

**TOWN OF TREMONT
REGULAR SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TREMONT TOWN OFFICE
MEETING ROOM
MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2007
6:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Monday, August 20, 2007 Selectmen Meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Grierson at 6:00 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present were Chairman Scott Grierson, Selectmen Heath Higgins, Kathi Thurston, Chris Eaton, and Lester Closson, Town Manager Millard Billings, and Recording Secretary Debbi Nickerson.

Members of the public present were Steve Carter, Kellie Reed – Carter, Mark Good – Islander, Joe Keeney, Jim Keene, Kevin Langley, Mel Atherton, Frank Gray, Wayne Patton, Howard Goodwin, Dottie Mosenteen, Tim Butler, Nancy Butler, George Carter, Laurie Schreiber – Bar Harbor Times, George Urbanneck, and Sheridan Steele.

3. ADJUSTMENTS/ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion made by Selectman Heath Higgins, with second by Selectman Kathi Thurston, to switch D & E. Motion passed 5 – 0.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. JULY 2, 2007

Motion made by Selectman Heath Higgins, with second by Selectmen Chris Eaton, to approve the minutes as written. Motion passed 5 – 0.

B. JULY 16, 2007

Motion made by Selectman Heath Higgins, with second by Selectman Chris Eaton, to approve the minutes of July 16th. Motion passed 5 – 0.

C. AUGUST 6, 2007

Motion made by Selectman Heath Higgins, with second by Selectman Chris Eaton, to approve the minutes of August 6th. Motion passed 5 – 0.

D. AUGUST 9, 2007

Selectman Kathi Thurston, who was not at the meeting, asked about the Selectmen deciding that attending School Regional Planning Committee meetings as a Selectman's function. Chairman Scott Grierson and Selectman Chris Eaton explained that the Selectman agreed to make that meeting a Selectman's function. Chairman Scott Grierson asked to have "Mr. Fudge agreed to the use . . ." changed to "Mr. Fudge did not object to the use . . ."

Motion made by Selectman Heath Higgins, with second by Selectman Chris Eaton, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion passed 4 – 0 – 1. Selectman Kathi Thurston abstained; she was not present at the meeting.

5. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

| | |
|------------|------------|
| Warrant 15 | 20,784.47 |
| Warrant 16 | 17,670.99 |
| Warrant 17 | 102,470.39 |
| Warrant 18 | 5,716.02 |
| Warrant 19 | 458.65 |
| Warrant 20 | 5,340.59 |
| Warrant 21 | 14,664.61 |
| Warrant 22 | 2,755.16 |

Motion made by Selectman Heath Higgins, with second by Selectman Kathi Thurston, to approve Warrants 15 – 22. Motion passed 5 – 0.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

The Acadia National Park representative explained the new fee signs are to help visitors know when they are entering the Park. Congress sets the fees and how they will be collected and the representatives said they have no control of that aspect. What they do have control over is the fact that they are not, currently, issuing citations to anyone using the park who has not paid the fee. The Select Board expressed their concerns as well as the residents present. The Acadia National Park representative suggested selling the park half price passes at the Tremont Town Office.

B. MEETING WITH THE COMP PLAN COMMITTEE

The Comprehensive Plan Committee asked for Selectman participation. Selectmen Kathi Thurston and Chris Eaton agreed to be on the committee.

C. CITIZENS PROPERTY TAX CONCERNS

Tremont residents George Carter and Dottie Mosenteen expressed doubt that their property was assessed adequately. They were advised how to appeal their Property Tax. Howard Goodwin was also advised to contact the Assessor to begin the appeal process.

D. AGENDA ITEM 6. E. DISCUSSION OF SEAL COVE RAMP

Town Manager Millard Billings explained the Harbor Committee recommends rejecting all bids and asking the contractors to submit design proposals and completion costs to be considered at a joint meeting on August 27, 2007.

Motion made by Selectman Heath Higgins, with second by Selectman Chris Eaton, to reject all bids submitted on the August 6th bid date. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Motion made by Selectman Heath Higgins, with second by Selectman Chris Eaton, that the Select Board approve the Town Manager to contact the contractors from the last bid process and ask them to submit design proposal and cost to complete the project to the Selectmen and the Harbor Committee for their review and consideration at a joint meeting on August 27th. Motion passed 5 – 0.

E. AGENDA ITEM 6. D. REVIEW BIDS FOR SALT/SAND SHED

Bids were opened at 4:00 pm August 20, 2007. Four bids were submitted:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| John Goodwin Jr. | \$205,197.00 |
| R F Jordan & Sons | 208,645.80 |
| Cadillac Builders | 195,678.94 |
| David Trask & Sons | 154,830.00 |

However, David Trask & Sons bid does not contain information on the asphalt and it does contain \$1,500.00 for rock removal (see attached).

Motion made by Selectman Heath Higgins, with second by Selectman Chris Eaton, to award the bid to David Trask & Sons for \$153,530.00 (\$154,830.00 - \$1,500.00), less the \$1,500.00 for moving the rocks, contingent upon them accepting that. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Motion made by Selectman Heath Higgins, with second by Selectman Kathi Thurston, to revisit the vote the Selectmen just took. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Motion made by Selectman Heath Higgins, with second by Chairman Scott Grierson, to invite David Trask to the next Selectmen's Meeting with his credentials. Motion passed 5 – 0.

F. UPDATE NEW TOWN OFFICE

Town Manager Millard Billings updated the Selectmen on all the town office projects.

1. Flag pole is completed.
2. Still waiting to hear from Sign Services about the new sign.
3. The propane is hooked up to the generator. Now we need training.
4. Todd Brophy has finished striping the Parking Lot.
5. Locking Well Caps are installed at the office and the school.

G. RESIGNATION

Town Manager Millard Billings sent a letter to Arnold Weisenburg regarding his desire to serve on the Comprehensive Plan Committee, but the State of Maine does not allow non-citizens to serve on committees (see attached).

H. APPOINTMENTS

Alden Gray has expressed his desire to serve on the Planning Board for the duration of his appointment.

The Selectmen asked to have Geoffrey Young notified that there are no positions available on the Planning Board at this time.

Motion made by Selectman Heath Higgins, with second by Selectman Chris Eaton, to appoint Kathi Thurston to the Comprehensive Plan Committee for a 3 year term. Motion passed 4 – 0 – 1. Selectman Kathi Thurston abstained.

Motion made by Selectman Heath Higgins, with second by Selectman Kathi Thurston, to appoint Chris Eaton to the Comprehensive Plan Committee for a 3 year term. Motion passed 4 – 0 – 1. Selectman Chris Eaton abstained.

I. POLICIES

Maine Municipal Association said without a written policy regarding who may call a Selectmen's Meeting and complying with notice requirements, Special Selectmen Meetings may only be scheduled during a session of a Regular Meeting.

The Selectmen chose not to amend their policies.

7. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. A certified letter was sent to Cap'n Nemo's requesting their presence at tonight's meeting (see attached). Mrs. Cousins called Town Manager Billings to ask him to explain to the Select Board they would not be available and to please include them on the agenda for September 10, 2007. Steve and Kelley Carter expressed their disappointment the Cousins were not at this meeting. After a lengthy discussion, the Selectmen asked to have Cap'n Nemo included on the agenda for the August 27, 2007 meeting.

2. The 3 way stop signs have been installed at Bernard, Steamboat Wharf and Rice Roads.

3. Complaints about parking on both sides of Steamboat Wharf Rd (see attached). Town Manager's Millard Billings' pickup just fit on the road between two lines of cars. Town Manager Billings is requesting to make parking only on the left side of road from top of hill to the end of the road.

Motion made by Selectman Lester Closson, with second by Selectman Heath Higgins, to put "No Parking" signs down the right hand side as your heading toward the water and up by the stop sign. Motion passed 5 – 0.

4. According to Nortrack, the town can rent a John Deere 120 Excavator with a thumb, to move the pile of rocks on the proposed site of the Salt/Sand Shed, for \$3,900.00 per month.

5. The approved FY 2007 carryovers have been completed. Town Manager Millard Billings asked to have some additional carryovers (see attached).

Motion made by Selectman Chris Eaton, with second by Selectman Heath Higgins, to carry over \$29,076.63 from Public Works. Motion passed 4 – 1. Selectman Lester Closson was apposed.

Motion made by Selectman Heath Higgins, with second by Chairman Scott Grierson, to carry over \$58,743.35 in Wages and Benefits.

Motion made by Selectman Heath Higgins, with second by Chairman Scott Grierson, to withdraw the motion.

Motion made by Selectman Heath Higgins, with second by Selectman Chris Eaton, to table this until the 27th when the Town Manager can bring more information. Motion passed 5 – 0.

The carryovers in their entirety are tabled until a later date.

6. Town Manager Millard Billings asked the Selectmen to abate \$19.19 from FY 2007 and FY 2006 Personal Property Tax (see attached).

Motion made by Selectman Heath Higgins, with second by Selectman Chris Eaton, to authorize the abatement of \$19.19. Motion passed 5 – 0.

7. The Town of Tremont received a notice from MDI Port-a-potties that as of August 1st the monthly charge would increase to \$92.00 per portable toilet (see attached). Town Manager Billings wrote a letter, dated August 8, 2007, reminding them they have a contract with the town for \$45.00 per portable toilet (see attached). MDI Port-a-potties apologized for any confusion created by a bulk mailing and assured Mr. Billings they intend to honor their contract with the town.
8. The IRS penalties were for late payment of town employee withholding for the week of 12/23/2006 which were not paid until 12/29/2006 and the school's for the week of 12/23/2006 was not paid until 1/17/2007. The office moved during that week in December.
9. MMA's has sent its annual election of officers. Town Manager Billings did not know any of the candidates. The Selectmen chose not to take any action.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY

Nothing to report.

B. ACCESS ROAD

At the Special Selectmen's Meeting of August 9th the Fudges agreed to have a survey done of their property to locate the rear property line and the town would decide how much more property would be needed for the new access road. A swap would be arranged where Mr. and Mrs. Fudge would give the town the needed property and cash in exchange for an agreed upon parcel of town property. Town Manager Millard Billings stressed a town meeting was in order to swap any property.

C. CABLE/INTERNET ACCESS

Town Manager Millard Billings and a Time Warner Representative road around town looking at where cable access is and where residents would like to see it expanded. Mr. Billings discovered the section of the Cape Rd. that wants cable does not qualify and Bass Harbor Woods Rd. needs three more houses. Time Warner will be sending a representative to wire the town office.
The Selectmen will investigate wireless internet service.

9. SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING

None

10. OTHER

Town Manager Billings gave the Selectmen pictures of Mt. Desert's recycling bins/structures. The Selectmen tossed around ideas for recycling. Selectman Heath Higgins asked to have some fire maps delivered to Gott's Island. Town Manager Billings suggested either the Harbormaster Stewart Murphy or Public Works Jimmy Schlaefer.

Harbormaster Stewart Murphy and Town Manager Billings opened a discussion about several boats that were tied up at the town wharf, which made it impossible for an elderly couple to disembark. Selectman Kathi Thurston was present during the incident and expressed her concern for the Gott's Island residents. The Selectmen had suggestions to make the wharf friendlier to older residents, but they involved Harbormaster Murphy, who explained he would not be able to police those suggestions. The town wharf is used much more than the designers ever envisioned and it may be time to consider building another dock for pleasure only. Frank Gray said the Monument Committee would like curbing around the new Veterans Monument and asked if Public Works could install it. Town Manager Millard Billings agreed to schedule the project.

11. SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

August 27, 2007

12. ADJOURN

Motion made by Selectman Heath Higgins, with second by Selectman Kathi Thurston, to adjourn. Motion passed 5 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbi Nickerson
Recording Secretary

Scott Grierson

Heath Higgins

Katharine Thurston

Chris Eaton

Lester Closson