

TOWN OF RANDOLPH
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

March 16 2010
10:00 a.m.

BOS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lynn Mealey, Town Clerk
Ron Cunningham, Fire Chief
John Crocker, Public Works
Sonny James, Pump Station Super
Gloria Fitzherbert, G.A. Administrator

Residents:

Marjorie Gilman
Arthur Forand
Michael Chase

Meeting was called to order at 10:09 A.M.

Minutes from March 3, 2010 meeting were discussed. Peter Hanley stated that he would like the minutes amended before accepting. He referred to a section of the minutes stating that he “cut off the Fire Chief”. The minutes will be amended to remove this language. Ed Gorham made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Peter Hanley seconded the motion. **VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

Ed Gorham made a motion to re-appoint June “Jill” Todd as **Gardiner Library Representative** for the Town of Randolph. This is a 3-year appointment. Peter Hanley seconded the motion. **VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

John Crocker spoke to the Board about **Spring Clean Up**. He feels that it should be set up for the same time as last year and he will check with the office staff about getting this set up. This will be discussed in more detail at the next regular meeting.

Marge Gilman was recognized by the Board to update on the Government re-mapping of the **Flood Zone**. Marge is concerned about this as this re-mapping may affect more people than before in that some homes may now be in the flood plain. She reported that if you have a mortgage on your home it will be mandated to have this insurance and it could be quite costly. She had a meeting with Joe Young at the State Planning Office and received a report from him. She urged the Board to read it and to keep in touch with the townspeople through the Code Enforcement Officer and perhaps the EMA Director for the Town. She stated that as far as she knew, there was not a “contact list” of people along the river for the purpose of notification of flooding etc. This list should be compiled and used by the Fire Department and the EMA Director for use in these situations.

Peter Hanley stated that this issue was not going to be acted on by the legislature during this current session but in 2011. Ed Gorham said that he received word that FEMA's new maps will be available in July of 2011. Marge was asked if she would like to work on this project and perhaps set up a committee. She said that she would be willing to do this.

Next on the agenda were the appointments of an **EMA Director** for the Town of Randolph and the **General Assistance Administrator**. These were tabled at the previous meeting.

Ed Gorham made a motion to appoint **William Ebert** the current Deputy Fire Chief of Randolph as EMA Director for one year. This was a recommendation from Ron Cunningham, current Randolph Fire Chief. Al Seymour seconded the motion. **VOTE – UNANIMOUS**. The salary will be negotiated at a later time. There will be further discussion regarding the money remaining in this account through the end of this fiscal year at the next meeting.

As to the appointment of **General Assistance Administrator**, Peter Hanley said that this should be taken over by the Board of Selectmen as this was "their duty". Ed stated that he did not feel qualified to take over the job.

Discussion on this topic: Gloria Fitzherbert asked the Board to give her a reason for not reappointing her. Gloria said that the Board needed to have good cause to not reappoint her and that she had done nothing wrong and in fact, had not been evaluated as to her job performance. She quoted figures regarding the GA budget and reminded them that she had been doing GA for 25 years. She also spoke to the lack of experience the current board has in actually doing the General Assistance process. Peter stated that he had stepped in for Gloria on occasion. Gloria pointed out that none of the current board members had been to a General Assistance training and/or an Elected Officials Workshop. Gloria asked that the Board's reasons for not reappointing her be put in writing as she felt she had a reasonable expectation of being reappointed.

Money set aside for Gloria was discussed as Gloria's appointment was from March 2009 to March of 2010. Gloria will receive payment through the end of March.

Art Forand asked to speak. He asked if there would be an audit as there should be for the outgoing GA Administrator in the transition. Ed Gorham stated that he did not know about this procedure but he would look into it.

Peter Hanley made a motion to appoint **Raeleen M. York as General Assistance Administrator**. Al Seymour seconded the motion. **VOTE – Hanley and Seymour for – Gorham against. VOTE PASSED 2 - 1.**

Ed Gorham made a motion to allow **amendment of November 24, 2009 minutes** regarding statements made by Randolph resident, Mark Turek. Mr. Turek would like the reference to "illegal" removed from the minutes as he stated he never made that

statement. Al Seymour seconded the motion. **VOTE – UNANIMOUS.** Minutes will be amended and will replace the original minutes published on the town website.

Request from **Mark Turek** to have **an evening Board meeting** was discussed. Peter Hanley stated that BOS meetings have been held in the mornings for years. Janet M. Richards, Treasurer/Tax Collector was recognized to speak. She reminded the Board that the meetings were held in the afternoons (@ 3:00 p.m.) and were only changed when Al Seymour came on board as he could not make afternoon meetings. In the distant past, meetings were held in the evenings. Peter stated that he was still opposed to having evening meetings. Mark Turek has requested in writing that an evening meeting be held on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Office.

Al Seymour made a motion to hold this meeting on **April 27, 2010 @ 6:00** p.m. at the Town Office. Peter Hanley seconded the motion. **VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

Marge Gilman asked the board members if they felt they could handle all their business by meeting on a two week cycle. The Board stated that they felt everything could be handled by meeting every other week. Marge thanked the Board for allowing the public to speak and be part of the discussion today.

Janet Richards presented the Board with a **“Policy on Treasurer’s Disbursement Warrants for Employee Wages and Benefits.** This policy when adopted would be used in the event that only one member of the Board was available. This gives one Board member the authority to review, approve and sign the municipal treasurer’s disbursement warrants, for wages and benefits only. This is to be used only in the situation where just one of the three selectboard members is able to sign the warrants. This would allow employees to be paid in this instance.

Al Seymour made a motion to adopt this policy for one year from date. Peter Hanley seconded the motion. **VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

Janet Richards asked Mr. Hanley why he did not sign the **appointments for the office staff** and **Sonny James.** He brought up job descriptions and lack of reviews as his reasons. The Town Clerk asked Peter Hanley why he signed John Crocker’s appointment but refused to sign the appointments for the office staff and Sonny James. She stated that she felt this was discrimination. Mr. Hanley said that he signed John’s appointment “because he wanted to”.

Sonny James asked to speak about the **Fire Department.** Sonny asked the Board first why at the last meeting they gave David Cobb the opportunity to apply for Ron’s job as he was “let go” from the fire chief’s job when he had it. He asked who on the Board had a problem with the Fire Chief and the Fire Department which he felt was evident by the recent proposal from Pittston Fire to take over fire protection for the Town of Randolph. He stated concerns with getting rid of fire equipment and the truck due to a **“personal vendetta”.** Peter Hanley stated that he felt the fire department was inadequate and poorly run. He also stated that he had heard that Randolph was not wanted or invited by

other towns in the area to respond to their fires. **Chief Cunningham** stated that the only reason they did not go to West Gardiner to respond to fires was that Randolph did not have a tanker truck. Ron said that his fire department had mutual aid agreements with Pittston and Farmingdale and had a good working relationship with the other towns.

Peter Hanley then brought up the subject of “**rumors**” regarding the recent town election. He said that he had heard that Ron and Gloria were taking down Hanley and Chase campaign signs. Ron asked where this information had come from. Mr. Hanley then asked **Michael Chase** to explain. Mr. Chase said that he saw Ron using his personal truck to put up signs along with other members of the Randolph Fire Department for Gloria Fitzherbert. Ron pressed for specifics and stated that he had **not** used his personal truck for any of this and in fact the members of the Department who had worked on this were taxpayers of the Town of Randolph and had a right to campaign. Ron himself did not put up or take down any campaign signs.

Janet presented the Board with a letter from **Gardiner Fire Department** asking about bidding on fire protection for Randolph. Peter Hanley stated that none of this could be accomplished until Town Meeting.

John Crocker asked the Board to read the **State of Maine policy regarding culverts** and driveways. He suggested that they read the policy and considering adopting the policy for the Town of Randolph. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

John also mentioned that he had been approached by residents on Maureen Avenue about the possibility of putting up “**Children Playing**” signs on that street. John said that the DOT does not put up these signs anymore and that it may be more appropriate to put up speed limit signs. He stated that this would require a letter from the BOS before putting up such signs and requesting the State to set the speed limit on the street.

Lastly, John discussed an ongoing **sewer problem on Windsor Street** where the Rail Trail starts. Sonny James said he was present when the “**smoke tests**” were done in anticipation of the upcoming sewer project. This was done to pinpoint problem areas. Ed Gorham suggested getting in touch with the engineers of the project about the possibility of using a camera to investigate this area.

Al Seymour made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Peter Hanley seconded the motion.
VOTE – UNANIMOUS.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Next meeting is **Tuesday, March 30, 2010 @ 10:00 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted

Lynn R. Mealey, Town Clerk