

TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

September 4, 2007

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 Al Hunt, Donald and Eileen Ebbeling, Marie Landry, and Robert Shaffer.

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

3. Balance sheets distributed. No action taken. Lander asked about taxes paid to date and manager stated that we have received approximately eighty percent to date.

4. Manager read a letter from Ernie Martin of Maine D.O.T. informing that the Elm Street Rebuild project had been awarded to Farrin Brothers and Smith, Inc. of Brighton Plantation. Martell mentioned that the town crew had done a good job on the trench repair at the five way intersection south of the bridge. Manager stated he had heard too many complaints to wait for a determination of who was responsible for the repairs and proceeded to have the work done.

5. On a motion from Burdin with a second from Martell, the manager was unanimously appointed to be the voting delegate at the Maine Municipal convention to be held in October. The official form was circulated for signatures.

6. Manager read a letter from MMA Risk Management Services announcing a dividend of \$2863.00 on insurance programs through them.

7. A letter from Anthony Davis, president of Guilford Development Corporation (Riverbend

Homes) was read requesting that the town accept a PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes,) not to exceed \$25,000.00. Burdin moved, Dexter seconded, and it was unanimously agreed to accept said payment.

8. A thank-you letter from the Piscataquis River Festival Chairman, Carrie Fellows, was read expressing appreciation for the support and assistance from the town crew and the board during the recent festival.

9. Manager read a notice as published regarding the School District Reorganization meeting to be held on September 5th at 7:00 pm at the Piscataquis County Middle School and urged everyone's attendance.

10. A report from Recreation Program Director, Joe Gallant was read detailing the successful recreation program of the past summer.

11. Manager outlined the bids received on the planned work for the Guilford Center Road, explaining that Pike Industries was low bidder and would be awarded the contract to reclaim and pave 1.7 miles of said road. He further stated that the road would be reclaimed and surfaced with two inches of binder this summer and that another inch of surface paving would have to wait until 2008 due to the high costs of materials.

12. Manager read a list of all non-profit requests for funding and following motions and seconds by various board members, it was voted to fund the following agencies in the amounts listed: YMCA, \$1,000.00; Pine Tree Hospice, \$600.00; Red Cross, \$1513.00; Womancare, \$1500.00; Eastern Area Agency on Aging, \$1500.00; Community Health and Counseling Center, \$1200,00; and the Older American Center, \$800.00. Receiving no funding were Kennebec Valley Metal Health, Contact, Penquis C.A.P., United Cerebral Palsy, Bangor STD Clinic, and Guilford Historical Society, the latter of which stated they were all set financially and needed no assistance.

13. Under New Business, the manager expressed appreciation for the warning lights installed on the corner of Interface Fabric Group's building at the north end of the bridge. This addition appears to be a great help to traffic control and Interface paid the entire cost of the project, declining reimbursement from the town.

14. Chairman Thompson set Tuesday, September 11th at 7:00 pm as the date for the next assessor's meeting to be held at the selectmen's office. On a motion from Burdin, seconded by Lander, this date was unanimously agreed upon. Lander noted that the selectmen should thank the ladies in the town office for all their efforts in dealing with the extra work from the revaluation process, including putting up with a considerable amount of abuse from some frustrated taxpayers.

15. Under other business, Dexter asked if the hump in the Guilford Center Road just north of the Butter Street intersection could be smoothed out and Lander suggested that the Butter Street entrance might benefit from removal of the large tree and island in the "Y" formed where the roads meet. Manager agreed to discuss this with the contractor. Robert Shaffer inquired as to whether or not the town was going to accept the recent petition for a special town meeting and was again told that since the proposed article would require an illegal process, that it would not be acted upon. He stated that he believed state law allowed for a board of overseers to inspect and amend work done by the assessors in the event of errors or questionable assessments and Dexter replied that there are currently three layers of government in place for this process and that the selectmen had yet to deny any abatement requests. The manager also added that the petition, besides requesting an article that legal counsel had deemed illegal, was not certified nor completed according to law. Al Hunt recalled that the matter was tabled at the last meeting and manager stated he thought he had been very clear that the decision had been not to table but to deny the petition. (See August 14, 2007 minutes, discussion following item 3, third paragraph.) Shaffer stated that such a meeting would have provided a forum to explain the process to the public and manager replied the petition did not request a forum but rather a specific article and in fact there had been three assessor's meetings which spelled out the process in detail. Mr. Ebbeling asked if the TRIO program in use had been state certified and Burdin stated that it was in use by 75% of towns in Maine and he felt it was adequate.

16. Dexter moved the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Burdin, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:25 PM.