

TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

September 6, 2005

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, Sally Pearson and Don Ebbeling.
2. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Burdin, to approve minutes of previous meeting. Unanimous.
3. Balance sheets distributed.
4. Request from Methodist Church to participate in funding cost of painting the tower housing the town clock; tabled until October meeting.
5. Letter read from Maine Municipal Association detailing favorable loss experience in both the Workers' Compensation and Property and Casualty Insurance pools. Guilford received a dividend check in the amount of \$2520.00.
6. Correspondence read; Thank You notes from YMCA and Soil and Water Conservation District for donations.
7. Signed voting credentials for delegates to the annual Maine Municipal Convention in October; Goulette named delegate and Thompson named alternate.
8. Manager reported on special town meeting results from August 11th meeting. (See meeting minutes on file.)

9. Manager reported that the town was successful with its grant application for the Business Assistance Program in the amount of \$400,000.00 and stated that negotiations were still going well toward the purchase of Pride Manufacturing's Guilford facility by the Fletcher brothers.

10. Manager gave update on the playground and tennis court projects. The budget appears to be adequate for the work planned; however the latest suggestion for a rock wall to complete the landscaping will require an additional fourteen thousand dollars. Thompson requested that this idea be revisited at the October meeting.

11. Manager gave details of new copier contract with Imagistics. The lease price is \$110.00 per month for 36 months, the service contract is \$350.00 annually and all parts, labor, and toner is included. Annual costs should be reduced through this program.

12. It was noted that a call from Senator Olympia Snowe's office confirmed the award of a Homeland Security grant to purchase a new fire truck for the town.

13. Manger outlined his long term plans for municipal equipment including a small truck with a plow and one yard sander, a replacement police vehicle, using the retiring police vehicle as a first responder unit for the fire department, and trading the bucket loader for a later model. Pricing and timing will dictate the schedule and a town vote will be needed for most of these proposals.

14. Prior to entering executive session, a citizen raised some questions regarding taxes. Don Ebbeling asked how many signatures would be required for a petition and was told that ten percent of the number of voters in the last gubernatorial election would be about 90, the amount needed. He also asked if the board had an agenda to straighten out some details on the tax cards, supplying more information on the properties taxed, such as a separate amount for each building rather than a total figure. Thompson replied that they were trying to get this done and the manager noted that software to assist in this process is being contemplated. The citizen said he felt there were several inequities in the application of assessments and gave as an example the manager's personal office building, which he claimed was taxed for less than his garage, although this proved to be false. Lander asked if had gotten an abatement on his own garage and he said he did not know. The manager pointed out that that was untrue as Mr. Ebbeling had been in twice last week and the deputy tax collector had made a point of asking

him if he understood that he had been given his abatement and that his bill had been reduced accordingly. Ebbeling said there were lots more examples but offered no specifics. Lander advised him to come up with some concrete examples and said he would then meet with him.

At 8:02 pm, on a motion from Burdin, seconded by Dexter, the board went into executive session under Title 1, M.R.S.A. ss 05 (6) (A) to discuss a personnel matter. At 8:27 pm on a motion from Lander, seconded by Burdin, the board came out of executive session. No action taken.

15. In assessor's business, two minor abatements were granted.

16. Under other business, Thompson asked if a Leaf Tour for the senior citizens was being planned and the manager replied that it was in the works again this year.

17. Moved by Burdin, seconded by Lander to adjourn; unanimous; adjourned at 8:46.