

January 4, 2011

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:00 PM. Present were selectmen Michael Dexter, Kent Burdin, Rick Lander and Peter Martell, and guests, County Commissioners Tom Lizotte, Fred Trask , Eric Ward; County Manager, Marilyn Tourtelotte; Fire Chief Allen Emerson; Sheriff John Goggin and Officers Jamie Kane, David Smiley, David Cotta, and Basil Patterson; and Diana Bowley of the Bangor Daily News and Bill Pearson from the Piscataquis Observer.
  
2. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Burdin to approve minutes of the prior meeting. Unanimous.
  
3. Balance sheets distributed and accepted.
  
4. Letter of resignation from MSAD#4 school board from John Cartwright read; Dexter moved and Martell seconded the motion for the acceptance of John's decision.
  
5. A Thank You note was read from Red Cross for Guilford's donation to their cause.
  
6. Chairman Thompson requested that all parties introduce themselves and then directed Goulette to recap the occurrences that brought them to the table regarding the arrangement between the Town and the Sheriff's Office. Goulette gave a detailed history from 50 years back up to the present, including the last year and four months of debate and discussion, reiterating that the situation is the same as it has been with the town providing a free assist to the County. Commissioner Lizotte agreed that the turmoil should be able to be resolved but that they truly did need something in writing and that the draft agreement that Attorney Stumpfell had provided stated essentially what the town has maintained all along, but offered it in legal terminology. He said the commissioners were merely looking for clarity and this document provided that necessity. Burdin raised the issue as to who had signing authority for the parties involved, to which Sheriff Goggin stated that the Sheriff should be a signatory to the three party agreement. Commissioner Ward stated that it was in fact a draft, subject to revision, and all agreed that the Sheriff's office, the County Manager and the Town manager should be parties to the document.

Lizotte apologized for his board overreacting and magnifying the issue to which County Manager Tourtelotte added that they were merely following their insurance carrier's directions. Goggin again spoke, stating that over the years, the Town of Guilford had been a tremendous help to his department and truly appreciated what his office offers, being the only town that volunteered to assist them at no charge. He further added that any hours beyond the stated shift of a Guilford Officer should be picked up by the County. Lizotte agreed but felt language should address that in the agreement as twenty years from now, other people would review the document. Tourtelotte warned not to use the expression "overtime" as it would raise issues of regular pay versus overtime pay. Officer Emerson stated that with the flexible schedule, if an officer had a longer than normal day, he could adjust the hours on the next shift and in fact he had never reached the forty hour threshold at this job. It was ultimately agreed that Tourtelotte would have their attorney clarify what had been discussed and that she and the town manager would review the final draft for signatures. It is finally settled; nothing has changed except that it will be a written understanding, and this tempest in a teapot has concluded.

7. Manager advised that three tax acquired properties had been redeemed by their prior owners and quit-claim deeds were presented for signatures. Three remaining properties will be advertised for bid soon after the annual town meeting in March as per the unanimous vote on a motion from Dexter which Burdin seconded.

8. Manager related that 400 Yoplait Yogurt lids were collected as well as several in smaller quantities from other brands that also offered Breast Cancer fund donations. A letter was sent to Yoplait as well as thank you notes to individuals that sent in lids.

9. The 2011 slate of officers, results of Guilford Fire Department's annual meeting, were presented for selectmen approval. Motion made by Burdin, seconded by Lander, to accept the list as presented.

10. Prior year fire contracts with both Abbot and Parkman were reviewed and upon recommendation from both the manager and chief, it was agreed to renew with no changes. A unanimous vote followed a motion and second from Lander and Burdin respectively.

11. On a motion from Lander, seconded by Dexter, a renewal permit for Roland S. Cookson's junkyard at 173 Wharff Road was granted.

12. The septage disposal contract renewal presented by Patterson Brothers of Abbot was accepted following a Dexter motion and a Martell second. Unanimous.

13. It was noted that a bequest of \$10,000.00 from the estate of Florence Cross Underwood and her husband Jude, given in memory of Florence's mother, Evelyn Snow Cross was received by the library. Dexter moved to accept the funds and place all but \$500.00 with the Maine Community Foundation trust funds, the remainder going into the library maintenance fund. Martell seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

14. The Trustees of Guilford Memorial Library requested that the selectmen appoint Patricia Harrington to fill the position on the board vacated by Danielle Gioia who had moved away. So voted as per a Lander motion and Burdin second.

15. Pursuant to state regulation, the board appointed Michelle Nichols as Registrar of Voters for a two year period. This followed a unanimous vote on a Lander motion seconded by Martell.

16. A health care meeting with a company representative to review available insurance coverage options with the board was set for January 5th at 4:00 pm at the selectmen's office.

17. Manager gave first notice to the board for warrant articles for the annual meeting, citing February 1st as the deadline.

18. On a motion from Lander, seconded by Burdin, the board voted unanimously to go into executive session as per MSRA ss 404 (6) (A)&(D) for the purpose of discussing wages and salary. Time in: 8:04 Time out: 8:22 It was then moved by Lander to increase the employees hourly rate by fifty cents per hour and to close the gap on public works positions. Burdin seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Burdin then moved to increase the managers salary by two thousand dollars, a second from Martell followed and the vote was unanimous. Burdin and Martell then moved and seconded that the travel allowance for the manager be increased by \$500.00, which was approved by all.

19. Under assessors' issues, a veteran's widow's exemption was granted.

20. Under Other Business, no topics were presented.

21. Following a motion from Burdin and a Lander second, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM.