

TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

January 5, 2016

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:00 pm. Present were selectmen Mike Dexter, Kent Burdin, Rick Lander, and Peter Martell and guests, Ross Fortier and Ralph Zimmerman.
2. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Martell to approve minutes of the prior meeting. Unanimous.
3. Balance sheets distributed.
4. Read highlights of a letter from MRC in response to PERC's latest affiliation and proposal. The town must make a decision at the annual meeting in March. Burdin posed the question, "What if Guilford votes one way and Mid Maine Solid Waste Association goes the other way?" Manager will attempt to see where they stand and determine possible outcomes of any such decision.
5. A letter from Doug Hollingsworth Associates was read announcing Doug's retirement and closing of his business. An RFP for audit services has already been sent out to selected accounting firms and has been posted on the Maine Municipal website.
6. A note from Representative and Mrs. Paul Stearns was read, accompanied by a donation to the River Festival fireworks fund.
7. An update was given on Guilford Memorial Library activities; including a successful beginning to their "Let's Talk About It" program discussing five different Maine authors, and a new program, "On Your Mark, Get Set, READ!" They hold children's crafting sessions and are working on various other offerings. Contact the Library or visit their website for more information.
8. The Annual Report from Mayo Regional Hospital was read in which it tells they were among the top ten cleanest hospitals in the country among various other awards, and they managed to finish the year on a positive note financially.

Ralph Zimmerman and Ross Fortier then addressed the board on the need for an ordinance dealing with accumulated junk in residential neighborhoods or any other available assistance in protecting property values from the effects of unkempt neighboring properties. The two were advised to come to the next planning board meeting with their concerns and request that that board develop an ordinance for a future town-wide vote. Manager agreed to research model ordinances' from other towns and cities, cautioning that such matters needed to be very carefully and clearly worded to be effective and legally enforceable..

9. An update on the activities of The Bicentennial committee was given stating that a pot-luck birthday celebration was scheduled for 11:00 AM at Guilford Center Grange on February 14th, and a pot-luck supper will precede the annual town meeting on March 16th, beginning at 5:30 PM, prior to holding the meeting. The group continues to meet on the third Monday of each month. Check out the Guilford Maine Bicentennial Facebook page for more info.
10. It was related that bid notices had been published for the sale of the tax acquired property at 5 Summer Street. Contact the Town Office for a bid packet or further information.
11. The annual septage disposal contract was renewed with Dennis Patterson for the coming year following a motion to accept by Dexter, seconded by Lander and a unanimous vote.
12. Contracts to provide Fire Protection Services to Abbot and Parkman were presented with no change from the prior year. Martell moved to approve both, Lander seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
13. A meeting to view and discuss upgrades at the C.H. Lightbody Medical Center was set for January 10th at 5:00 PM.
14. The 2016 Piscataquis County budget was presented and it was noted that the increase to Guilford was less than two thousand dollars this year, a welcome change from recent past increases.
15. A Red Light permit was approved for firefighter Corbin Shufelt, allowing the use of a red warning light in his personal vehicle when responding to fire calls.
16. A slate of officers for the Guilford Fire Department was presented following their recent elections. Lander moved to approve the list, Burdin seconded, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
17. The second notice was given to the board for warrant articles. The deadline will be February 2nd.
18. On a motion from Dexter with a Martell second, the board voted to go into executive session per 1 M.R.S. A. § 405 (6)(A) for personnel matters. Time in: 8:06 PM. Time out: 8:23 PM. Burdin then made a motion to increase the hourly rates by 50¢ for employees and increase the manager's salary by 3%. Lander seconded this motion and it carried by unanimous vote.
19. Under Assessor's Issues, one abatement was processed.
20. Following a motion from Burdin with a second from Dexter, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.