

TOWN OF RANDOLPH
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
May 11, 2010
10:00 a.m.

BOS PRESENT:

Edward F. Gorham, Chair
Alfred A. Seymour, Jr.
Peter K. Hanley

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lynn Mealey, Town Clerk
Tyler Trott, School Board Representative
Candace Avery, School Board Representative
Paul Knowles, Superintendent RSU #11
Janet M. Richards, Treasurer/Tax Collector
Marjorie Gilman, Budget Committee Member
Gloria Mansir Fitzherbert, Resident
Janet M. Richards, Treasurer

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

The Board recognized school board members, **Tyler Trott** and **Candace Avery** and Superintendent of Schools **Paul Knowles**.

Tyler updated the Board on the upcoming **School Budget**. The district wide budget meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2010 with the validation vote set for Tuesday, June 8, 2010.

Tyler presented the Board with the MSAD 11 Fiscal Year 2011 School Budget Worksheet in it's final form (finalized on 4/15/10) and explained the facts and figures on the worksheet.

Superintendent Knowles stated that the district wide newsletter will be going out very shortly to all homes in the school district to explain the budget. He also stated that he feels that this is a very responsible budget in light of a \$271,000 curtailment which was a reduction in State subsidies that they did not plan on this year. Also, approximately \$432,000 in State aid will be lost next year. This year's budget was crafted without any major lay-offs or reduction in programs.

Tyler stated that he asked Paul Knowles who is retiring this year, to attend the meeting so that he could publicly say that he has done a wonderful job for the School District. Selectman Ed Gorham also stated his pride in our school system and in particular the Hamlin School. Tyler and Candy both said that if there were any questions or concerns, the Board could feel free to call either one of them. Marge Gilman asked if they could leave the budget worksheet for the Budget Committee to work with.

Superintendent Knowles mentioned the two most important issues for the budget this year. The first was the drilling of a well by the West Gardiner School as the well for the school was found to have unacceptable levels of sodium. This was due most likely to the location of the town of West Gardiner's Salt Shed. The land will have to be purchased to drill a new well. There was disagreement by the School Board about paying for the land as some felt that it should be donated by the Town of West Gardiner. The purchase of the land is \$16,500 and the cost to the Town of Randolph will be \$1,646.00.

Superintendent Knowles, Tyler Trott and Candace Avery left the meeting.

Al Seymour made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 27, 2010 meeting. Ed Gorham seconded the motion. **VOTE - UNANIMOUS.**

Marjorie Gilman presented to the Town a copy of the Randolph Methodist Church Book for historic and geneology purposes. Marge said that last year she asked for the town to set up some kind of stipend for the town historian, possibly \$100 to cover the costs of paper, ink & copying etc. Marge said she is going to turn most of her research to Richard Harriman who is the Town Historian. It is in the Gardiner Library, the Church Library and and the State Library. Marge suggested that there be a town historian budget set up. It was suggested that it might be an article at Town Meeting. Ed Gorham said that the BOS will find a way to make it happen.

Marge spoke about branches out of the brook that Mr. **Newell** had cut down on Maple Street. Marge referred back to the fact that she believes that John Crocker could take care of this in an hour or so but that he has stated he will not do it. She said that she believes that the Board should tell him that he is to do it. These trees are blocking the flow of the brook and causing problems. Al asked who owned the property. Marge said that the Town has an easement or right of way to maintain the sewer system. Gloria Fitzherbert who also lives on Maple Street expressed concern about the issue and the fact that she had asked about a pot hole on the street. She asked the Board to have John Crocker come in and fix it and he has not done so. Gloria spoke about the easement the Town had in back of Maple Street and Lisa Thompson's house which gave the town a right of way to come in and do repair work etc., on the sewer system.

Marge mentioned that there were pipes left near her house by the town at some point for the purpose of fixing some of the drainage problems that were occurring in the neighborhood but that it had never been attempted.

Gloria and Marge both spoke to the Board about the problems with the apartment house on their street. There are ongoing problems with too many cars and these cars actually blocking the street and access for trash pick up. Marge stated that there are structural issues with the house and some code violations and the town needs to address the issues there and with the other "blight" areas in town.

Ed said that he will set up a meeting with the other two board members to come and meet with the neighbors and look at the problem and talk about the road situation. Ed discussed the fact that there will have to be something done in the intersection by the Sun Sun Restaurant in conjunction with the upcoming sewer project. Marge told them how the problems started with the Gardiner Water District who came in and dug up the street and patched it. Marge said that the town has put off dealing with this issue for years.

Marge asked the Board if they had discussed whether or not they were going to have any more **evening meetings**. Al said that they were going to discuss it when Peter was at the meeting. Ed said that they would probably try to shoot for night meeting in the next month. Al stated that there was a budget meeting coming up on Tuesday, May 11, 2010.

Al said that he was not in favor of night meetings. He stated that it is not a public meeting, it is for the Selectmen. There was much discussion about the meetings being public and what exactly that means. Al said that it is "open to the public" but not an open forum. Ed stated their next meeting is on the 25th at 10:00 a.m.

Property at the end of the bridge was discussed. A letter to the DOT was presented for signature by the Board to enable the town to be deeded this property by the State. Peter Coughlan drew up the letter which will be presented to the DOT.

Letter from A.E. Com – the letter was to A.E. Com from the DEP regarding the Master Plan for the sewer project.

Ed asked if there was any scheduled meeting of the **Wastewater Advisory Committee**. He asked who was the head of that committee. It was unknown if there were any scheduled meetings and who in fact was heading this committee.

Abatement in the amount of \$90.09 for Map 1 Lot 3 was presented by Tax Collector Janet Richards. Assessors put this in to be taxed but was done in error as it was a town owned property. Janet said that she finally got the approval from the Town Attorney to put this out for bid. Requesting the abatement and then granting or approving the abatement. Ed Gorham made a motion to abate the property taxes. Al Seymour seconded the motion. **VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

Ratio Declaration and Reimbursement changing the Homestead Reimbursement from \$13,000 to \$10,000 was given to the Board by the Tax Collector. She explained that this means that everyone's taxes will go up as the Homestead Exemption is being lowered from \$13,000 to \$10,000 by the State of Maine. Also, the State is not reimbursing the towns in the same tax year.

Al Seymour made a motion to go with the 100% certified ratio. Ed Gorham seconded the motion. **VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

The Clerk requested that the office not open until noon on June 9th, the day after the election as the staff will be here on election night very late and there is much paperwork to be finished up the day after a State election. Also, the Board of Selectmen's meeting will have to be changed for that week only. Ed Gorham made a motion to open at noon the day after election and to hold the Selectmen's meeting for that week on Thursday, June 10, 2010 @ 10:00 a.m. Al Seymour seconded the motion. **VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

Janet Richards asked to speak to the Board. She asked if everyone had read the recent article in the Kennebec Journal entitled "Nepotism Alleged in Randolph". In that article John Crocker stated that **Janet** had set the rate of pay for his grandson when he recently return to the town's employ. This appeared in the Kennebec Journal and the Lewiston Sun. Janet asked the Board to apologize to her on behalf of John Crocker for stating an untruth. Lynn called the KJ the next day to ask for a correction and it was put in the next day as a "clarification".

She stated that if she were to set the pay for John Crocker that he would not be getting his salary and being able to hire 3 other people to work for him and do his job. She asked how Steve Thurston can be getting more hours than John Crocker. There are days when John has no hours but his workers are working.

There was discussion about whether or not he should be hiring people when he is salaried what hours he should be expected to work for that salary and only hiring extra people to work on a temporary basis.

Ed stated that the Board was going to have a meeting with John soon to discuss these issues. He said this will be done in executive session. Ed apologized to Janet.

Al asked about getting **Budgets from the Department Heads**. Al made a motion to get budgets from all Department Heads before the next Budget Committee Meeting. Al said he would talk to John. Ed seconded the motion. **VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

A class that the ACO would like to attend in New Hampshire was discussed. The cost for this class will be shared with the other towns he is employed by. Al Seymour made a motion to have Howard Morang attend the class. Ed Gorham seconded the motion. **VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

The Town Clerk asked the Board members to sign the **Warrant** for the upcoming School Budget Referendum election on June 8, 2010.

Al Seymour made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ed Gorham seconded the motion. **VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon. Next meeting is **Tuesday, May 25, 2010 @ 10:00 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn R. Mealey, Town Clerk