

TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

March 5, 2013

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:02 pm. Present were selectmen Mike Dexter, Rick Lander, Kent Burdin, and Peter Martell; and guests Matt Holland, Lou Sidell 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 from Superintendent Stearns read seeking municipal officer's input for an Advisory Committee for a Superintendent Search and the application process for those wishing to be included.
5. Letter from Moosehead Enterprises Inc. was read regarding latest cable TV rate increase; basic cable will increase by \$1.95 per month.
6. Letter of resignation from Rachael Davis regarding her seat on the SAD#4 Board was read. Motion made by Lander and seconded by Martell to accept with regret and appreciation for past services.
7. The Board was advised that a selection had been made to fill the open position of Deputy Treasurer / Deputy Clerk. From 32 applications, Diane Cookson, former Administrative Assistant for the Town of Palmyra was hired and will assume her new duties on March 18th. She brings thirteen years of municipal experience, ten of it in management and should be a great addition to the staff in the town office.
8. Manager advised of latest development proposed for Elm Street. The former Ben Franklin Store (Treworgy Building), the former Guilford Dry Cleaners building (Davis Bros. warehouse and apartments,) and the former Methodist Parsonage (and former Mer's Laundry now owned by Clayton Griffin) are under contract to Hunt Real Estate Co, which has obtained a permit to construct an 8320 square foot Family Dollar Store with 37 parking places at that site. Following an environmental review and further engineering, a closing should occur in the next few months. We wish them well in this venture.
9. Matt Holland spoke on his recent efforts regarding his proposal for a town operated Micro-loan program. He credited Rep. Pete Johnson with cutting through the smoke to get him a solid answer to his question: his plan would be legal. He will be afforded time at the town meeting to make a short presentation explaining the details of his idea and to determine if the town has interest in moving forward on it.

10. Pursuant to last month's discussion to contact the former Sexton, manager reported he had done so and the cemetery care would be going out to bid in the near future.
11. Reminder that Burdin would move to adopt 7% interest on delinquent taxes and 3% return interest on overpayments at the town meeting.
12. Manager gave a report on the Evening of Leadership held at Hampden Academy on March 4th. Guilford and Piscataquis County were represented by Superintendent Paul Stearns and Town Manager Tom Goulette. Hancock and Penobscot Counties were represented by Bucksport and Bangor managers and superintendents respectively, and MMA's Geoff Herman gave an overview of the Governor's proposed budget cuts followed by presentations by the speakers listed above as to the impacts on their own towns. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the general public and promote greater awareness on how these changes in state commitments would affect individual towns, individual taxpayers, and levels of municipal services.
13. The School Board-Municipal-Legislative Exchange postponed from February 27th has been rescheduled for March 20th at PCES, with light refreshments to be served starting at 6:00 PM and the meeting starting at 6:30. This will be an informational meeting regarding local budgets and the State's intentions to cut traditional revenue streams to towns and the schools.
14. Manager gave update on the ongoing discussions regarding PVRDD funds and EMDC which had received them from the bank. The details of an agreement precipitating their return to PVRDD were settled today and will be presented to EMDC in the next day or two.
15. Two school board members and one Hospital Board member are needed to fill open positions due to resignations. The board also appointed Al Hunt to the Economic Development Board following a motion from Burdin and a Martell second.
16. The 2013 Town Reports were presented to the board members and are now ready for the public. Michelle put in lots of overtime to get this done, Roxanne Chase helped with editing and some of the printing, and the library staff is helping with the assembly process. They can be picked up at the town office and at the annual town meeting March 18th.
17. Selectmen reviewed and signed the warrant to be posted for the annual town meeting.
18. Under Assessor's Issues, a tree growth application was submitted and approved. Also the manager provided details of the assessor's agents' expanded role. Danielle Smith has agreed to update the TRIO records and review each property over the next two years in an attempt to bring property values back in line.
19. Under Other Business, there were no items to discuss.
20. Following a motion from Lander with a Burdin second, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

