

TOWN OF RANDOLPH
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

April 29, 2008
3:00 P.M.

BOS PRESENT:

Robert B. Davis
Peter K. Hanley
Edward F. Gorham

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lynn Mealey, Town Clerk
John Crocker, Public Works
Janet M. Richards, Treasurer
Gloria Mansir Fitzherbert
Ruth L. Botkin
Everett "Sonny" Barry

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Ed Gorham made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 15, 2008 meeting. Peter Hanley seconded the motion. **VOTE UNANIMOUS.**

All three Board members signed abatement coupons for abatements approved at the April 15, 2008 meeting on the Berry and Marsh properties.

Bob Davis asked John Crocker to inform the board about sweeping that was being done around town. John explained that this preliminary to the actual street sweeping. It was felt that since there was so much sand put down on the roads this winter due to an unusually heavy snowfall the ditches should be cleaned out to avoid problems with drainage and plugged culverts. He said that in the past most people in town have raked this sand off their lawns and into the streets for the sweeper to pick up but that this year there was just too much for the residents to handle. John explained that this was being done ahead of the regular street sweeping. He also stated this will take approximately 2 weeks to complete.

John asked the Board to give permission for an adjustment on his upcoming wastewater bill. Apparently there was a leak under his mobile home and the water did not go into the sewer system as verified by the Gardiner Water District. The Water District provided an "average" of usage which could be used to reduce his upcoming sewer bill by half. Lynn stated that this could be done with no problem. Peter Hanley made a motion to allow the adjustment of John Crocker's June 2008 Sewer Bill. Ed Gorham seconded the motion. **VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

Janet Richards, Treasurer entered to meeting to ask the Board for advisement on the bill from Gardiner Water District for hydrant rental. The bill was for \$18,329.00 but the account is \$2,625.25 short. The Board asked for Janet's opinion as to where to take the shortage from. In looking at the accounts, she noted that there was \$12,000 left in the legal account and she would suggest that this might be the place to take the shortage from.

Peter Hanley made a motion to take the shortage from the Legal Services account. Ed Gorham seconded the motion. **VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

Ruth Botkin was recognized by the Board to report on the meeting she attended on the Hazardous Waste collection effort with the City of Augusta. She stated that the Town may just want to wait until next year to perhaps participate in this as it is coming up soon and will involve money and the town would have to have a representative available for this on the collection day. Ruth said that since this seems to be a lot of work in a short amount of time and there may be budgeting concerns the Town may want to consider putting this off until next year so that some money can be budgeted.

Sonny Barry entered the meeting. He was on the agenda per his request to discuss the upcoming snowplowing/sanding and sweeping contract with the Town of Randolph. Sonny's 3-year contract with the town is up in June and since at last year's annual town meeting the BOS was not given permission to enter into a 3 year contract but only a one year contract, Sonny asked if we were thinking about raising the money for a 3 year contract. John Crocker said that most contractors find that it is not worth the time and effort to enter into a shorter contract and in his opinion this should be a 3 year contract because of the major investment of time and equipment by the contractor. He also stated that Sonny has been doing the roads in Randolph since 1958 and has all the necessary equipment.

Sonny Barry asked the Board if they would sign a new contract with him if he offers a new 3-year contract at the same price. Bob stated that any multi-year contract entered into by the Town has to be approved by the voters at town meeting.

Former Selectwoman, Gloria Fitzherbert asked the Board for permission to speak. She spoke of the fact that the last time this contract went out to bid, it was a joke and there were no serious bidders. She also said that Sonny Barry has over the years done a great job in the town and in fact has done a lot of extras that he has not charged the town for.

Sonny asked the Chairman if he was indicating that this will be going out to bid and be a sealed bid and the Chairman told Mr. Barry that he felt this was the case. Mr. Barry left the meeting. Gloria Fitzherbert stated that she was upset and felt that Sonny was insulted and had been mistreated regardless of the fact that he had gone above and beyond many times for the sake of the town.

Ed Gorham explained to Gloria that he did not mean any disrespect to Sonny Barry but he felt that the Board owes it to the taxpayers to research this contract further.

Ed Gorham made a motion to table the issue contingent on gathering more data. Peter Hanley seconded the motion. **VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

Gloria asked for permission to speak on another subject. The Board allowed her to speak. She asked why there seemed to be no discussion between the board members making a motion, seconding the motion and the actual vote. As an example she mentioned the motion by Peter Hanley at a previous meeting regarding office hours. She stated that Mr. Hanley brought the motion forward at a meeting and asked for a second and vote with no discussion. The motion died and was not acted upon. Bob said that the Board members do indeed discuss motions usually before they are actual motion but Gloria stated that this motion was brought up for a vote with no previous discussion.

Ed Gorham made a motion to adjourn. Peter Hanley seconded the motion. **VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

Next meeting is Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. Meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn R. Mealey, Town Clerk