

**TOWN OF TREMONT
REGULAR SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TREMONT TOWN OFFICE
MEETING ROOM
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2009
5:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Scott Grierson called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present were Vice Chairman Scott Grierson, Selectmen Chris Eaton, Lester Closson, Selectman Kathi Thurston arrived at 5:03 pm, Town Manager Millard Billings, Recording Secretary Debbi Nickerson.

Members of the public present Lee Closson, Mark Good – Islander, Mike Ryan – Harbor Committee, Robert Rummer Jr., Art Paine – Harbor Committee, Glendon Stanley, and Laurie Schreiber – Bar Harbor Times.

3. ADJUSTMENTS/ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Town Manager Millard Billings explained that the applicant requested removing 6. B. Request to Discuss Boundary Line Agreement from the Agenda tonight and discussing it at the next meeting. The Selectmen agreed.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2, 2009

Motion made by Selectman Chris Eaton, with second by Selectman Lester Closson, to approve the minutes of February 2, 2009. Town Manager Millard Billings asked to have Harbor Committee removed after George Urbanneck. The Selectmen agreed Mr. Urbanneck is not a member of the Harbor Committee. Motion passed 5 - 0.

B. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2009

Motion made by Selectman Chris Eaton, with second by Selectman Lester Closson, to table the minutes of February 6, 2009 until [the arrival time of the Selectmen] is investigated. Motion passed 5 - 0.

5. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

Warrant 84	\$6,900.93
Warrant 85	6,829.15
Warrant 86	5,719.25

Warrant 87	1,461.21
Warrant 88	3,252.00
Warrant 89	62,856.48
Warrant 90	6,436.61

Motion made by Selectman Chris Eaton, with second by Selectman Lester Closson, to approve Warrants 84, and 86 through 90. Motion passed 4 - 0.

Motion made by Selectman Kathi Thurston, with second by Lester Closson, to approve Warrant 85. Motion passed 3 – 0 – 1. Selectman Chris Eaton abstained; he had a payroll check on Warrant 85.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. HARBOR COMMITTEE'S HARBOR MASTER RECOMMENDATIONS

1. APPOINT HARBOR MASTER

The Harbor Committee has advertised the position of Harbor Master from December 11, 2008 through January 22, 2009. The job search ended on January 30, 2009 with fifteen applications having been submitted for consideration. The Harbor Committee has interviewed all fifteen applicants in executive sessions over the past two weeks. On Wednesday, February 18, 2009, after the last interview the Harbor Committee, in open meeting, voted to recommend the following two candidates to the Select Board for consideration to be appointed as Harbor Master. The two candidates are Lee Closson and David Schlaefer.

Motion made by Selectman Chris Eaton, with second by Selectman Kathi Thurston, to go into executive session pursuant to Title 1 Maine Revised Statutes Annotated section 405 subsection 6 paragraph A, personnel matters, to review the applications submitted for the position of Harbor Master. Motion passed 4 – 0. The Selectmen went into executive session at 5:10 pm.

Motion made by Selectman Chris Eaton, with second by Selectman Kathi Thurston, to come out of executive session. Motion passed 4 – 0. The Selectman came out of executive session at 5:34 pm.

Vice Chairman Scott Grierson explained that the full Select Board was not present so the Selectmen have decided to postpone the Harbor Master decision until the next meeting.

2. ESTABLISH SALARY FOR HARBOR MASTER

The budgeted amount for 2008 – 2009 fiscal year was \$33,906.00 with the amount of \$14,309.14 having been spent to date, leaving an available balance of \$19,596.86. Fifteen people applied for this position, and Vice Chairman Scott Grierson voiced that he had no problem with the salary and benefit package. Harbor Committee Member Mike Ryan presented his case to increase the Harbor Master salary using a financial analysis that he has created (see attached). Selectman Kathi Thurston pointed out that reality is that there are two wage earners per most households. After some discussion with Mike Ryan, Vice Chairman Scott Grierson said he felt the Select Board

has a good handle on the Town and what the residents want and expect from the Town.

Motion made by Selectman Chris Eaton, with second by Selectman Kathi Thurston, to change the agenda and take 6. G. now. Motion passed 4 – 0.

B. AGENDA ITEM 6. G. LIBRARY REQUESTS ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR ELECTRICAL REPAIR

Library Trustee Art Paine explained that the renovation project found additional wiring problems that were not known at the time of the initial pricing, therefore additional funding is necessary. The Library Trustees are requesting \$4,000.00 for electrical.

Motion made by Selectman Chris Eaton, with second by Selectman Kathi Thurston, to increase the cap on electrical work on the Library to \$4,000.00. After some discussion Selectman Chris Eaton amended his motion to increase the cap to \$4,500.00. Selectman Kathi Thurston seconded this amendment. Motion passed 4 - 0.

C. RESPONSE FROM MMA CONCERNING TAX LIENS

On February 6, 2009, Town Manager Millard Billings e-mailed the list of questions the Select Board had about automatic foreclosure (see attached questions and MMA response). The MMA website has several pages of documents as well (see attached).

D. SET DATE FOR AUCTION OF FORECLOSED 2007 TAX LIENS

Per town meeting vote prior owners could have the opportunity to redeem their property if all taxes, interest, penalties and costs then due, plus all costs of the sale to be paid in full prior to such sale.

There are currently six properties that are in automatic foreclosure status with the following payment status:

1. One property owner made a payment arrangement after November 15, 2008 to pay all taxes and interest due. There has been \$5,500.00 paid and an balance due of \$1,911.59 as of February 4, 2009, which, per arrangement will be paid on February 26, 2009.
2. Another property owner paid \$4,500.00 on February 6, 2009 and has a balance due as of that date of \$1,359.54, which payment has been promised.
3. Another property owner paid \$500.00 on October 29, 2008 and paid \$839.20 on November 18, 2008. There have been no further payments or contact from the individual even through certified correspondence was mailed explaining the need to pay the remaining two years taxes.
4. Another property owner has promised to pay all taxes due and made appointments to pay, but has never made a payment.
5. Another property owner has requested a payment arrangement but has not made contact since the last meeting to the Select Board.
6. Another property owner has completely ignored all certified mailings and letters.

See attached graphs, reports, and letters.

The Selectmen asked Town Manager Millard Billings to come up with a monthly payment plan for delinquent taxes through 2008 for all foreclosed properties to be paid by November 15, 2009. The tax payers need to come forward by 3/16/2009 and accept the payment arrangements or they will need to renegotiate with the Selectmen in an open meeting.

E. JUNE 30, 2008 CARRY FORWARDS

The Auditor has submitted a preliminary audit for June 30, 2008 (see attached). The Auditor needs confirmation on the carry forwards (see attached copies of minutes and the Municipal carry forward request).

Motion made by Selectman Chris Eaton, with second by Selectman Kathi Thurston, to carry forward \$49,955.96 in the Municipal budget. Motion passed 4 – 0.

F. ADOPTION OF EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

Motion made by Selectman Chris Eaton, with second by Selectman Kathi Thurston, to approve the Town of Tremont, County of Hancock, State of Maine, Emergency Operations Plan (see attached). Motion passed 4 – 0.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. REPORT OF ONGOING PROJECTS

1. NEW TOWN OFFICE: Nothing new to report
2. FLAT IRON ROAD: New survey has been recorded at the Hancock County Registry of Deeds.
3. SEAL COVE FISHWAY: Town Manager Millard Billings spoke with Roland Dupree, who has been to the dam site with two engineers. Mr. Dupree has explained to the engineers what had been discussed at the site visit last summer; that the water level should be held to about one plank below the top of the existing concrete. Mr. Dupree also mentioned that when the water was stopped from running under the existing concrete it would put more water behind the dam. Mr. Dupree says they are on schedule for spring designs.

B. REPORT OF PENDING PROJECTS

1. ACQUISITION OF REAL ESTATE: Nothing new to report
2. INTERNET EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE: Nothing new to report

8. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Report of meeting with DEP on February 6, 2009. After several postponements the Select Board met with Bob Birk of DEP, DEP Engineer Richard Behr and John Pond of CES, Inc., the Towns representative in the well sampling project. The DEP would like to drill two possibly three test wells on the perimeter of the landfill to monitor water exiting the landfill; DEP would like to retest the wells that they had tested in

the summer of 2008; and to expand the test area of wells in all directions. DEP agreed to fund the proposed testing projects by 90% with the Town paying 10%.

9. ANNUAL BUDGET

A. BOILER PLATE ARTICLES (see attached)

Motion made by Selectman Chris Eaton, with second by Selectman Kathi Thurston, the Selectmen recommend passage of the first one [to set the due date of real estate taxes and interest applied]. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Motion made by Selectman Chris Eaton, with second by Selectman Kathi Thurston, the Selectmen recommend passage [tax acquired property disposal]. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Motion made by Selectman Chris Eaton, with second by Selectman Kathi Thurston, the Selectmen recommend passage [to authorize the acceptance and expense of all governmental funds received by the Town]. Motion passed 3 - 1. Vice Chairman Scott Grierson was against.

Motion made by Selectman Chris Eaton, with second by Selectman Kathi Thurston, the Selectmen recommend passage [unexpended balances to surplus/carryovers]. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Motion made by Selectman Chris Eaton, with second by Selectman Kathi Thurston, the Selectmen recommend passage [Town employee wages]. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Motion made by Selectman Chris Eaton, with second by Selectman Kathi Thurston, the Selectmen recommend passage [1999 State Model Alewife Ordinance]. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Motion made by Selectman Chris Eaton, with second by Selectman Kathi Thurston, the Selectmen recommend passage [authorize the Selectmen to lease the Town's Fish Way]. Motion passed 4 – 0.

The Selectmen did not make a motion for the last Boiler Plate Article [to set the Selectmen's compensation].

B. BOARDS & COMMITTEES REQUESTS

Motion made by Selectman Chris Eaton, with second by Vice Chairman Scott Grierson, to send them [the Boards & Committee Requests] to the Warrant Committee for their review (see attached). Motion passed 4 – 0.

10. SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING

Harbor Master – if the Chairman has returned
School at 6:30 pm

11. OTHER

The Town of Frenchboro's Select Board sent a letter confirming the inclusion of \$2,000.00 on their Annual Town Meeting Warrant for the use of the Bass Harbor

Floats (see attached). Town Manager Millard Billings had a conference call with the Select Board of Swan's Island. They will put it on their Warrant.

12. SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

March 2, 2009 and March 16, 2009

13. ADJOURN

Motion made by Selectman Kathi Thurston, with second by Selectman Chris Eaton, to adjourn. Motion passed 4 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbi Nickerson
Recording Secretary

Charlie Dillon

Scott Grierson

Katharine Thurston

Chris Eaton

Lester Closson