

TOWN OF RANDOLPH
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
February 3, 2009
3:00 p.m.

BOS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lynn R. Mealey, Town Clerk
Janet Richards, Tax Collector/Treasurer
Ross Nason, Kennebec Valley Council of Governments

David Cobb, Resident

Meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m.

Bob Davis asked Ed and Peter if they were planning on attending the Special Meeting tomorrow, February 4, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. with USDA regarding applying for a grant for the Pump Station Project. Ed said that he was aware of the meeting and Peter said he would try to attend.

Paperwork from MSAD #11 was signed by Bob Davis and will be faxed back to Andrea Disch at the Superintendent's Office. This was a Sales Agreement Confirmation with Dennis K. Burke, Inc. for #2 Heating Oil.

Fleet Policy was discussed. Some samples of such policies were obtained by the office from Maine Municipal Association. This will be discussed at a future meeting after Board members have time to read through the samples.

Bob Davis spoke about his attendance at the 3-town **Wastewater Advisory Committee**. He reported that there were two things discussed. The budget will increase less than 3% as Gardiner's accounting system allows more to be paid from their Highway Department. Also discussed was a fee to be imposed on new construction being tied into the sewer system.

David Cobb, resident, entered the meeting. He was not on the agenda for today's meeting. Peter Hanley stated that Mr. Cobb had called him several times regarding attending the meeting and Peter had told him that if he was not on the agenda, he might be able to be heard at the end of the meeting during the "public comment" segment. Bob Davis asked the Board if they would consent to taking Mr. Cobb out of order. All agreed.

Mr. Cobb stated that he was interested in being reinstated as Fire Chief for the Town of Randolph. During his previous appointment as Chief he felt that there were "personality conflicts" with some Board members. He said that he was now retired from Augusta Fire Department and worked out of his home which he felt would allow him as a resident of the Town to be more present and that he would have a direct interest in keeping the fire department budget

and taxes lower. It was mentioned that when he was chief in the past, he had gone over budget but that this was due to spending money on a grant and then being reimbursed after the fact which would make it appear like he had gone over budget. He spoke about his qualifications and training and said that he felt the current fire department lacked training and did not have adequate personnel. During this discussion, Bob Davis received a telephone call from Fire Chief Ronald Cunningham. Discussion was ceased. He left the meeting and returned several minutes later to continue the meeting.

Mr. Cobb mentioned that he would look into “consolidating” services with the Pittston Fire Department. Mr. Hanley asked him to talk more about that. He mentioned that he had discussed this with the Chief of Pittston, Jason Ferris, and that they were “open” to the idea. He discussed actually closing the fire department building on Water Street and moving equipment etc., to the Pittston Station which would perhaps give the town the option of getting rid of one fire truck.

Bob Davis stated that Mr. Cobb should give the Town a resume. Mr. Cobb stated that he would bring back a resume for their consideration. Mr. Cobb left at 3:45.

Board recognized **Ross Nason from KVCOG** who was on the agenda. Mr. Nason made a presentation and shared a DVD on the **Kennebec River Initiative** which is a cooperative effort among the towns and cities with property and/or access to the River as to the future uses for the River as an asset for Economic Development and recreation etc. He said that the municipalities have Land Use Regulation authority to manage development and what happens along the river. Mr. Nason stated that his purpose in coming to the meeting with this presentation was to try and get someone from the municipality to get involved in the project. Notices will be sent to the towns of meeting dates and time. He asked the board to please notify him if there was anyone interested in getting involved for the Town of Randolph. Mr. Nason left the meeting at 4:15.

Treasurer Janet Richards entered the meeting at Mr. Davis’ request for the purpose of discussion regarding the **Audit** and the auditors’ recommendation that the town do “**Gross Budgeting**”. It was stated by Janet that this is something they basically suggest every year but the town has felt comfortable in keeping their budgeting tactics the same.

Dedicated accounts were also discussed. Janet stated that dedicated accounts are “dedicated” some by law, others by ordinance and by virtue of votes at town meeting. It had been suggested that the town may want to close some of these accounts but Janet stated that she felt these should be left the way they are. Bob Davis had discussed this issue with MMA. They will remain unchanged.

Janet asked the Board for direction on two properties in town that could be foreclosed upon. The first one was at the end of **Closson Street** which is owned by Patricia McLaughlin. She had talked with the owner in November and it was stated that they did not care about this piece of property and had no issues with the Town taking it. She asked at that time to have this in writing but never received anything. It was discussed and felt that she should send a certified letter to this property owner and ask that they give the Town something in writing stating that they have no interest in keeping the property.

The second property is located at **244 Windsor Street**. This property owner will be given until April 1st to either pay the back taxes or be foreclosed upon.

Janet also stated that she had done some research and had found that the Town does not need to actually take ownership of the properties to sell them. They can be sold for non-payment of taxes after the proper legal channels have been exhausted. Peter Hanley made a motion to send the letters. Ed Gorham seconded the motion. **VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

Ed Gorham made a motion to appoint **Alfred King to the Randolph Board of Appeals**. Mr. King is currently an alternate member of the Board but due to the death of BOA member Richard Hamilton, Mr. King will be moved up from alternate to this position which expires in April 2011. Peter Hanley seconded the motion. **VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

Peter Hanley made a motion to accept the minutes of the **January 20, 2009** meeting. Ed Gorham seconded the motion. **VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

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

Meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m. Next meeting is tomorrow, February 4th at 1:00 p.m. with USDA for work on grant. Next **regular** meeting is Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn R. Mealey, Town Clerk