

TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

April 5, 2016

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:00 pm. Present were selectmen Mike Dexter, Rick Lander, and Peter Martell, and guests, Paul Zimmerman from the Red Maple Inn and Larry Daggett representing Abbot Explorers ATV Club.
2. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Martell to approve minutes of the prior meeting. Unanimous.
3. Balance sheets distributed.
4. A letter from Department of Economic and Community Development was read, indicating they were all out of grant funds for this period, thus the Small Business Micro-Enterprise grant would be considered in the next round.
5. A letter from a fund organized seeking donations for Kenneth Trafton of Dexter who lost his farm to a fire was read. It was moved to "pass"; no action taken.
6. An e-mail from Plymouth Engineering was read with revised budget numbers; the preliminary estimate for the School Street project is now \$345,000.00. This is still well above earlier estimates and would necessitate borrowing. Further options are being considered.
7. Latest news from PERC and MRC shared. PERC sent a contract for consideration even after the town vote to go with the Fiberright plan and MRC reported they have a commitment of 68,000 tons of waste to date.
8. The Guilford Community Pride Clean Up Day has been scheduled for May 14th. Once again, a free lunch for the helpers will be provided by the Red Maple Inn.
9. LD 1637, a bill that would have created significant expenses to most central, western and northern Maine towns was successfully turned back last week. This ill-advised legislation purported to make it mandatory that towns maintained all roads on which a postal carrier route existed to the U.S. Postmaster Standard, (which doesn't even exist,) even if previously voted as a closed road. Thankfully, good sense prevailed and our Representative, Paul Stearns, spoke against it in session.
10. Manager showed the artwork for the banners that will adorn the period lamp posts on Elm Street, South Main Street and the Memorial Bridge. Two designs have been ordered as the price break was significant; one for everyday use and one set depicting our Bicentennial Year.
11. The May selectman's meeting date was changed to May 10th as the manager will be out of town on official business attending the National League of Cities Risk Insurance Services

Conference in San Antonio on the regularly scheduled date.

12. Manager presented a comparative table detailing area fire chief's stipends, and contrasted the results with our own figures. A recommendation was made to bring the stipend part of the chief's compensation more in line with others while eliminating the prior practice of double time for OIC. The issue was tabled until the June meeting which would allow time to study the issue in more depth and to investigate the possibilities of "charging for services" when responding to accidents.

13. A red light permit was presented for Matt Blockler and was approved and signed following a motion from Lander, seconded by Martell. Unanimous.

14. Martell moved and Dexter seconded a motion to renew the liquor license for the Red Maple Inn. Unanimous. Chairman Thompson remarked how well they had done improving the place and the difference it has made in the appearance of North Main Street.

15. The sales ratio study results were presented, showing a ratio of 118% which indicates that although our valuations are relatively level, they are still higher than actual selling prices in many cases. There were also significant sales that were below assessed values, indicative of a real estate market that has not yet settled. The preliminary State valuation shows a decrease for 2016 and a noticeable rise in value for 2017.

16. A Contract for continued use of the current ATV access trails along High Street and North Main Streets between the Town and Abbot Explorers ATV Club was discussed, adapted and then adopted following a motion from Lander which was seconded by Martell and carried by unanimous vote.

17. Under Assessor's Issues, one abatement was processed. Chairman Thompson stated that as assessors, they are still responsible to scrutinize the agent's work and be accountable for its product. Lander requested an early spread sheet to assist in their review.

18. No "Other Business".

19. Following a motion from Lander with a second from Martell, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Clerk

Selectmen of Guilford