

TOWN OF TREMONT  
REGULAR SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TREMONT TOWN OFFICE  
MEETING ROOM  
MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2008  
6 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Regular Selectmen's meeting of Monday, January 7, 2008 was called to order at 6:01 PM by Chairman Scott Grierson.

2. ROLL CALL

Chairman Scott Grierson, Selectmen Heath Higgins, Kathi Thurston, Chris Eaton, Lester Closson, Town Manager Millard Billings and Recording Secretary Heidi Farley.

Members of the public present were: Mark Good from the Mount Desert Islander, Laurie Schrieber from the Bar Harbor Times and resident Linda Lord.

3. ADJUSTMENTS/ADOPTION OF AGENDA

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Scott Grierson noticed that the word "State" on page 4, paragraph 2, and line 3 under Acquisition of property should be "estate".

**MOTION BY** Selectman Heath Higgins to approve minutes of December 17, 2007 as amended, seconded by Selectman Chris Eaton. Motion passed 5-0.

5. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

#75	6,600.10
#76	620.51
#77	700.00
#78	6,721.14
#79	15,798.90
#80	5,783.04
#81	49,999.87
#82	178,637.19

Town Manager Millard Billings explained that one of the warrants was for the Town to purchase a hydraulic press from Kim Strauss which should help with getting the plow trucks back out as soon as possible after a breakdown.

Selectman Kathi Thurston asked why the wharf payment came out of contingency. Town Manager Millard Billings agreed that it should come out of wharf and will have bookkeeper Debbi Nickerson do a journal entry to fix it.

**MOTION** by Selectman Heath Higgins to approve warrants 75-82, seconded by Selectman Chris Eaton. Motion passed 5-0.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. REVIEW AND ACT ON SALT/SAND SHED ELECTRICITY BIDS

STANLEY ELECTRIC	Overhead	\$9,920.00
	Underground	\$10,520.00

DOWNEAST ELECTRIC	Overhead	\$11,780.00
	Underground	\$11,310.00

**MOTION** by Selectman Heath Higgins to award the Salt/Sand underground installation bid to Stanley Electric, seconded by Selectman Chris Eaton. Motion passed 5-0.

B. REVIEW AND ACT ON WINTER SAND BIDS

DOUG GOTT & SONS	\$5,245.00
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JOHN GOODWIN JR	\$4,490.00
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HAROLD MACQUINN	\$4,600.00
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IRVING WILBUR & SON	\$7,115.00
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K.J. DUGAS CONSTRUCTION INC	\$5,985.00
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**MOTION** by Selectman Heath Higgins to award the winter sand bid to John Goodwin Jr. for \$4490.00 for 500 yards, seconded by Selectman Kathi Thurston. Motion passed 5-0.

**MOTION** by Selectman Heath Higgins to give Town Manager Millard Billings authorization to purchase up to 500 yards more at the same price of \$8.98 per yard, seconded by Selectman Kathi Thurston. Motion passed 5-0.

C. UPDATE ONGOING PROJECTS

1. TOWN OFFICE

Downstairs door is broken. Town Manager Millard Billings has called Associated Builders to come fix it.

Chairman Scott Grierson would like to see the difference in operating budgets from the old Town Office and the new Town Office.

2. SALT/SAND BUILDING

Sand has been moved from the lot to inside the building, except for the last foot of sand which needs to be screened after it dries out.

A six inch gravel screen with a 2 inch mesh overlay has been purchased at Landsco in Brewer. Public Works was able to pick it up on our equipment trailer.

3. SEAL COVE RAMP

Nothing new.

4. PLOWING AND SANDING

The F450 sander has had a problem with the sander spinner. The spinner has been replaced.

Top kick fan belt that Varney GMC said was the right one did not fit. A new belt was ordered at NAPA and has been installed.

A replacement part for the Durst gear box on the top kick has arrived and is now installed.

The repair bills for parts and labor are not excessive but the down time for the equipment is what is more critical.

There were only five days in December when there was not a Public Works truck on the road either plowing or sanding or both.

5. SEAL COVE FISHWAY

Nothing new.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY

Chairman Scott Grierson read aloud the last paragraph of a letter from Acadia Wildlife Foundation (see attached). The Select Board agreed that they would be happy to talk with the Acadia Wildlife Foundation if they would like to come to a Selectman meeting. The Towns position remains that the Hinton Estate has been settled.

B. ACCESS ROAD

Town Manager Millard Billings had nothing new to report.

Chairman Scott Grierson said that he had met socially with the Fudges and that they are only selling their house and do not want to sell the abutting lot to us.

C. CABLE/INTERNET ACCESS

Nothing new.

8. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Second quarter reports will be available for the Board to review until the January 21 meeting when quarterly reports will be on the agenda for discussion.
2. Third party request forms and request forms for Boards and Committees should be returned by the end of the month.
3. There has been discussion about buying more used State trucks if they become available. Town Manager Millard Billings would recommend buying one to put in service and one for parts if the price for both is under \$15,000.00. He will continue to monitor auctions.
4. Town Manager Millard Billings suggested to the Select Board that Chris Eaton be compensated for his work as winter storm coordinator. This could be accomplished if the Board would consider each storm event as a Selectman's meeting that Selectman Chris Eaton is attending as a Selectman. The time and effort that Chris has put into going out in the middle of the night to check road conditions and helping drivers that are in trouble should be compensated.

Resident Linda Lord was concerned that money should be set aside for this at Town Meeting. Chairman Scott Grierson explained that as a Selectman you can't create a job and then pay yourself.

Town Manager Millard Billings said that Chris Eaton is performing a duty as a Selectman and should be compensated as such.

Selectmen will clean up the article in the warrant concerning Selectmen's compensation for Town Meeting.

**MOTION** by Selectman Heath Higgins to compensate Selectman Chris Eaton as winter storm coordinator by considering each storm event as a Selectman's meeting that Selectman Chris Eaton is attending, seconded by Selectman Kathi Thurston. Motion passed 4-0-1. Selectman Chris Eaton abstained.

Selectman Heath Higgins asked if Chris Eaton was covered under the Town Insurance if something were to happen. Town Manager Millard Billings said as long as he is compensated he is covered. Selectman Heath Higgins also said that everyone is very happy with the job Chris Eaton has been doing, he is very much appreciated.

5. OTHER

Town Manager Millard Billings informed the Selectmen that he is going to start having bids close on Wednesdays instead of Mondays to give the Selectmen more time to look them over before making a decision. Town Manager Millard Billings also reported that he had a meeting with Michelle Marks, Chairman of the Library, and Carrie Donovan, former Chairman, and everything is resolved and they came to an understanding.

9. SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING

Chairman Scott Grierson would like to discuss the future of the Town and would like to see the CIP Committee get together. Town Manager Millard Billings said Ben Harper is the only person left on the Committee and he will get in touch with him.

Selectman Kathi Thurston said that the Comp Plan Committee is putting together a questionnaire to be sent to everyone in the Town. Chairman Scott Grierson asked "can the Selectmen could have in on it?" Selectman Kathi Thurston said that she will bring in a draft for the Selectmen to review.

10. OTHER

Selectman Heath Higgins asked if the Steam Washer was fixed yet. Town Manager Millard Billings said yes, it will be picked up tomorrow.

11. SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

January 21, 2008

12. ADJOURN

**MOTION** by Selectman Heath Higgins to adjourn meeting at 6:48 pm, seconded by Selectman Chris Eaton. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted  
Heidi Farley

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Scott Grierson

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Heath Higgins

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Kathi Thurston

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Chris Eaton

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Lester Closson