

**TOWN OF TREMONT
REGULAR SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TREMONT COMMUNITY BUILDING
MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2006
5:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The March 27, 2006 Selectmen's Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chairman Scott Grierson.

2. ROLL CALL

Present were Chairman Scott Grierson, Selectmen Charlie Dillon, Heath Higgins, and Kathi Thurston, Town Manager Millard Billings, Recording Secretary Debbi Nickerson, and Town Auditor Kellie Bowden.

Members of the public present were Mark Good – Islander, Heidi Farley, Jennie Gray, Mel Atherton, Amy Murphy, and Laurie Schreiber – Bar Harbor Times.

3. ADJUSTMENTS/ADOPTION OF AGENDA

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of March 13, 2006

Motion made by Selectman Heath Higgins, with second by Selectman Charlie Dillon, to accept the minutes of March 13, 2006. Motion passed by a show of hands 3-0-1. Chairman Scott Grierson abstained – he was not present for the March 13, 2006 meeting.

B. Minutes of March 20, 2006

Selectman Kathi Thurston asked to have page 3 changed to read *Selectman Kathi Thurston asked what is a safe amount to remove from surplus.*

Motion made by Selectman Charlie Dillon, with second by Selectman Heath Higgins, to accept the minutes of March 20, 2006 as revised. Motion passed by a show of hands 3-0-1. Chairman Scott Grierson abstained – he was not present for the March 20, 2006 meeting.

5. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

Warrant 109 \$17,683.98

Warrant 110 264.40

Motion made by Selectman Charlie Dillon, with second by Selectman Heath Higgins, to approve Warrants 109 and 110. Motion passed by a show of hands 4-0.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. UPDATE NEW TOWN OFFICE

Town Manager Millard Billings updated the Selectmen on the new Town Office project. The footings were being poured 3/27 and a ledge was found in the

parking lot area. Town Manager Billings contacted Coastal Blasting and they can come on Wednesday to blast the ledge. The Selectmen agreed to have the ledge blasted. Selectman Charlie Dillon asked about the vault walls. CES has no preference, they were just concerned that if a poured wall was used a poured footing would also be used and it will change how the radiant heat is put in the vault floor.

B. DOG WARRANT

Motion made by Selectman Charlie Dillon, with second by Selectman Heath Higgins, to authorize our Dog Officer to demand of the owners for licensing (see attached Municipal Warrant). Motion passed by a show of hands 4-0.

C. BOARDS & COMMITTEES CONCERNS

Town Manager Millard Billings explained to the Selectmen the Rec Board, Library and Fire Department are concerned that their unspent funds would laps into surplus because at the last Selectman Meeting the Selectmen had voted not to make any decision on carryovers until fall. Jennie Gray, with the Rec Board, voiced their concerns about donations made to the Rec Board or money appropriated by the Town for the Rec Board not being carried forward. She felt that anyone that had given money to the Rec Board had a right to know their money will be used by the Rec Board and not laps into surplus. Selectman Kathi Thurston explained that she felt that money raised at Town Meeting should not be carried forward. She agreed that donations, and any money raised by the Rec Board, should be carried forward. She also felt that Boards should request that donations be put into the reserve account. Chairman Scott Grierson said, "What I don't want to see is Committees not trusting that they are going to have the money that they were granted. Once you get the money for doing something, you ought to be able to do it, weather it takes place now or in six months, and not have to pay attention to which date it falls on or the fiscal year." Selectman Charlie Dillon said he felt the Rec Board, Library and Fire Department were different and should be allowed to carry over their unexpended funds.

Motion made by Selectman Charlie Dillon, with second by Selectman Heath Higgins, to carry the Rec Board's balance forward. Motion passed by a show of hands 4-0.

Motion made by Selectman Charlie Dillon, with second by Selectman Heath Higgins, to carry the Library balances forward. Motion passed by a show of hands 4-0.

Motion made by Selectman Charlie Dillon, with second by Chairman Scott Grierson, to carry the Fire Department's balance forward. Motion passed by a show of hands 3-0-1. Selectman Heath Higgins abstained – he is a member of the Fire Department, Selectman Kathi Thurston also abstained – but her abstention was not a legal abstention and was counted in the affirmative.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. ANNUAL BUDGET

Kellie Bowden, the Town's Auditor, said the Undesignated Funds Balance at the end of 2005 Fiscal Year was \$939,000.00 and it should be at least 10% to 12% of the Total Budgeted Expenses. As of June 30, 2005 that amount would have been between \$389,000 and \$467,000. Town Manager Millard Billings asked if the Auditor's would be upset if the town kept 15%. She assured him the Auditor's would get upset if there was less the 10%. Town Manager Millard Billings explained to the Selectmen with the new LD1, the Town's Municipal Appropriations for FY 2006 should not go lower then the Town's Municipal Appropriations for FY 2005.

Motion made by Selectman Kathi Thurston, with second by Selectman Heath Higgins, to go into executive session for personnel matters pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(A) to discuss wages.

Mark Good, with the Islander, voiced abjection to the Selectmen going into executive session. He felt the Selectmen need to state what position or person they are going to discuss. Motion passed by a show of hands 4-0. The Selectmen went into executive session at 6:15 pm.

Motion made by Selectman Charlie Dillon, with second by Selectman Heath Higgins, to come out of executive session at 6:30. Motion passed by a show of hands 4-0. The Selectmen came out of executive session at 6:30 pm.

Motion made by Selectman Charlie Dillon, with second by Selectman Heath Higgins, to accept the General Administration Wages and Benefits of \$259,573. Motion passed by a show of hands 4-0.

Motion made by Selectman Charlie Dillon, with second by Selectman Heath Higgins, to accept the Benefits at \$122,830.00 Motion passed by a show of hands 4-0.

Town Manager Millard Billings talked to the Selectmen about the following things under Office Operations; moving the Abatements into their own category and a change in legal fees because of the \$5,000.00 added for the Planning Board Legal Fees. Norumbega has given an estimate of \$1,500.00 if we pack and unpack everything. Norumbega suggested we contract the copier company to move the copiers. Town Manager Billings offered to set up a new account under Office Operations for Moving Expenses.

Motion made by Selectman Charlie Dillon, with second by Selectman Heath Higgins, to accept Office Operations of \$84,800.00 Motion passed by a show of hands 4-0.

Town Manager Billings asked what the \$250.00 in Audit under Insurance was and Selectman Kathi Thurston said it was for the Workman Comp Audit. The Selectmen agreed to remove the \$250.00 from Insurance.

Motion made by Selectman Charlie Dillon, with second by Selectman Heath Higgins, \$19,000.00 for Insurances. Motion passed by a show of hands 4-0.

Motion made by Selectman Charlie Dillon, with second by Selectman Heath Higgins, to approve the Budget Request \$10,000.00 for Abatements. Motion passed by a show of hands 4-0.

Motion made by Selectman Charlie Dillon, with second by Selectman Heath Higgins, the Budget Request of \$61,000.00 for the Town Purchases be approved. Motion passed by a show of hands 4-0.

The Selectmen approved of the changes to the Warrant Articles Town Manager Billings proposed.

Motion made by Selectman Charlie Dillon, with second by Selectman Heath Higgins, to recommend \$2,219,351.00 for the School Budget. Motion passed by a show of hands 4-0.

Selectman Kathi Thurston noticed the Municipal Year needed to be changed to 2007 on Article 14.

Motion made by Selectman Heath Higgins, with second by Selectman Charlie Dillon, to recommend passage of Article 14 (the commitment) as amended. Motion passed by a show of hands 4-0.

Motion made by Selectman Heath Higgins, with second by Selectman Kathi Thurston, recommend passage (to sell or convey any real estate acquired by the Town under expired tax liens). Motion passed by a show of hands 4-0.

Motion made by Selectman Heath Higgins, with second by Selectman Kathi Thurston, to recommend passage of Article 16 (to accept and expend money from Federal, State, other governmental units or private sources). Motion passed by a show of hands 4-0.

Motion made by Selectman Heath Higgins, with second by Selectman Kathi Thurston, to recommend passage (to have unexpended balances and overdrafts in the Town accounts laps to surplus). Motion passed by a show of hands 4-0.

Motion made by Selectman Heath Higgins, with second by Selectman Kathi Thurston, to recommend passage (to establish a scale of wages for all Town employees). Motion passed by a show of hands 4-0.

Motion made by Selectman Heath Higgins, with second by Selectman Kathi Thurston, to recommend passage (to lease the Alewife Fishway). Motion passed by a show of hands 4-0.

8. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Aerial Survey has provided Tom Benson with a single photograph for the Sawyers Island area, suitable for his needs. He has come up roughly with 10.1 acres around the Island.

B. Letters were written and hand delivered to Doug Gott & Sons and John Goodwin Jr. explaining that the Snowplow bids had been rejected. New bid packets were given to each for April 3, 2006 bid date. A new ad was sent to the newspapers. The bid packet language was updated as approved by the Select Board. The Warrant Committee will meet on the 3rd to make their recommendation.

C. Other

There is a Public Hearing for renewal of a Liquor License for Fair Oaks, DiVirgillio.

The Town Manager received a letter from a "Concerned Citizen". The Selectmen felt they could not act on an anonymous letter.

9. SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING

Finish the Budget. The dead line is April 3rd.

10. OTHER

Selectman Kathi Thurston asked when the Bass Harbor floats would be going in. Town Manager Millard Billings explained the bulk head has deteriorated and needs to be replaced. He is trying to get an answer from DOT when they will correct the problem.

11. SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

April 3, 2006

12. ADJOURN

Motion made by Selectman Charlie Dillon, with second by Selectman Heath Higgins, to adjourn. The Selectmen adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbi Nickerson

Scott Grierson

Katharine Thurston

Heath Higgins

Charlie Dillon