

TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

May 9, 2006

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:00 PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, Rick Lander, Peter Martell, and guests Sally Pearson, Donald Ebbeling, Rhonda Welcome, William Hume, Robert Shaffer, Zarvin Shaffer, Marilyn Bennett, Laureleen Damon, Brian Woodworth, Cindy White, David Cotta, and Robert Littlefield.

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

3. Balance sheets distributed.

Sheila Grant introduced herself to the board and explained her new position at PCEDC in community development which has been funded for 20 hours per week for a period of three years. Her main area of concentration will be on downtown revitalization efforts and tourism. She will offer help identifying funding sources and advice on grant writing.

4. A letter from Abaris was read requesting funds for port-a-potty rental at the playground and thanking the town for past participation. Motion from Burdin, seconded by Martell to pay \$85.00, one month's rent, as requested. Unanimous. Manager also read letter that Abaris Club sent to those families who were remembered by contributions to the playground explaining the plaque that would be placed on the premises.

5. Letter read from Piscataquis County Commissioners requesting input on proposed projects for a County Bond feasibility study. No action taken.

6. Manager read report from Michael Pullen, a preservation architect and engineer from WBRC regarding his findings at the Edes Block. In summary, Mr. Pullen detailed a project budget of

\$1,119,100.00 for restoration of the building. Robert Shaffer asked if could address the meeting and laid out a plan whereby the Town would give the building to the Guilford Historical Society; the Society would have a contractor fix the outside of the building for \$42,000.00; Roxanne Quimby would give the Society \$50,000.00 right away and perhaps “bundle \$100,000.00 and throw it at them;” and they would have the building up and running in a year as a multiple-use building and museum. Manager Goulette, while stating that he felt one million dollars was a high figure for the project, questioned how it could be done for less than 10% of the amount arrived at by the firm recommended by the Maine State Preservation Society. Shaffer expected all to believe his numbers were more accurate, and then presented a pamphlet entitled A Modest Proposal. Manager Goulette then stated that he would urge the board to recommend against the proposal of the Society, and further stated that if the incendiary, hate- mongering, nasty, sarcastic and childish style of the pamphlet was indicative of the type of people who were making this proposal, (and suggested that might well be true based on the attacks in the papers on the economic development board), then perhaps this is not the group who should control this piece of town property and possibly the town would in fact be better served with the plans developed by the town’s economic development board. Burdin inquired as to the current financial status of the Historical Society, since they depend on the town for funding each year, and Mr. Shaffer estimated assets of about \$50,000.00. Lander asked the true identity of “Silence Dogood” and Mr. Shaffer declined to reveal it. Lander stated that anything written by someone afraid to put their name on it belonged in the trash. Dexter moved to table this item until next meeting, seconded by Burdin; unanimous.

7. Manager reported that Allan Landry had once again been retained as Sexton for the cemeteries and that three people had called the office to compliment the appearance of the cemeteries this year. He discussed the need for a committee and was directed to attempt to find interested people to serve on said committee and to present the names to the board for appointment.

8. Manager reported that Penquis Real Estate Services had been hired to do the revaluation project as they were low bidder and could comply with the requested time frame.

9. Manager gave a brief report on his attendance at the Risk Management Seminar in Monterey, California.

10. Board was asked for recommendations for projects for a County Bond and none were offered.

11. Ratio declaration was again tabled pending receipt of the State's figures for the sales ratio study.

12. Under Other business, Martell reported on maintenance issues and planned painting at the medical building. Manager reported on a conversation with Piscataquis Sheriff's Office regarding Guilford Police Patrol scheduling and said there would be a meeting to solidify a plan.

13. A motion to adjourn by Burdin, and seconded by Lander was unanimous. Adjourned at 8:17 pm.