

Submitted by:

Approved by Selectmen:

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Adele M. Suggs
Admin Asst

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**TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
March 24, 2021**

*The Selectmen convened at 5:00 p.m. at the Town Hall with
Selectman Young, Selectman House, Selectman Mixon and Administrator Jones present.*

I. New Business

1. Consider not issuing vendor permits for use of the Town Hall Parking Lot until after the June 12th 2021 Town Meeting where a proposed ordinance entitled "The Conditions for Use of the Town Hall Parking Lot 2021" will be considered.

According to the 1991 Town Report "Should the Town Market be discontinued: (and it has been discontinued), "the Board of Selectmen may allow individual residents and taxpayers..." Selectman Young interprets this as the Board can also decide "not to allow." This will be the reference and basis if they decide to put a hold on issuing vendor permits.

Vote: Selectman House motioned to not issue any vendor permits for use of the Town Hall Parking Lot until after the June 12th 2021 Town Meeting which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

A draft of the proposed ordinance has been sent out to the Town Lands Management Committee. A workshop will be scheduled for April 7th to discuss the draft after the Selectmen's Meeting.

2. Consider the purchase of three desktop computers and one laptop from the Technology Capital account in the amount of \$3,116.00.

This was a planned purchase under the Capital Account.

Vote: Selectman House motioned to purchase three desktop computers and one laptop from the Technology Capital account in the amount of \$3,116.00, which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

3. Consider bids received for the transportation and disposal of OBW, Metal and Tires from the Transfer Station.

Three bids were received from Grimmel's - one was for metal, one was for OBW and one for tires. Selectman Young provided a spreadsheet of expenses. He asked Administrator Jones to call Grimmel's and confirm they can do Saturday hauls and can do a three hour turn-around on the OBW as per the contract requirements. Administrator Jones did speak with Tim at Grimmel's and he stated that Saturday hauls are negotiable and that he could not commit to a three hour turn-around; that he could commit to a 24 or 28 hour turn-around. There is zero cost for disposal of metal. The Town used to keep 50% of the American Market Income Figure; this year it will be 30%. For tires, we were paying \$125 for transportation and \$95 for disposal. Grimmel's bid for tires for years 1-3 is \$120 for transportation and \$93 for disposal; for years 4 & 5 - \$125 for transportation and \$95 for disposal.

Vote: Selectman House motioned to accept the bid from Grimmel's for the tires and metal which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

Vote: Selectman House motioned to reject the OBW bid from Grimmel's as they cannot commit to the contract which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

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4. Consider an extension on the bid time period for the transportation and disposal of Trash and Recycling from the Transfer Station (no bids have been received).

No bids were received for Trash and Recycling. Since there were no bids to open, Selectman Young is recommending extending the bid period for one week. The Town has already notified the vendors who were sent the original bid packages, the ad will be re-run, and the bid documents will be put back up on the website adding OBW; hopefully will receive some bids to open next Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

Vote: Selectman House motioned to extend the bid time period for trash, recycling and OBW for an additional week to March 31st which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

II. Unfinished Business

1. Reconsider strategies to maintain a safe and healthy work environment and public services in response to the pandemic Covid-19.

Currently Administrator Jones is running the Zoom Meetings for the smaller town committees. They are not seeing any Zoom participation. Selectman Mixon would like to recommend that the Zoom portion of the meetings be discontinued so the Administrator does not need to be present and they can attend if person if they wish. The meetings will be announced/posted in advance and if someone is interested in dialing into a Zoom Meeting the board is asking to allow 24 hours' notice prior to the meeting.

Vote: Selectman Mixon motioned that the smaller committees who have not seen a lot of Zoom activity to not have Zoom available automatically and if required, give 24 hours advance notice for Zoom, which was seconded by Selectman House and passed by a vote of 3-0.

2. Discuss the status of the abandoned vessel removal.

Selectman House reported that removal was supposed to start today, but payment needed to be made up-front and the owner did not have the monies available. Hopefully within the next few weeks removal will start and the owner is keeping Selectman House informed. He would like to get it completed prior to getting the grant. Selectman House will be in touch with him again next week. Administrator Jones added that she spoke with Bruce at Sea Tow and they told her that it would be another couple of weeks before going to see it.

3. Continue discussion with John Morse on the discontinuance of Mill Road as a Town-maintained road, with road survey.

Mr. Morse provided a copy of the survey which shows where the end of the Mill Road was. He also provided an addendum to the letter that was submitted last week which states the property owners will waive the requirement to wait a year as long as the public easement is discontinued. Mr. Morse is hoping this letter will be enough to forfeit the one-year waiting period. He feels that it does not affect the public. The road does not go to the shore to provide someone access to the shore or to another road; it's a dead end road. Mr. Morse added that a Maintenance Agreement will be prepared that all the property owners will be happy with. This only affects two other property owners. Administrator Jones had a discussion with MMA Legal and they said the one year process would still be in affect even though all abutters are in agreement. There was a change in the law two years ago to allow more time for easements to be arranged between abutters, but it has to do with public access to the road. If there is no way for the public to access the properties other than through that road, you have to wait one year from notice. Administrator Jones will provide the survey information as well as a copy of the letter to the Town's Attorney to ask her input on which route the Town will need to proceed. Mr. Morse will be included in this meeting if at all possible. This item will remain on the agenda as the Board wants to assure this is done legally and the correct way. Selectman House suggested to keep moving this forward for the June Town Meeting; warrant articles should be submitted by April 14th.

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III. Correspondence

1. Letter from Brenda Cummings President of the Land Trust, regarding the potential bid for sale of tax-acquired parcel Map 11 Lot 26.

The Town Landings Committee recommended the parcel be sold. The Town Lands Management Committee says sell it. The Conservation Commission has not responded. Administrator Jones will try to get either a verbal or email response as soon as possible. The Land Trust's recommendation is for the town to retain the parcel. Anna Varian, Chair of the Town Lands Management Committee added that if the parcel were to be broken up the committee is willing to address that. The family did reach out to Codes Enforcement and they were trying to gather their financial resources to purchase the property back from the Town. Selectman Young stated that the family has up until it is advertised to purchase it. The board will need to make a decision to include a Town Meeting Warrant Article within the next 3-4 weeks.

IV. Selectmen/Administrator Comments and Announcements:

Administrator Jones stated that nomination papers have been out and available. There was a change this week when Sue Levene took out papers for Selectman, thereby forfeiting her papers for Budget Committee, which opens up an elected position on that Committee. Ed Toombs has taken out papers for Budget Committee and Curtis Doughty for Road Commissioner. Administrator Jones had also received an anonymous letter expressing concern of cars in people's yards. She is asking to please provide contact information so that the Town can respond to these types of matters going forward.

Selectman House reminded that Clean-up Day is May 1st with a rain date of May 8th.

V. Review and/or Sign:

1. Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrants

Vote: Selectman House motioned to sign Payroll Warrant #93 and Accounts Payable Warrant #94 which were seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

2. Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for March 10, 2021

Vote: Selectman House motioned to sign the above meeting minutes which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

Adjournment

Vote: At 5:46 p.m. Selectman House motioned to adjourn into a Budget Committee Meeting which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.