

TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

June 6, 2006

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:00 PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, Rick Lander, and guests Donald Ebbeling, Rhonda Welcome, William Hume, Robert Shaffer, Zarvin Shaffer and children, Darius and Julia, Brian Woodworth, Siefert Shultz, Madeline Schultz, James French, Sherry French, Tony Davis, Rod Edgerly, Diana Bowley from The Bangor Daily News and Fran Emmons from The Piscataquis Observer.

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

3. Balance sheets distributed.

4. A letter from Abaris was read expressing thanks for funds for port-a-potty rental.

5. Letter read from the Personal Representative of Miss Claire S. Sanders advising the Town of Miss Sanders bequest to the Elmwood Cemetery or its caretakers of \$5,000.00 with the stipulation that flowers be placed annually on her family's gravesites. Moved by Burdin, seconded Dexter to accept; unanimous.

6. Letter read from State Planning Office regarding Willimantic's proposed comprehensive plan. This is a legal requirement and no action was taken.

7. Manager reported on change in TABOR tax question status; it will be on the November ballot and will have a financial impact on all towns in Maine. Expect a great deal of discussion in the

months to come.

8. Manager stated that Guilford Historical Society's request that the Town give them the Edes building to fix up and use as they see fit or sell in the future, had been tabled at the previous meeting and now needed to be decided. Robert Shaffer presented a petition calling for a special town meeting to address two articles; to wit: Article 1. Shall the Town of Guilford require voter approval of the design, construction and expenditures of funds for the so-called Elm Street Revitalization project, and Article 2. Shall the Town of Guilford, grant legal title and control of the so-called J.K. Edes Building and the lot adjacent to it, the so-called Braeburn lot, located on Water Street in the Municipality of Guilford to the Guilford Historical Society for the purpose of restoration and improvement. He then asked for a date for said special meeting. The manager asked if the signatures had been certified and was told they had not. The manager then explained that the petition could be addressed after certification. He went on to state that much misinformation is being presented and that he had been called by a representative from Interface Fabrics Group expressing that it would be too bad if some unsuspecting donor contributed to the Edes Building Fund as proposed in the Historical Society's newsletter thinking that Interface was a party to this, including changes proposed by the Society to the Interface loading dock on Water Street. In fact Interface feels the loading dock is serving its intended function well and they are quite satisfied with its current aesthetics.

Jim French said he was troubled by an article in the paper that quoted Goulette as saying there would be no vote as the two issues were already settled. Goulette replied that he was misquoted; that Diana Bowley, the reporter who penned the article was present if anyone cared to confirm the matter, and that he indeed said the Revitalization issue was a done deal since it was the culmination of a six year project and involved a competitive application having been selected and contracts entered into with the State for the use of funds. The engineering is done, the plans have been approved, we are now in the process of fulfilling our contractual obligations and it is not up for debate. The parking is a D.O.T mandate and not up for negotiation. Every one of the required public hearings, both for CDBG and the D.O.T has been held. No one asked Mrs. Bowley for confirmation.

French then stated that he was in favor of flattening the Edes building but felt that the selectmen had been too quiet as to their discussions and plans, thus the reason for his amendment at the town meeting back in March. Manager Goulette defended the board stating that they did not discuss plans other than to put the acceptance of the Edes Building to a vote, even though they did not feel required to do so; and proceeded to cite and show these facts from the minutes of past meetings. He stated that in fact it was the Economic Development Committee that had been discussing what to do if the building became town property and evidently, many could not get the concept that two different boards were involved.

Sieferd Shultz agreed that the Edes building was an eyesore but felt that the town officials had not been open about their plans. Shaffer asked if the Board would allow him to amend the petition and was told that he could present a new one, but not change what people had signed. The question arose as the legality of amending an article proposed by the petition and the manager agreed to research this.

Shaffer stated the mill does not have a long term future and Guilford needs to begin planning to move into a leisure future that attracts people with money. Dexter asked why things had gotten so negative and why had the request to consider saving this one building grown into disparagement of many years of committee effort and every recent accomplishment of that group and the town from the Elm Street project to Welcome Signs? Zarvin Shaffer replied that it had gotten personal and he was upset with Mrs. Anderson for reporting an alleged assault to the Sheriff. Robert Shaffer replied that being negative was a fund-raising ploy because the board would not listen to him. Manager said, "So is ransom." Goulette then reiterated that the Economic Development Committee had spent six years getting a \$400,000.00 grant and that he personally had spent four years working with Key Bank to garner their donation of a building, and now, after all the work has been done, it was starting to feel like the ending from The Little Red Hen story where everyone who had done nothing was more than willing to eat the bread. He further asked if there were any other properties he could obtain or anything else the Historical Society would like him or the board to do for them that they could take over. Shaffer simply replied that he had been trying to get the building from Key Bank over the last four years as well, unbeknownst to anyone else, including offering them \$44,000.00 for it.

Lander asked what the status of the Historical Society was and was informed it is a 5013c corporation. Sieferd Shultz said they have received lots of donations to repair their building including several thousand dollars from himself. Shaffer again complained about changes in parking methods and the number of spaces, and trees in the sidewalk, and how this would kill businesses on Elm Street. Goulette replied that one is closing this month, and wondered if this is the Economic Development Board's fault or has it even been considered that maybe the lack of traffic from unsafe sidewalks is as much to blame? Tony Davis, a business owner with the most frontage on Elm Street, stated that he was upset at first but after talking with the engineers as to the reasons and the requirements, and seeing what they were going to do, now thinks it will be fine. William Hume asked, "Why does it have to be parallel parking. It's going to hurt the pizza shop. If you had not planned 14 foot sidewalks, there would be room to continue diagonal parking. Manager again stated that the Federal guidelines and the State plans required parallel parking. The sidewalk design was only making the best use of available space. Once again, the Economic Board was not unanimous in a selection for parking arrangements, but it became a moot point when the agency with the two and one half million dollars for a new road told us what they were required to build.

Robert Shaffer then asked if the board would make the assumption that the petition was adequate and would they set a date for a special town meeting since the board was not intending to reconvene until August 1. Chairman Thompson said that would be discussed under agenda item#13.

9. Manager gave an update on the cemetery stating that Alan Landry was doing a good job, asked for help when it became necessary, and had received many complements on overall appearance. He also stated there would be a search for an ongoing committee to establish policy and consider appropriate issues.

10. Assessing contract previously discussed was presented for review.

11. Manager discussed opening for an alternate on the Planning Board and presented the name of Wendell Hall for consideration. Motion by Burdin, seconded by Lander to appoint Hall as Planning Board Alternate. Unanimous.

12. Manager detailed that the recreation committee had faded out over the past few years and needed to be revived, if possible. Intention is to seek interested citizens to reestablish a working group.

13. Chairman Thompson asked for a vote on holding a June 27th Special Selectmen's Meeting to respond to the petition. He asked the manager if the Town Clerk could certify the signatures by then and was answered in the affirmative. Approved for 7:00pm at the Selectmen's Office on Tuesday, June 27. July meeting cancelled on motion from Lander and a second from Burdin. Unanimous.

14. No other business brought before the board.

15. A motion to adjourn by Burdin, and seconded by Dexter was unanimous. Adjourned at 8:30 pm.

