

TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

April 6, 2010

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:00 PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, Rick Lander and Peter Martell, and guests, Fire Chief Allen Emerson and Carrie Fellows.

2. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Martell to approve minutes of the prior meeting. Unanimous.

3. Balance sheets distributed.

4. Letter from Superintendent Paul Stearns read illustrating draft budget figures for Guilford's share of the school budget. If approved in its present form, the increase to Guilford would be in excess of \$70,800.00.

5. Letter read from Maine Department of Labor informing us that the appeal written by the manager for the remaining penalties was quite successful. Of the two remaining issues, one fine was entirely abated and the other was reduced by 45 percent to \$385.00, a substantial difference from the original \$4200.00 in total fines.

6. Piscataquis County warrant read indicating Guilford's County tax would be \$168,779.00 this year, an increase of \$10,000.00. Burdin moved to accept and Dexter seconded his motion; unanimously approved.

7. Following the reading of a letter of resignation from John P. White as director of HAD#4, Martell moved to accept and Burdin seconded the motion. Unanimous. Manager directed to

thank Mr. White for his service and to determine degree of interest in filling this position.

8. Manager read letter from Guilford Sangerville Water District stating that their proposed rate increase of 20 percent would not go into effect until January of 2011.

9. A proclamation denoting April 16, 2010 as Celebrate Guilford Primary School Day was submitted for signatures as agreed at the last meeting.

10. On a motion from Dexter, with a second by Burdin, it was agreed to renew the septage contract at \$700.00 with Patterson Brothers of Abbot.

11. Manager updated the board on progress with the Primary School Building. Leases were being drafted and it appears that tenants have been secured sufficient to operate the property without taxpayer contributions.

12. Preliminary state valuations have been received and the town values have dropped about three million dollars. The sales ratio study came in at 1.07 indicating that property values are still decreasing.

13. Snow removal contracts were presented with a ten percent increase, the first of three annual anticipated increases. Burdin moved to accept them as written and Dexter seconded the motion; unanimous.

14. Chief Emerson presented a written mutual aid contract between Guilford and Dexter fire departments. He stated that it is the same agreement as our verbal understanding that existed for years. Lander moved to accept and sign the agreement, Burdin seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. He also spoke on the upcoming change in radio frequencies to narrow band, a move mandated by the government that will likely cost Guilford \$20,000.00 by the end of 2012. We will plan to make the change, but wait as long as possible to implement it as the world may end that year anyway.

15. Under assessor's issues, a tree growth petition was given to Burdin for review, three veteran's exemption were approved on a Burdin motion with a Martell second, one homestead exemption was granted following a Lander motion that was seconded by Dexter, an abatement request was denied without a motion as the party recently purchased the home and had no standing, and the assessing books were distributed.

16. Under Other Business, manager was directed to determine the procedures to abate old personal property accounts prior to 2008 and to develop a policy for collecting these accounts from 2009 going forward. Burdin moved that the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Lander, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:21 PM.