

TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

January 6, 2009

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 Diana Bowley from Bangor Daily News, Fire Chief Allen Emerson, John Crosby of Crosby Construction and Mark Freeman of Freeman Construction.

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

3. Balance sheets discussed and correspondence read. A letter from School Superintendent Paul Stearns told of a public hearing to be held on January 14th at the P.C.M.S. cafeteria at 6:30pm to discuss the upcoming referendum on school consolidation. A letter was read from the County Commissioners outlining plans for a meeting on January 15th at 6:30pm at the Superior Court house to discuss animal control and shelter issues. A letter was read from True Textiles detailing their progress in achieving various goals of reducing greenhouse gases, reducing the use of a toxic chemical known as Sara 313, and collaborating with the Town of Guilford to construct a 3000 square foot green space to ameliorate storm water runoff at the corner of Oak and South Main Streets.

4. Manager stated nine bids were received on the 97 Ford ton truck, and it has since been sold to the high bidder for \$7,000.00.

5. Bids for removal of the Edes Building were opened and their respective contract prices read aloud. There were thirteen bids received and they ranged in price from \$13,190.00 to \$64,500.00. Selectmen did not award a bid as the details of each proposal required further study to ascertain that all objectives were addressed and to determine which proposal was most advantageous to the town.

6. Manager gave an update on the disposition of tax acquired properties which are being

handled individually. The first property on the list is likely to be restored to its prior owner as long as agreements are honored and a second would be going to advertised bid in the near future.

7. Burdin moved that the board of selectmen voice their support for an application to the CDBG program by the economic development board's housing committee for a 2009 Housing Assistance Grant and the plan to hold a public hearing on February 3rd. Following a second from Martell and a brief discussion of the huge successes from the past housing grant, the motion passed unanimously.

8. A letter from Moosehead Cable Company was read detailing the rate increase effective February 1st to \$26.00 per month for basic cable. Pole attachment fees and channel subscription costs were cited as reasons for the increase.

9. Fire Chief Allen Emerson presented the Fire Department's annual budget request, noting no increase from the prior year. He also noted that a request had been received from Cambridge to enter into a mutual aid agreement and it would be presented in writing a later date. Comments were favorable to this point as Cambridge Fire Department has been very willing to stand by for Guilford, and Guilford's presence was very decisive in the recent structure fire in Cambridge. The chief also noted that the department would be writing specifications for a fire truck to replace the 1975 pumper in hopes of going to bid in 2010.

10. A proposed slate of officers for the Fire Department was received following their recent elections, for final ratification by the selectmen. On a motion from Burdin, seconded by Lander, it was unanimously voted to accept the slate as presented, being the same slate as last year.

11. On a motion from Burdin with a second by Dexter, Michelle Nichols was appointed Registrar of Voters.

12. Burdin moved to go into executive session as per MSRA ss 405 (6)(A)(D) to discuss town employee wages. After a second from Martell and a unanimous vote, the board went into session at 8:08 pm. Following a motion from Burdin with a Martell second, the board came out of executive session at 8:26 pm. Following a motion from Burdin, seconded by Lander, it was voted to give the town employees a raise of 50 cents per hour and an annual salary increase to the manager of \$2,000.00.

13. Fire contract renewals with Abbot and Parkman were approved at the same rate as last year, \$12,000.00 annually for a one year renewal, on a motion from Lander with a second from Burdin.

14. Second notice to the board for warrant article requests was given by manager. Lander would like to see an article to change the composition of the planning board to “all voting members” as opposed to regular and alternate members.

15. Under assessor’s issues, an abatement request was received and the board agreed to visit the property within the next week before making a decision.

16. Under other business, Martell mentioned he had received a complaint about the icy conditions at the medical building parking lot. Manager agreed to review this with the town crew and to visit the issue of plowing slush following warm days with Haley Construction. Another item brought to light was the hazard created by snowmobiles on the sidewalks, such usage rendering them impassable and nearly impossible to clear. It was suggested that enforcement be stepped up to curtail this activity. On a motion from Lander, seconded by Burdin, it was agreed to close an inactive savings account at Key Bank.

17. Burdin moved that the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Dexter, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:29 PM.