

TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

February 2, 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, from the planning board and attendees for the bid opening on tax acquired property.
2. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Dexter to approve minutes of the prior meeting. Unanimous.
3. More correspondence from PERC and the MRC was presented for review that included PERC's opinion as to their proven methods and MRC'.
4. A letter from Peter Neal was read, stating that he had moved and was therefore resigning from the Budget Committee and as moderator. Martell moved to accept his resignation with appreciation and regret, requesting a card be sent. Burdin seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.
5. Mayo Hospital sent a letter detailing the town's share of their outstanding debt, and then another clarifying the earlier one, that the former was for information only and not an invoice.
6. A letter from Guilford Memorial Library informed us that Mary McReavy had been appointed Honorary Trustee, after having been a trustee for many years in the past.
7. A letter from Maine Service Center Coalition was read, requesting that we become a dues-paying member. Lander moved to pass over the question, Burdin seconded the motion and no further action was taken.
8. 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. It was again noted that the group continues to meet on the third Monday of each month and that there is plenty of room for more helpers. Check out the Guilford Maine Bicentennial Facebook page for more info.
9. The requested upgrades at the C.H. Lightbody Medical Center were discussed and Christopher Winstead, executive director of PCEDC, (Piscataquis Economic Development Council), offered to research any available grant opportunities. It was determined that we need to act on this soon, but would wait to see if any financial help might be forthcoming.
10. Plymouth Engineering provided an "engineer's estimate" pending receiving an estimate from a contractor, which suggested the School Street Project might cost between \$260,000.00 and 290,000.00. Manager intends to question whether the job can be accomplished in two phases and therefore expensed over two budget years. There are other projects that need to be completed and the budget would not accommodate all we need to accomplish.
11. It was related that the required public hearing was held by MaineDOT on the South Main Street project and the advertising for bids would go out in March of 2017, so the wait continues.

12. Manager informed the board that a decision on which solid waste facility to utilize would need to be made before the next meeting as a warrant article would be required if the MRC plan is favored. It was noted that Mid Maine Solid Waste Association has decided to go with the MRC plan.
13. A discussion on contracting digitized tax maps raised many questions, answered a few, and did not end in any distinct position, so further conversations will be ongoing.
14. Manager showed details of the 2009 Freightliner wheeler the town had purchased from Fort Worth, Texas and stated that Jeff had flown to Dallas Monday and was in route to Maine with it.
15. The 2016 Piscataquis County tax warrant was presented and signed.
16. Christopher Winstead spoke on the need for and economic development benefits of high speed internet or Broadband. He asked if the town would support a County-wide approach to obtaining an assessment grant which would be required before any implementation grant dollars could be sought. Martell moved to support this, Burdin seconded it, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
17. Lou Sidell and Matt Holland of the Planning Board both spoke regarding three proposals; an amendment to the existing Sign Ordinance, a new Holding Tank Ordinance, and a new Property Maintenance Ordinance. A public hearing will be scheduled for February 17th to receive public comment on each of these and "up or down" votes will be taken at the annual town meeting, March 21st.
18. A liquor license renewal was approved for G&D Grill, the lunch counter at Piscataquis Country Club.
19. Bids were opened for the tax acquired property at 5 Summer Street. Five bids were received and the property was awarded to the highest bidder on a motion from Burdin, seconded by Dexter.
20. Four bids were received following a Request for Proposals to audit the town books, as required annually. Dexter moved to award the contract to the low bidder, Burdin seconded his motion, and Ron Beaulieu & Company was selected.
21. The final notice was given to the board for warrant articles.
22. Under Assessor's Issues, two abatements were processed as were two supplements which offset the abatements.
23. Under Other Business, Chris Winstead informed the board he was seeking a micro-business grant from CDBG for a local establishment, and town support would be a requirement. A public hearing and a warrant article would also be necessary. Manager pointed out that the town's capacity would be as fiscal agent and that no financial liabilities would fall to the town. Lander moved, Martell seconded his motion that the town encourage the application and take the necessary steps to assist the effort.
24. Manager presented his annual budget for board review, noting that the taxation increase appeared to be 1.5%, but the appropriations from excise taxes increase 8.5%, too close to actual anticipated revenues. Manager indicated there may be some adjustments prior to the budget meeting, but if any were made, the board would have clear notification.
25. Following a motion from Burdin with a second from Dexter, the meeting was adjourned at 9:56 PM.