

Clarence Cummins, Chairman  
Peter Warner-Vice Chairman  
Tracy Tuttle  
Rose Beckwith  
Gary Poulin

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE RICHMOND BOARD OF SELECTBOARD**  
**TOWN OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**6:00p.m.-SELECTMEN MEETING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2014**

Selectmen: Peter Warner, Clarence Cummins, Rose Beckwith and Gary Poulin.

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

Others: O'Neil Laplante, Michail Griskewitsch, Fred Browne, Town Manager, Marian Anderson; Executive Assistant, Laurisa Loon.

Selectmen Present: Gary Poulin, Peter Warner, Clarence Cummins and Rose Beckwith. Tracy Tuttle absent.

**2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3.0 REQUEST TO APPROVE BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF MARCH 5, 2014**

Selectman Beckwith made a motion to approve the minutes, Selectman Poulin seconded, motion passed (3-0-1) Selectman Warner abstained from voting because he was not present for the entire meeting on March 5, 2014.

**4.0 APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS**

**4.1 Resignation of Scott Schmitz from the New Mills Dam Committee**

Selectman Warner made a motion to accept the resignation of Scott Schmitz from the New Mills Dam Committee, Selectman Beckwith seconded, motion passed (4-0).

**5.0 PUBLIC HEARINGS, PRESENTATION**

**6.0 ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS-UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**6.1 Isaac F. Umberhine Library –Update**

6.1.1 Updated budget figures.

The Town Manager stated that there is a balance of \$2,101.04 remaining in the building reserve budget. The plumber finished today. Gary Poulin is working on the circulation desk.

The Town Manager stated that she had a conversation today with Michail Griskewitsch, Sr., on how we are paying for heat and electricity on the new building. These amounts are being charged to the library's regular operation budget that is passed at town meeting. We do have heat and lights on there now. Selectman Warner added that it has been less than 200 gallons in propane for heat it has been on since December.

The Town Manager added that the Trustees for the library went to Gray to pick up and deliver moving boxes for the library.

Selectman Cummins inquired about what we would be doing for shelving. The Town Manager responded that we have received some grants for shelving, we are waiting to hear from the Bank of Maine. We did not receive the Stephen King or Libra Foundation grant. She believes we have around \$10,000 for furnishings.

Selectman Warner asked if there are there outstanding bills to be paid. The Town Manager responded the amounts have already been subtracted even though they might not be paid.

Selectman Poulin asked when we estimate the grand opening. The Town Manager stated that we are waiting for paving we are not quite sure, maybe May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **7.0 ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS-NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Stipend Position Policy Update**

Selectmen discussion on stipend policy it is the Town Manager recommendation to void these policies since they are governed by the personnel policy, REA Contract and the Budget Process.

The Town Manager stated that she is asking the board to abandon this policy. These stipend pay rates are addressed during the budget process and voted on at town meeting.

Selectman Beckwith made a motion to eliminate the stipend position policy, that addresses the Harbor Master, Summer Recreation Coordinator, Summer League Director, Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, Emergency Management Director, Planning Board Secretary, Animal Control Officer, Selectmen, Budget Committee and Planning Board, as well as the wage scale for the Fire Department, Holding Area Attendant, Public Works Part-time, Administrative Assistant and Reserve Officers based on the fact that these stipends and pays are voted on during the budget process and town meeting, Selectman Warner seconded, motion passed (4-0).

### **7.2 Reconciliations and Review Policy Update**

Selectman Warner inquired if we mail our check register to the bank. It's says the bank will reconcile the statements, if not we should remove this sentence from the policy. The Town Manager would like to further review the policy for accuracy. Selectman Warner asked to table this discussion until the next meeting.

### **7.3 Budget Committee Request-Fred Browne**

Fred Browne is requesting \$200.00 in stipend pay which is half of the Budget Committee Stipend. He feels he is owed the other half of the stipend for work done during the budget process, he attended the meetings and was involved in the process.

The Town Manager stated he was appointed in December 2012 the stipend he received was from January to June which was \$200.00. The budget committee by laws stated you get paid per meeting. You have amended Selectboard member stipends for time served. For example; Michelle Snowden, Dan Dunton and Jennifer Greenleaf. The Town Manager feels he should be paid for time served.

Fred Browne stated that it is an annual stipend, paid in two installments. His argument being that he did the work, he put a lot of time and effort into the process. He was not a member when there is no work being done anyway.

The Town Manager stated there are no minutes for the entire year not just for the six month period. Selectman Warner asked if he took another's seat or was it vacant.

The Town Manager replied that he filled another seat but the person before did not get paid anything because they quit.

Selectman Cummins stated he can see the logic on what you are saying. If we go by precedent we pay for your time served. Selectman Beckwith stated we need to fix the policy on how we pay stipends.

Resident O'Neil Lapante stated the problem with that logic is he could go to the first and last meeting and will make the same amount as the person who goes to every meeting.

Selectman Warner stated that the policy states that any 3 unexcused absences can cause removal from the board. The Town Manager added that they need to amend their bylaws to match what they do. I have problem paying people for time they were not on a committee.

Selectman Warner made a motion that we pay Fred Brown the other \$200 half of the stipend but we need to take a look at the policy and how it's is written the stipend is \$400 annually, you work so many months you get a portion of that stipend.

Selectman Beckwith added that she understands the hours and the budget committee puts in a lot of time and effort, I think he has done his work, they need to look at their bylaws so it agrees with our policy, there was no body on the board beforehand.

The Town Manager added that you are in another fiscal year so it will show the account overdrawn.

Michael Griskewitsch stated it should be paid per meeting.

Selectman Warner stated that there is still a motion on the floor.

Selectman Beckwith seconded the motion, motion failed (2-2).

Selectman Beckwith stated that these board positions are so hard to fill why are we making it so difficult.

Selectman Warner made a motion that we pay Fred Browne \$200 for the remainder of that position and again we review the policy for the future on how to handle these situations, Selectman Beckwith seconded, motion passed (4-0).

#### **7.4 Public Facilities Application-Cobbossee Service Unit-Girl Scouts**

Requesting use of the waterfront on May 1, 2014 from 5:30-8:00p.m. for an adult Girl Scout recognition dinner/ceremony.

Selectman Beckwith made a motion to give permission to the Girl Scouts to use the waterfront park and waive the fee, Selectman Warner asked how much is the fee, the Manager responded \$40.00, Selectman Warner asked if we entertain this request for others, the Town Manager responded yes we do, Selectman Warner seconded, motion passed (4-0).

## **8.0ASSESSOR ITEMS- BUSINESS**

### **7.4 Northern New England Telephone & Operations, LLC-R03-006-T6-Abatement for 2009 Dismissed by the bankruptcy court in 2009 Tax: \$547.49**

### **7.5 Northern New England Telephone & Operations, LLC-U11-005-T-Abatement for 2009 Dismissed by the bankruptcy court in 2009 Tax: \$2.35**

Selectman Beckwith made a motion to approve 7.4 Northern New England Telephone & Operations, LLC., abatement, Selectman Warner asked the motion to be amended to take 7.4 and 7.5 together, Selectman Beckwith accepted the amendment, motion passed (4-0). Selectman Warner made a motion to approve 7.4 and 7.5, Selectman Beckwith seconded, motion passed (4-0).

## **8.0 MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS-ORAL & WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

### **9.1 Public**

O'Neil Lapante wanted to give accolades to Mr. Poulin for the beautiful circulation desk he has built for the library we are fortunate to have him.

Mike Griskewitsch stated that at a recent Comprehensive Planning meeting they discussed the buildings in town what to do with them and advise the selectmen which way to go. Would the town consider buying the Hathorn Block and demolishing the building?

Selectman Warner stated that a member of the Comprehensive Planning committee works for a company that is interested. The Town Manager responded that yes they were interested but they recently backed out.

The Manager stated if the board is interested in exploring this she would do some background research.

Selectman Beckwith stated that there was a huge outcry when the Town purchased the RBMC and Ames Mill buildings. We don't want to go down that road again.

Resident Fred Browne asked what the cost was to demolish the library. The Town Manager responded \$9,000.00

Mike Griskewitsch stated this is happening a lot in Lewiston.

Selectman Warner asked if the owner has been contacted recently. The Town Manager added that someone else inquired to speak with the owner to look at it this week. Selectman Poulin stated that he could look into contacts on salvaging the building materials.

## **9.2 Town Manager**

The Town foreclosed on the property owned by Corinna Perry. She has asked to enter into a land purchase installment agreement, she brought in \$1,000. Selectman Cummins asked what if she faults. The Manager stated that she agreed to pay \$100 month beginning April 2014 with a balloon payment on September 1, 2015. If she doesn't pay we agreed we are not giving up our rights under the tax foreclosure process.

Selectman Warner made a motion to approve the Land Purchase Agreement, Selectman Beckwith seconded, motion passed (4-0).

We are meeting with Clean Harbors on March 27 to nail down a date for the household waste project. We hoped to have dates in May but we are looking at June.

I will be at the Manager Interchange on March 28.

I am off Tuesday March 25.

We have a new Tax Collector Dorothy Seigars.

## **9.3 Selectmen**

Selectman Poulin thanked O'Neil for his kind words but the desk he saw was not for the library but the one he will be building will be even more beautiful, he is also building a wooden podium.

Selectman Warner asked if we have heard from the State on summer projects. The Town Manager replied that there is a link on the towns website that outlines the DOT work for the year.

Selectman Warner inquired about the status of the trailer park. The Town Manager replied that we sent a letter out this week to the owner to enter into a payment arrangement with the Town.

## **9.0 WARRANT**

### **9.1 Request for action regarding all disbursement warrants**

Selectman Beckwith made a motion to approve the warrant, Selectman Poulin seconded, motion passed (4-0).

## **11.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6)(A)-PERSONNEL MATTERS**

Selectman Beckwith made a motion to move into Executive Session, Selectman Warner seconded, motion passed (4-0).