads. (3) There had been complaints about ice on Haskell Hill, Hardscrabble and the Waterford Roads following the rain storm on Monday. Calls had been made to selectpersons at 5:45 a.m. The icy spots were sanded.

Fire Department: (1) The letter to Dead River closing the gas account was discussed with Mr. Noble. Mr. Noble was concerned that the Bridgton Convenience Store was not open 24 hours a day. He wanted the flexibility of using Molloy pumps at the Wicked Good Store. Mrs. Ridlon moved that the Fire Department use the Bridgton Convenience Store and Molloy Energy for gas and diesel. Voted (2-0). (3) Mr. Noble requested that he be given a copy of the warrant showing items approved by the Select Board which concerned the Fire Department. (4) Mr. Noble reported that Maine OSHA would be inspecting the Fire Station and files this week. An inspection requested by the local Fire Department would include advice on correction. An inspection that was not requested would incur fines for violations of code.

General Assistance: There was discussion concerning a fuel bill. Mr. Noble was requested to have a report on how much Sweden contributes to the poor through General Assistance for the Town meeting. Mrs. Gibbons reported that the Sweden Emergency Fund had helped Sweden Residence with more than \$6000 in Emergency Assistance in 2009.

Finances: (1) A report has been received from the Budget Committee. (2) An appeal for \$1,500 has been submitted by the Charlotte Hobbs Library in Lovell. The Select Board voted to change article 17 to the requested amount. (3) The Budget Committee will meet on Monday to do more work on the Budget. (4) Mr. Smith wanted to add an article for legal fees. (5) A communication with the Ambulance provider revealed that if the town cut its allocation to the service back to \$1,200, the service will not try to help get another ambulance if Bridgton ambulance is out. If Sweden paid them \$2,400 they will try to send an additional ambulance to Sweden if their ambulance is out. Select Board voted (2-1 abstention) to contribute \$2,400 to the Ambulance Service.

The question was raised about whether the town meeting time should be moved to June. DJ stated that there are many disadvantages and advantages, one of which is that tax

money would come in later. Initiating a credit card payment system would cost the town 2.8% per use of credit card. Mr. Smith requested that the Winter Roads article 10 include a breakdown of sand, salt, and plowing contract. There was discussion concerning the Donee cards whereby towns could purchase items from State surplus. Mrs. Ridlon will check with DJ to see if she has ordered them.

Other: Joseph Neville will be asked to inspect the School House. His fee is \$85 per hour for a structural analysis. The minutes of the Jan. 12 meeting were approved with the correction that we will "contact him about coming." Voted (3-0). It was decided that instead of printing out two versions of the minutes, the first set would be the official minutes and that the minutes of the subsequent meeting would include the corrections.

Mr. Murphy asked why the state valuation for Sweden increased by \$5,000,000 in a short period of time. The State's explanation is verbose and unclear. This increase affects our school taxes which dramatically increase every year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

Jane Gibbons, Clerk

Board of Selectmen, Sweden, Maine

February 2 2010

Present were John P. Smith, William Jones and Alberta Ridlon.
D.J.Curtis present for first couple minutes.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said at 6:05 p.m.

Roads - Ms Ridlon commented that stone dust only laid up to Encore Coda. Mr. Smith asked if Drew had a side mount sander, putting sand/salt in middle of road.

Fire Department - Nothing from FD

Finances - Note to D.J. re FD request, that all Warren needs is copies of FD bills with Vo#, not copies of warrant.

Other- Removed Jim Willey's name from G.A. notice on door.
Ms Ridlon stated that re the question about the town's reimbursment for plowing state roads, that it is part of the URIP money. Ms Ridlon will call Brian Malloy with reference to furnace cleaning and oil delivery. Re question of whether road commissioner was elected or appointed, Mr. Smith checked the records, and it appears that he has been elected, so that position needs to be added to article 3 of the March meeting warrant.

Ms Ridlon and Mr. Smith will plan to be present on Thursday Feb 11th when the SafetyWorks people coming at Warren Noble's request.
Mr Smith reported that the FD gas account was set up at the Bridgton convenience store.

The minutes January 26 2010 were approved with the corrections of a (2-1) vote to have the FD use Bridgton convenience store and Molloy Energy for gas and diesel.

Also a correction of a (3-0) vote to recommend a \$2400 contribution to the ambulance service.

A letter was signed in support of Community Concepts efforts.

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Bill Jones

Board of Selectpersons, Sweden, ME

February 9, 2010

Present: John Clifford, Warren Noble, Jane Gibbons, DJ Curtis, Alberta Ridlon, John P. Smith, William Jones

The meeting was opened at 6:03 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Warrant was signed.

Roads: Our zoning ordinance specifically states that roads in developments will not become roads for which the town is responsible for maintenance.

Fire Department: Mr. Noble gave the Selectpersons the logs on trucks for 2009.

Fire distinguishers need to be reserviced every 5 years. The AAA Company has given an estimate of \$41 to \$51 per unit. There are 4 in the town office building and 3 in the Town Meeting House.

Mr. Noble stated that every year the water needs to be tested for the office building and meeting hall. Mr. Smith asked to see a written statement of the requirement.

Mr. Noble stated that the keys had been returned for the gas and diesel to Dead River.

Mr. Noble requested keys to the office building and office area for the Deputy Chief, Jim Willey, and for the Safety and Health officer, Paul Venza. Mrs. Ridlon stated that the board preferred that only Mr. Noble have those keys.

Mr. Noble had been asked questions concerning credentials for Fire Chiefs. Mr. Noble said that only about 22 of the Maine Fire Chiefs had full credentials and that others held their positions by election or appointment.

John Waterbury of the Risk Management pool would come to do inspection of the Emergency traffic control procedures.

This is not the same as the SafetyWorks visit on Thursday at 8:30 when the fire barn and Fire Department records will be assessed. Mr. Smith and Mrs. Ridlon will be present for that meeting.

In discussion of the Fire Department budget, there was the opinion that the town would only grant the Fire Department a certain amount and that the Association should make up the difference. Our town MMA insurance only covers the equipment in the Fire Barn, not the building itself.

George Strong gave the building to the Association. It had been a post office that was on the property now owned by the Sundwalls.

General Assistance Administrator - Mr. Noble stated that he would not continue as General Assistance Administrator after the March annual meeting. There are a manual and training classes.

Finances and Town Report

The following Articles were discussed and approved:

Article 28 - Sets interest rate for late taxes at 7%.

Article 30 - Sets interest rate for town to pay for abated taxes at 4% less than that in article 28.

DJ gave the selectment Tax recommitment letters to be signed.

A quit claim deed was signed by the Selectman for the Trundy Property.

It was subsequently notarized by J. Gibbons.

People seeking information on taxes should not rely on books in the office. We can refer people to DJ and give out her email address. There were questions about CDs. The only one known to us is the Historical Society CD for the school house. There may be other CDs such as for Cemeteries for which we do not have records.

In Article 3 we need to add Road Commissioner to elected positions. Sawin Miller will serve as Moderator.

Article 3 was approved 3-0,

Article 8 Discussion of difference between Budget Committee and Selectmen concerning purchase of computer and software.

Article 12 - voted 3-0

Article 14 Selectmen recommend 26,054.

Added an article to create position of Assistant Road Commissioner to be appointed by Selectmen on recommendation of Road Commissioner. 3-0)

This changes numbering of articles.

Article 28 (changed to 29) Interest rate set by state 7%.

Article 30 (changed to 31) Interest town pays set at 4% less than what is stated in article 28 (29).

Moved to increase salary of Road Commissioner to \$2000, this to include mileage. (3-0)

Set salary of Assistant Road Commissioner, recommending \$500.

Selectmen went into executive session to consider application of a resident for property tax relief. (8:10-8:29) No action taken. Selectmen to meet Friday, the 12th at 9 a.m. to discuss action to be taken on this matter.

An article to set aside from surplus \$5000 toward reevaluation of Sweden Properties.

DJ gave J. Gibbons and Selectmen a mock up of the Town Report, requesting that we edit, revise, proof read.

Other: Donee Cards - DJ was asked to investigate.

Increase in Valuation - Why does Sweden's increase so much each year. State formula is very complicated and we have not been able to understand how this happens. DJ will investigate after town reports are out.

Diesel/Gas tax refund issue has not been resolved.

J. Gibbons received request of Census Bureau for use of Town Meeting Hall for training sessions April 27-30th. The town will not be compensated for rental or heat. John P. Smith and Jane Gibbons will open and close building as needed.

Ants - Mrs. Ridlon will buy some traps to see if that takes care of the problem.

A document verifying the boundaries of Sweden for the US Census Bureau was signed and a copy filed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Jane Gibbons, Clerk

Board of Selectpersons, Sweden, ME

February 23, 2010

Present were John Clifford, Jean and Annette Bouchard, Warren Noble, DJ Curtis, Jane Gibbons and Selectpersons Alberta Ridlon, William Jones, and John P. Smith

The meeting was opened at 6 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Warrant was signed. There were legal posters sent to the town which were not ordered.

Roads - Mr. Clifford had the signs for weight limit posting and these would be distributed soon. The Selectmen explained the article in the town report concerning the establishment of a position of Assistant Road Commissioner. Mr. Clifford agreed with the idea of having someone else learn the job. Mr. Smiths asked how the cost of sanding compared with last year.

Fire Department - A sheet concerning hazardous materials is now on file in the Town Manual on Health and Safety. Items purchased which are hazardous should be recorded on it. Mr. Smith pointed out that there was no penalty for findings on the SafetyWorks inspection. Mr. Noble stated that he still needed help with documentation. Lynn Horn, Compliance Service representative, comes every 2 ½ months to help with labor regulations. Mr. Noble hopes that in time it can be cut back to twice a year. Mr. Noble said that there was a training event by the ME Forest Service on Wild-land use of chain saws which he hoped 4 fire fighters could attend at a cost of \$75 each. The Board was not able to see where such training events were covered in the 2010 budget and suggested that he wait until after the Town meeting to register.

Finances - DJ Curtis presented 6 Discharge of Liens dating from 1996 to 2003 for notarization. She had been advised that even though quit claim deeds had been filed, the discharges also need to be filed at a cost of \$13 apiece. There was discussion on the next steps after foreclosures have been issued. Legal advice from Peter Malia had been sought. The town legally owns the properties, but has not taken possession. The current resident could buy the property back from the town. Forms for poverty abatement may be issued to those who might otherwise loose their homes. There was question about whether Poverty Abatements could be issued once the property had been foreclosed on or whether they could be submitted up to 60 days after foreclosure. The town would not need to have liability issuance on the property unless they took possession. Questions: Should attempts be made to collect the taxes in total or/and work out payment schedules? Could General Assistance funds be used to help pay taxes? Whatever is done, the amount owed should include interest and fees. This is uncharted territory for the town.

The Planning Board wrote a letter to the Board asking the Selectmen to approve the Planning Board asking the Assessors to complete subdivision maps. The \$200 for this would come from Planning Board budget. Approved.

Annual Report: Corrections were made to the article about election of Selectpersons. There is one two year term (to complete a term) and one three year term to be filled. Approved (3-0).

Article 25 concerning legal counsel was approved: (3-0)
Article 35 was changed to say "capital projects on State aid roads would come from surplus." The word appropriate was deleted. (3-0).

It is noted that the Budget Committee had not seen article 5E concerning the Assistant Road Commissioner.

Minutes of the Feb. 2 and Feb. 9 meetings were approved with the following clarification from John P. Smith.

The meeting notes for the 2/5 meeting.....under Roads

This is what our Ordinance says:

Private roads: Where the subdivision streets are to remain private roads, the following words shall appear on the recorded plan.

"All roads in this subdivision shall remain private roads to be maintained by the developer or the lot owners and shall not be accepted or maintained by the Town"

The two subdivisions, on Black Mountain Road and Popple Hill, had the above language included in the final plan recorded at the Registry. This was done at the insistence of the Planning Board.....so I guess that is where the final authority lies, not in any zoning ordinance as I might have cited.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Jane Gibbons
Clerk

Board of Selectpersons, Sweden, ME

March 2, 2010

Present: John Clifford, Alberta Ridlon, JP Smith, William Jones, Jane Gibbons, and Warren Noble briefly

The meeting was opened at 6 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was no warrant.

Roads: Mr. Clifford reported that Mr. Drew would be putting sand on Hardscrabble Road and would see to a significant hole on Waterford Rd. He warned that homeowners will need to be notified as trees need to be removed along Hardscrabble Road when it is repaired. The Selectmen took no action of the Rural Road Initiative as the portion required by the town was beyond our means to pay.

Fire Department: An accounting of gas usage for January and February was submitted by Mr. Noble. Mr. Noble said that he could put in for mileage because he was paid a stipend. Mr. Jones said that mileage was for out of town travel. The only persons to get in town mileage is the Road Commissioner and Mr. Kiesman for doing 911 assignment of house numbers. The request for reimbursement for mileage was denied. (3-0).

No Financial items.

Other:

1. Should an email account be opened for the selectmen, clerk and tax collector-treasurer. Mr. Jones had set up an email account for the clerk: townofsweden@hughes.net It was suggested that DJ have a Hughesnet email address. Her mail can be forwarded to her home email address automatically. It was suggested that it be swedentaxcollector@hughes.net.
2. The Town office parking lot had not been plowed on two occasions this past week. Mr. Clifford would be giving Mr. Drew a copy of the office hours so that plowing would happen when the office is open. Mr. Paul Venza has volunteered to shovel out the mail box area and walks at the town hall. (Jane later confirmed this.)
3. On Feb. 25th Mr. Noble had found a problem with the water heater in the Town Hall. An electrical problem had occurred at the Town Hall. Dave Monahan was called and he and Mr. Noble spent the morning and found a faulty wire in the newer construction. Mr. Noble has borrowed the Municipal Officers Manual.
4. Foreclosures: Sue Pilgrim of MMA stated that once a property has been foreclosed on, you can't do a poverty abatement. Mrs. Ridlon informed Mr. Noble of this and reminded him that General Assistance can be used to pay taxes.
5. There was a clarification of the issue about Fire Department training expenses. The Fire Department budget item is called "Call/training stipends" The request for attending the training

session mentioned in the Feb. 23 minutes would be taken from that account.

6. The Selectmen looked at the list of appointed officers for next year. Mr. Jones will continue as MMWAC representative. Mr. Smith will contact the Health Officer, the CEO and Plumbing Inspector. Mrs. Ridlon will talk to Sue Black about Conservation Commission and Cemetery Sexton positions. Mrs. Ridlon will check on the Budget Committee.
7. The minutes of the Feb. 23rd meeting were approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:28.

Jane Gibbons, Clerk

Board of Selectpersons, Sweden, ME

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Present were Robert and Terri Johnson, Rob Drew, John Clifford, JP Smith, Wm Jones, Alberta Ridlon and Jane Gibbons. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6 p.m.

JP Smith had questions about items on the warrant specifically the Marks printing bill, some items on Lake Region auto parts, and a bill from Molloy. The bill from Marks printing would be put on hold until it was determined whether that was for posters which we did not order.

Rob Drew requested that an account be set up with Alvin J. Coleman so that we could avoid paying sales tax. Mr. Clifford was given a copy of the tax exempt letter and asked to set up such an account. Voted 3-0.

There was no action on the Fire department items as Mr. Noble was not present.

Mrs. Ridlon announced that there is a Local Option for the Elderly to defer property tax payments. Heirs would have to pay up back taxes.

Mrs. Terri Johnson presented a check to pay all their back taxes and requested that DJ release the liens on their home. She also explained that she had not requested money from the town for the food pantry. She stated that residents who contribute to the food pantry could get their own tax deduction for a charitable gift. She will announce the correct mailing address at the Town meeting.

Appointments:

Alberta Ridlon nominated DJ Curtis as Administrative Assistant for 3 years (voted 3-0).

John Smith nominated Wayne Miller as EMA director for 1 year (voted 3-0).

John Smith nominated Warren Noble as Fire Chief for 1 year (voted 3-0).

John Smith nominated Meryl Molloy as Animal Control Officer for 1 year (voted 3-0).

Bill Jones nominated Kathi Shorey as Health Control Officer for 1 year (voted 3-0).

John Smith nominated Wayne Miller as Constable for 1 year and DJ Curtis as Constable for 1 year. (3-0).

John Smith nominated Eric Gulbandsen as Code Enforcement Officer for 1 year. (3-0).

John Smith nominated Prentice Kimball as Plumbing Inspector for 1 year and noted that the phone number published in the town report is incorrect. It should be 583-1046. (voted 3-0).

The alternates for the Planning Board and Appeals Board are elected positions and are appointed only if someone is not elected at the Town Meeting.

John Smith nominated Sue Black as member of the Conservation Commission for 5 years. (Voted 3-0) (Note – another Conservation Commission member is needed to fill a term ending in 2013).

John Smith nominated Sue Black as Cemetery Sexton for 1 year (voted 3-0).

Budget Committee: Alberta nominated Carroll Murphy, Ron Shorey, Jim Carty, Julie McQueen and Chris Chadborne to serve on the Budget Committee for 1 year. (voted 3-0).

Alberta asked William Jones to continue to serve as MMWAC representative (voter 2-0). Alberta Ridlon nominated Ron Kiesman to serve as enhanced 911 agent (3-0).

Taxes are still due on 2 properties that had received foreclosure payments for 2008 and 2009. There are questions about the ownership of one of the properties. The Board voted to have an executive session with legal advice to take place on Tuesday, March 16th in the morning. (3-0). The discharge of liens for taxes paid after foreclosure was not valid because all taxes up through 2009 should have been paid. The persons with back taxes need to contact the Selectmen to work out payment plans.

Mail had been received from the Legal Help for the Elderly and Western Maine Economic Development Council.

John Smith moved that the Minutes of the March 2nd meeting be approved (voted 3-0).

Mr. Smith raised a question about Feb. 25th Fire Call on submission by Fire Chief. Six members were paid.

Mrs. Ridlon asked William Jones to continue to help with computer problems. He agreed especially with reference to the Hughnet installation.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.
Jane Gibbons, Clerk

Board of Selectpersons, Sweden, ME
Tuesday, March 23, 2010

The meeting was opened at 6 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were C. Wayne Miller (recently elected to the Board), John P. Smith, Alberta Ridlon, John Clifford, Rob Drew, Warren Noble, DJ Curtis, and Jane Gibbons. John P. Smith nominated Alberta Ridlon to be Chair of the Board of Selectmen. Vote passed.

The Warrant was signed.

Roads: Mr. Clifford stated that they were trying to keep the water running off the roads in this wet season. John P. Smith requested that Mr. Clifford meet with the Selectmen and the Road Ranger, Phil Curtis.

Fire Department: Material on the Fire Department budget was handed out by Mr. Smith showing the revised funding which was a reduction of 16.51% from what the Fire Department had requested. He asked how the Chief was going to track allocations with the diminished budget. DJ Curtis reminded the Board and Chief that certain administrative items such as insurance, workman's comp, electricity could not be cut back. Mr. Noble stated that he would respond at the next meeting, April 6. Mr. Noble had applied for a grant for radios. It is hoped that large purchases be made after taxes are due in September.

Mr. Miller defined liability of the Fire Chief. Mr. Miller indicated that until the Fire Chief was called by dispatch, the Chief was not officially on duty. If he found an accident he was to notify dispatch, a tone would be struck, and he was to call at least one other person to help. Insurance coverage only occurred on dispatched calls and mileage should only be counted on dispatched calls. The Fire Chief was sworn in.

General Assistance: Mr. Noble gave out forms which were to be sent into the State concerning General Assistance. Mrs. Ridlon will be the person someone is to call for General Assistance. He gave her the key to the files. She will discuss cases with the other Board members. Ms Gibbons changed the sign on the door.

Finances: DJ Curtis asked about the computer program and hoped that the company would provide more information. She stated that she thought the new computer ought to be purchased before the software is purchased. She handed out a summary of the approved articles from the Town Meeting.

Mrs. Ridlon mentioned that several people could not hear what was going on at the Town Meeting. Wayne Miller will follow up on the purchase of a wireless microphone system for the Town Meeting Hall. One estimate on sale was for \$89.99 plus shipping.

The minutes of the March 9 Selectboard meeting were approved. (2-0)
The minutes of the Annual Meeting were approved with minor changes. (2-0)

The contract for Cemetery lawn mowing for \$1575 for 3 mowings with Chapman Lawn and Yard was approved.

A family upon whom a property received foreclosure notices has been asked to come to the April 6th meeting. In another matter, the lien was released on the Johnson property.

Communication between the Tax Collector and the Board needs to be two way. The Board had met with legal counsel and the Tax Collector needs to know what they are learning. She has received emails about taxes on the foreclosed properties and the Board needs to have copies of this correspondence.

Mrs. Ridlon will follow up on the CDs at the Norway Bank for Cemeteries.

DJ Curtis will pursue information on State Refunds.

JP Smith asked about flower boxes in front of the Town Office. It was suggested that the Conservation Commission be asked.

Mrs. Ridlon is to have surgery April 27 and cannot leave the house for several weeks. She will have a phone hook-up for Selectmen's meeting.

Mr. Miller will be out of town May 18 through 30th.

Mrs. Ridlon will have the Brick School House inspected for structural soundness. She thought that the building ought to be condemned or grants to fix it up ought to be applied for.

JP Smith took the packet of materials from the state about making the voting place accessible.

Ms. Gibbons found out after the meeting that she had made a mistake about the term of SAD #72 School Board Member, Kristin Almeida. Her term lasts until 2012. Ms. Gibbons will discuss the situation with Ann Diskin who was elected at Town Meeting in error.

Ms. Gibbons also pointed out that there is still a vacancy on the Conservation Commission, and alternates are needed 1 each for Planning and Appeals Boards.

Mr. Miller said that a new deputy Emergency Management person needed to be appointed by him as Emergency Management Officer. Mr. Miller said that we were not required to have a Public Safety Officer. It had only been a suggestion.

Wayne Miller moved that the meeting be adjourned. Vote passed.
Meeting concluded at 8:02 p.m.

Jane Gibbons, Clerk

Board of Selectpersons, Sweden, ME
Tuesday, April 6, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mrs. Ridlon. Present were Mrs. Ridlon, J.P., Smith, C.W. Miller, D.J. Curtis, W. Noble, Jim Willey, Bob and Terri Johnson, Don Andrews, Lawyer Peter Malia, J. Gibbons, Wyatt Ridlon, Dana Nason

Foreclosures - Alberta Ridlon and Mr. Malia explained that once the Foreclosure has gone into effect, the town owns the property. An agreement was reached with Mr. Andrews that he would pay the remaining back taxes for 2007, 2008, and 2009 including insurance to date, and legal fees in monthly installments of \$300. He would pay the \$177.00 upon signing of the agreement representing the amount owed on 2007 taxes. He would make the subsequent payments starting May 15th, 2010 and make each payment by the 15th of each month. Interest from this day forward is forgiven. The estimated total amount owed is \$3,420. There is a grace period of 5 days.

Robert and Terri Johnson had understood that they were to appear at this meeting. Their payments have been made and they did not need to come.

Dana Nason stated that there would be a meeting of the heirs of Russell and Frances Flint on April 11 and that they would come up with a plan for paying the back taxes. Mr.

Nason asked if the Selectmen had any lee-way as he had applied for a poverty abatement. Mrs. Ridlon stated that once the date of foreclosure had passed, there was no way that an allowance could be made.

The statement, "If you owe back taxes go see the Selectmen. If you don't the town will own your property in 18 months" will be posted at the Food Pantry and something similar should be on the reminder letter sent out to people who owe back taxes.

Roads – John P. Smith moved that Wyatt Ridlon be appointed Assistant Road Commissioner. Voted (2-0) Mrs. Ridlon abstained. Mr. Ridlon was sworn in.

Mr. Clifford reported that culverts had been inspected and that he and Mr. Ridlon had started to clean them out. Some of the large culverts such as on Webber Pond Road would need a backhoe. Mr. Drew will be asked to do this with supervision by the Road Commissioner or Assistant Road Commissioner. The Road Commissioners stated that culverts need fabric installation to prevent wash outs.

Mr. Ridlon was invited to attend the April 21 10 a.m. meeting and inspection with Mr. Phil Curtis.

A certified letter had come from Fairpoint Communication stating that a snow plow had damaged a pole on Ridlonville Road. They stated that we would be responsible, but no fee was mentioned. This matter will be referred to Mr. Drew.

Financial – DJ had more lien releases.

Fire Department – Mr. Noble said that the suggested schedule of reduction by percentages of the Fire Department/Association budget could not be followed. There would be reduction in some of the budgeted items such as Specialized training and radios. The Fire Department has received a grant from the Forest Service for purchase of

5 coats, 5 pairs of pants and 5 radios. EMA is going to switch to narrow band and the new radios will be able to receive that. John Waterbury said that he will need to retest some of the equipment to meet NFPA standards.

There will be a controlled burn on April 15th at Mr. Noble's home for training purposes. When wires come down and dispatch notifies the chief, 2 persons go out for traffic control. There was such an incident near 180 Plummer School Road.

The Association will have a fund raiser supper on April 24th.

Town Hall Accessibility – Mr. Miller had measured the back side door of the Town Hall and it meets the requirements for Accessibility. If a ramp were built from a parking space to get over the threshold of the door, it would meet accessibility standards. Ms. Gibbons will have to redesign the flow of voter traffic and draw a sketch of the voting set up. The back side door will then become the entrance for all voters. A handicap parking sign will be needed for the Town Office Building. It was suggested that we need a handyman who could do odd jobs. Mr. Mike Duval will be contacted.

Appointments – Joaquin Almeida was approved as 2nd alternate on the Appeals Board. Kathiann Shorey was approved as alternate School Board Member when she becomes eligible to serve.

Minutes - The minutes of the March 23rd meeting were approved with a spelling correction (hook-up) and addition of the words "On another matter" before "the lien was released on the Johnson property."

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Jane Gibbons, Clerk

Board of Selectpersons, Sweden, ME
Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Present were Alberta Ridlon, JP Smith, C. Wayne Miller, John Clifford, Wyatt Ridlon, Warren Noble, DJ Curtis, Jane Gibbons, Robert Drew, Peter Malia, Donald and Arnold Flint, Dana Nason, Diantha Warner.

The meeting was opened at 6 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The warrant was signed.

Roads: Extensive reports were made by Mr. Clifford and Mr. Ridlon concerning the need for cleaning and replacing culverts. Trull Brook Road needs a sediment pool, and 2 culverts. Stephen Bennett will be asked to do this work. Wint Road needs at least 2 new culverts. Tapawingo and Black Mountain road need culverts replaced. Old galvanized culverts will be hauled away. Stearns Pond Boat landing road needs gravel. Mr. Ridlon stated that work on grading done by Mr. Drew's employee was below standard. Mr. Ridlon will train Drew's crew in proper grading. Wyatt Ridlon may be hired by Drew to do this instruction. The Selectmen approved of this arrangement.

We can require a performance bond on any work that goes out to bid. In Lovell, any job that is over \$5000 goes out for bid. Contract with the town must include a Certificate of insurance and the statement that the town is listed as additionally insured.

The letter concerning damages by snow plow to a utility pole on Ridlonville Road was handed to Mr. Drew.

DJ Curtis had information about the signs requested including prices.

Four out of five members of the heirs of Russell and Frances Flint were present to discuss the payment of back taxes with the Selectmen and Lawyer Peter Malia. The fifth member is Carl Flint who lives in Colorado. Mrs. Warner stated that she was working on arrangements to become executor of her mother's estate. They agreed to pay \$1500. tonight to be followed by regular payments of \$781 per month which was to include back taxes, interest to date and legal fees incurred. Interest from this date will be waived. The total amount due is \$6182.57. Arnold Flint will be recipient of the tax bills. His address is P.O. Box 2572, North Conway, NH.

Fire Department: Mr. Noble stated that fees for Fire Extinguisher testing are over the budgeted item and another Extinguisher needs to be tested.

The Maine Forest Service Grant is for \$1339.50. The bill for the 6 Vertex radios, 5 jackets and 5 pants comes to \$2829.50. \$1,500 will come from the Fire Department budget.

The Ford Truck which came from Woodstock was discussed. Mr. Noble wanted to get insurance and register it. The Selectmen reiterated that the Town had not accepted the truck and the Association owned it. John P. Smith moved that the total cost for the truck was the responsibility of the Association, not the Town. (3-0).

Finances: DJ Curtis submitted Quit Claim Deeds for the Selectmen to sign for Robert and Terri Johnson, for Norris and Roberta Bennett and for William Altenburg.

She has the new manual for Liens.

She had received a phone call from Mr. Centamore about his 2009 taxes. There is a discrepancy between the acreage and plots designated by the Assessors and the physical property. Mr. Centamore is working on getting this corrected.

Other:

- (1) J.P. Smith will contact the chair of the Conservation Commission concerning Town Office flowers tomorrow.
- (2) John Nevell's inspection report on the Brick School House has not been received, but the visit reveals structural damage on load bearing walls. The building has been closed to public access. Mr. Nevell will suggest names of people who work on such old buildings.
- (3) Mr. Mike Duvall is interested in doing "Handyman" jobs for the town. He must have a certificate of insurance which lists the town as additionally insured.
- (4) Mr. Warren Noble will assist with General Assistance until Alberta Ridlon has an opportunity to attend the class.
- (5) Mrs. Ridlon gave keys to the GA files, etc. to John Smith.
- (6) Mr. Miller said that the Emergency Action plan had been revised and would be posted.
- (7) The Selectmen approved the use of the Town Meeting Hall by the Sowing Seeds for Life for a dance on April to raise funds for their work. They are to clean the building after use.
- (8) Mr. Miller moved to change the selectmen's meetings to twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings. (3-0) Jane to post. DJ to put in Bridgton News.
- (9) The minutes of the April 6th meeting were corrected as follows:
In the paragraph on Foreclosures: "including interest" not insurance.
Mr. Smith, not Mr. Miller, measured the back door of the Town Meeting House.
Mr. Clifford was present.
In the Fire Department report – John Davis, not John Waterbury, said that he would retest equipment.
- (10) The Selectmen did not want the Food Pantry to post a sign concerning taxes. The statement in the notices sent out by the tax collector would make clear that people were to talk to the Selectmen concerning back taxes to avoid foreclosure.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Jane Gibbons, Clerk