

TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

December 5, 2006

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:00 PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, Rick Lander, and Pete Martell. Also guests; Al and Laurel Hunt, Robert and Darius Shaffer, Robert Littlefield, J. Paul Curtis, Donald Ebbeling, Diana Bowley of BDN, Fran Emmons from the Observer, Rhonda Welcome, Robert Elliott, William Hume, Adrienne Rockwell, and James Landry. Also in attendance were Economic Development Board members Joni Slamm, Sheila Thompson and Carrie Fellows.

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

3. Balance sheets distributed.

4. Manager distributed letter from Estella Bennett written in response to Guilford Historical Society newsletter.

5. Chair recognized Joni Slamm, president of the E-Board. Joni spoke regarding the two proposals received in response to the RFP on the Braeburn Block and stated that after much discussion, the board would recommend the Samuel's' proposal to the Selectmen. She said that her board felt that it did in fact meet the expressed criteria, showed extremely strong financial ability, and that they were impressed with their willingness to work with the town and business community. Martell asked if the board felt that the local borrowing by the proposers weakened or strengthened their ability, and Joni replied that it showed a true willingness to work and do all business at the local level. Lander moved to accept the Samuels' proposal; seconded by Martell. Thompson said recent editorials may have mislead the public as to their financial abilities and that while he had knowledge of the intended investment amount, he felt it was not up to him to give the specifics. He stated that because a former resident with a real desire to help her home town had made this offer, he was ecstatic. Mr. Shaffer stated that he hoped a

dialogue could be established to protect 501(c)(3) tax breaks. Thompson said all would be kept up to date on the progress. Robert Littlefield said that this town has overcome many adversities over the years from floods to major fires at local industry; the fire being ultimately a good thing as the buildings were replaced by an up to date, modern, competitive plant. He said he had read all the letters to editors and discovered they have made us a laughing stock to other towns and that he was sick of it. All of Guilford's many accomplishments over the years have been made by committees and groups getting together without all the backbiting. He further stated that he hates to see an old building come down, but realizes that this, too, may be the best thing for the town. He gave as an example the destruction of the Masonic and Odd Fellows hall which he initially opposed, but now considers that change to be the best thing that could have happened. The vote to accept the motion was unanimous.

6. Manager gave an update on the Elm Street work to begin soon. The square south of the town bridge will be ripped open to bury cables, but the contractor has a plan in place to minimize the disruption. Mr. Hume expressed a hope that there could at least be a tie-in with this project and the Braeburn Block project in order that the opposite end of the bridge would be complementary. Manager said he felt that was a good idea and he would recommend that the Samuels' architect review the Elm Street plan and converse with Coplon Associates who had designed it.

7. Manager read notice from Moosehead Enterprises which stated the basic cable rate would increase by \$1.50 per month beginning January 1, 2007, due to added channels and increased programming costs.

8. Manager stated that the County budget appeared to be coming in very close to last years' level and that no unpleasant surprises were anticipated.

9. It was reported that the Maine Employees Health Insurance Trust would be increasing their rates in 2007 by 7.94 percent.

10. On a motion from Burdin, seconded by Martell, it was unanimously voted to set February 12, 2007 as the Budget Committee Meeting date. This is scheduled to be held at P.C.H.S at 7:00 o'clock in the evening.

11. Manager reminded selectmen to bring in any articles they wish to have appear on the March warrant as soon as possible.

12. Thompson stated that Mr. Edwards, the assessor engaged by the town, was 50 percent completed in his appraisals.

13. Under other business, Martell noted that a recreation committee meeting was scheduled to be held at the town office on December 20, 2006 at 7:00 o'clock and that all area recreation personnel from other towns and schools, as well as the public, were invited to attend. It is hoped to develop from this a regionally effective, reasonably priced collaborative program for the towns in the greater community area.

14. Burdin moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Dexter, and adjourned unanimously at 7:37 pm.