

**TOWN OF TREMONT
REGULAR SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TREMONT TOWN OFFICE
MEETING ROOM
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2008
6:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Charlie Dillon called the Regular Selectmen's Meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Members of the public present were Mark Good – Islander, Mel Atherton, Laurie Schreiber – Bar Harbor Times, Tony Beardsley – Town Attorney, Henry Thebaud, and Gary Geaghan – Town Assessor.

3. ADJUSTMENTS/ADOPTION OF AGENDA

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2008

Motion made by Selectman Scott Grierson, with second by Selectman Chris Eaton, to approve the minutes of September 8th as written. Motion passed 5 - 0.

B. MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

Selectman Chris Eaton asked to have "Public Haring" changed to "Public Hearing".

Motion made by Selectman Chris Eaton, with second by Selectman Kathi Thurston, to approve the minutes of September 15th as amended. Motion passed 4 - 0 - 1. Selectman Scott Grierson was not at the meeting.

5. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

Motion made by Selectman Scott Grierson, with second by Selectman Chris Eaton, to approve Warrants 28 – 35. Motion passed 5 - 0.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. HARBOR SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

The Selectmen discussed the Harbor Committees recommendation to install 3 additional surveillance cameras on the Town Wharf (see attached). The cameras would be concentrated on Town property and the Harbor Committee is not recommending live video streaming on the web. The recording system would be superior to what is at the Wharf now. Lobsters, fuel, and other personal property have been stolen from the Harbor and Wharf. These cameras would be a

deterrent, and the system would be purchased with Harbor proceeds, not property tax dollars.

Motion made by Selectman Chris Eaton, with second by Selectman Lester Closson, to approve the Harbor Committee's recommendation to install 3 additional cameras for \$6,499. Motion passed 4 – 1. Selectman Scott Grierson was opposed.

B. CES REPORT RICH CEMETERY

Town Manager Millard Billings showed the Selectmen CES' proposal for 16 lots in Rich Cemetery (see attached). Fernald Funeral Home used a probe to determine no one was buried in the lots.

Motion made by Selectman Scott Grierson, with second by Selectman Chris Eaton, to approve the 16 burial lots at the Rich Cemetery according to the CES plan. Motion passed 5 - 0.

C. SCHOOL REFERENDUM

The Town needs to have a Special Town Meeting to approve the School Referendum (see attached Warrant) which the School Board has approved. The Selectmen asked to have their recommendation for passage added.

Motion made by Selectman Chris Eaton, with second by Selectman Kathi Thurston, to approve the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting. Motion passed 4 – 1. Selectman Scott Grierson was opposed.

D. FUNERIAL HOME REQUEST

Acadia Burial & Cremation Direct sent a letter to Town Manager Millard Billings requesting payment for the cremation of a Town resident (see attached). The Selectmen asked Town Manager Billings to check with other towns to see how they handled this issue as well as contact MMA to see what their advice is.

Motion made by Selectman Chris Eaton, with second by Selectman Lester Closson, to table it until pending further investigation/information. Motion passed 5 - 0.

E. PAVING PROJECTS

Town Manager Millard Billings contacted Lane Construction Corp. and asked what they would charge to pave the entire lot by the Salt/Sand Shed or just in front of the building (see attached). Town Manager Millard Billings recommended waiting until spring in the hope the price would be less.

Motion made by Selectman Scott Grierson, with second by Selectman Chris Eaton, to put the paving project off until spring. Motion passed 5 - 0.

F. RESIGNATIONS

Linda Lord has resigned from the Bass Harbor Memorial Library Board of Trustees (see attached).

Motion made by Selectman Scott Grierson, with second by Selectman Chris Eaton, to accept Linda Lord's resignation from the Library Board of Trustees. Motion passed 5 - 0.

G. APPOINTMENTS

Lisa Murray has submitted a request to be on the Library's Board of Trustees (see attached).

Motion made by Selectman Chris Eaton, with second by Selectman Lester Closson, to appoint Lisa Murray to the Library Board of Trustees for a three year term. Motion passed 5 - 0.

Selectman Chris Eaton excused himself at 7:06 pm.

H. MMA BALLOT

MMA has requested municipal officers designate their municipality's voting representative and alternate for the MMA Annual Business Meeting (see attached).

Motion made by Selectman Scott Grierson, with second by Selectman Lester Closson, to appoint Millard as our designated representative for the MMA Annual Business Meeting. Motion passed 4 - 0.

Motion made by Selectman Scott Grierson, with second by Chairman Charlie Dillon, to push I. to after 10 on the agenda. Motion passed 4 - 0.

Selectman Chris Eaton returned at 7:09 pm.

Motion made by Selectman Scott Grierson, with second by Chairman Charlie Dillon, to move to 10. Other. Motion passed 5 - 0.

7. AGENDA ITEM 10. OTHER

Resident Henry Thebaud requested a speed limit sign be replaced on Harbor Dr. near Flat Iron Rd. Town Manager Millard Billings agreed to contact DOT to replace the sign. Resident Mel Atherton asked to have the speed limit sign replaced by Pointy Head.

Chairman Charlie Dillon requested Sheriff coverage in the morning.

Resident Mel Atherton asked if the Board of Appeals had jurisdiction over Assessment issues. Town Manager Millard Billings explained the Board of Appeals acts as the Board of Assessment Review. Any resident that requests an abatement from the Assessor and is unhappy with the Assessor's decision has the right to file an appeal with the Board.

A resident approached Selectman Scott Grierson with concerns that some one has cut and stacked trees on the town's property on Ann's Point. Town Manager Millard Billings agreed to investigate.

Selectman Kathi Thurston requested that Agenda item 10 be left open for later discussion.

8. AGENDA ITEM 7. OLD BUSINESS

A. REPORT OF ONGOING PROJECTS

1. NEW TOWN OFFICE

Brookside Technologies has installed the equipment for the meeting room and this meeting is being taped on the new system.

2. FLAT IRON RD.

The County Commissioners require a written petition from the Select Board. Town Attorney Chad Smith is drafting the petition. After the Commissioners receive the petition, they will hold a Public Hearing and conduct a site visit before rendering their decision at one of their regular meetings.

3. SEAL COVE FISHWAY

Nothing new to report.

B. REPORT OF PENDING PROJECTS

1. ACQUISITION OF REAL ESTATE

Town Manager Millard Billings has written letters to the land owners and mortgage holders that were found.

2. ACCESS ROAD

Nothing new to report.

3. INTERNET EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE

Nothing new to report.

9. AGENDA ITEM 8. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

A. William "Chopper" Young was at Seal Cove on Monday, September 22, for a visit with family, after winning the National Oyster Shucking Championship. He is leaving for Ireland to compete in the World Oyster Shucking Championship.

B. MMA convention is October 8th and 9th this year.

C. October 13th is the Columbus Day Holiday and Town Manager Millard Billings will be taking that entire week off for moose hunting.

10. AGENDA ITEM 9. SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING

Selectman Lester Closson would like to invite Nemo's to the next meeting for a follow-up. The Selectmen asked Town Manager Millard Billings to do the follow-up.

11. POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH ATTORNEY TO DISCUSS DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD – LEGAL PROBLEM

The Selectmen chose not to go into executive session. They will not be taking any action on the matter as advised by Attorney Beardsley. Chairman Charlie Dillon polled the Selectmen and they agreed not to go into executive session and not discuss the issue any further. Selectman Kathi Thurston asked to be able to ask a couple questions. Chairman Charlie Dillon agreed to allow her to ask her questions, but anyone else who had some could ask them after she was done. Selectman Kathi Thurston agreed to this. She felt a Reporter had advance knowledge from a Selectman of the executive session before the last meeting and in her opinion that behavior is unethical. She then went on to explain that Ram Island is too small to develop and the valuation was based on that and that only. Selectman Scott Grierson then asked why there are signed applications from her and the other property owners declaring that they do have conservation easements. Town Assessor Gary Geaghan

explained he did not assess Ram Island as “Open Space”, but on its size, accessibility and the restrictions placed on the island by the owners. Selectman Scott Grierson asked Attorney Tony Beardsley if there was an Open Space Application. Attorney Beardsley responded that the town had received an Open Space Application, but it was never accepted by the Tax Assessor.

12. AGENDA ITEM 6. NEW BUSINESS I. EXTEND SEARCH FOR ASSESSOR/CEO
Town Manager Millard Billings requested holding open the search for an Assessor/CEO from September 15th to November 1st.

Motion made by Selectman Scott Grierson, with second by Selectman Chris Eaton, to keep the process open until November 1st. Motion passed 5 - 0.

Motion made by Selectman Chris Eaton, with second by Selectman Lester Closson, to hire Gary Geaghan to November 1st. Motion passed 3 – 1 – 1. Selectman Scott Grierson was opposed. Selectman Kathi Thurston abstained; she is employed by Gary Geaghan in another town.

13. AGENDA ITEM 12. SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING
October 20, 2008

14. AGENDA ITEM 13. ADJOURN

Motion made by Selectman Chris Eaton, with second by Selectman Scott Grierson, to adjourn. Motion passed 5 - 0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbi Nickerson
Recording Secretary

Charlie Dillon

Scott Grierson

Katharine Thurston

Chris Eaton

Lester Closson