

Submitted by:

Approved by Selectmen:

5/12/21
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Adele M. Suggs
Admin Asst

**TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
April 7, 2021**

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

I. Adjustments

Vote: Selectman Young motioned to consider un-posting of the roads per the Road Commissioner's request. This adjustment was seconded by Selectman House and passed by a vote of 3-0.

II. New Business

1. Consider un-posting of roads per the request of the Road Commissioner.

Curtis Doughty, Road Commissioner, would like to un-post all roads at midnight on Friday, April 9th.

Vote: Selectman House motioned to un-post roads at 12:01 a.m. Saturday, April 10th, which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

2. Discuss a new policy banning animals from Town Hall, with the exception of service animals.

There was a dog bite incident at Town Hall last Wednesday so the board is considering banning all animals/pets from Town Hall unless they are a documented service animal.

Vote: Selectman House motioned to make a policy banning all animals from Town Hall with the exception of service animals and the Rabies Clinic when the Animal Control Officer is here, which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

3. Administrator to discuss various updates.

Administrator Jones spoke with Matt Webber about the abandoned vessel and he confirmed that he received a deposit. The transport company is determining the timing and they are scheduling the removal of the vessel the week of April 19th.

On the proposed discontinuance of Mill Road, Administrator Jones spoke with the Town Attorney and the language used is "shall" and "must" and that private funds cannot be used to maintain the public road. There has also been conversation between Allison Hepler and John Morse and Ms. Helper thought that she could put through some emergency legislation, but Mr. Morse does not want to go that route. It is going to be a year wait, but the process can be started now.

The Administrator received an e-mail from Ellen Winchester stating that the Conservation Commission would like to have a memorial bench at the Community Garden site for Josephine Schumann and asking the best way to go about this; they will be conducting their own fundraising. This will be placed on next week's agenda to discuss.

There are varied opinions about what should be done with the Bassett property so this will also be placed on next week's agenda.

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A decision was made on the Transfer Station with respect to signage for ash disposal. This will be on next week's agenda as well.

The Planning Board is meeting next week to discuss the Appointment Policy. Selectman Young wants to ensure that after the draft is send out, all the committees have had a chance to meet on it to discuss and get their input.

Selectman Young requested that the American Legion be put on next week's agenda to ask permission to use the Town Hall Parking Lot for their Flag Burning Ceremony on June 5th.

4. Meet with the Budget Committee to hear their recommendations on all Town budgets. Susan Levene member of and Ed Toombs, Chair of the Budget Committee went down through the budget line items and gave the Budget Committee's recommendation for the Selectmen's Budgets; Public Safety Budgets; Committee, Commission, Board and District Budgets; Road Maintenance Budgets and Surplus; he explained any differences from the FY 21 budget.

Public comment from Joshua Bate spoke to the detail Capital Road Requests that the Board received as well as the 5-year plan. He stated that 4 of the items that appear in the 5-year plan for 2021 did not appear in the plan two years ago. FY 22 two of those roads were not in the plan five years ago. It appears that work has been shifted that has not been done into the new 5-year plan. Mr. Bate further stated that the most the committee has spent in 2018, 2019 or 2020 was \$265,000. Mr. Bate feels the Road Committee is moving things ahead, inserting new projects, and missing other projects. Mr. Bate wanted the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee to be aware of this information. Mr. Bate feels the Road Committee is not sticking to their plans from 2019 and they're expending on roads that are not in the budget. Mr. Bates feels a message needs to be relayed to the Budget Committee and the Road Commissioner that they need to "tighten up", get more accurate on their estimating, and be fairer in their assessment of the roads. He feels a lot more money than this will be needed to do the roads correctly.

The increase to Surplus by \$100,000 was also discussed. The Budget Committee is surprised at how normal this budget year has been despite COVID. Selectman Young recommended taking a look at the time line next year's Town Meeting and consider keeping it the same as this year rather than going back to the middle of May. By keeping a June town meeting, it gives the Budget Committee a lot more time to go through the budget process, and puts the elections at the same time as the RSU 1 elections which saves money.

Selectman Mixon added that on April 22nd the County Budget Public Hearing will be held that evening. He is planning to attend.

Unfinished Business

1. Latest developments with regulations associated with COVID-19.
No action taken.

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III. Selectmen/Administrator Comments and Announcements:

Administrator Jones reminded that Warrant Articles are due next week by Wednesday, April 14th. She will also send out an e-mail reminder. Nomination papers are due back this Friday, April 9th by 5:00 p.m. Mooring permit fees are due - \$25 for residents and \$100 for non-residents. Dog registrations are still be accepted with no late fees, per the Executive Order, so please come into register your dogs; there are a lot that have not been registered. There is a county-wide medication collection coming up on Saturday, April 24th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There are different collection points and Phippsburg is one of them being at the Town Hall Parking Lot.

Selectman Mixon passed along that the Salvation Army on Monday presented the Phippsburg Fire Department with a plaque for raising the most money of all fire departments for the bell ringing at Christmas Time for the second year in a row. It was also the single highest collection day of the year at that point which was very well received, so Selectman Mixon wanted to give them recognition for that. Selectman House reminded that Clean-Up Day will take place on Saturday, May 1st with a rain date of May 8th. If anyone would like to make sandwiches, cookies or brownies contact Shanna, Jimma or the Fire Department to leave a message.

Spirit of America award

Annually the Spirit of America Award is given to a Phippsburg Volunteer or Volunteer Organization in town. At a later date they are honored at a county ceremony. Normally these are presented at Town Meeting, but due to extenuating circumstances, a plaque was presented last Saturday to Geneva Beals at her home with family present. Selectman Mixon read aloud the award that was presented.

IV. Review and/or Sign:

1. Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrants

Vote: Selectman House motioned to sign Payroll Warrant #97 and Accounts Payable Warrant #98 which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

2. Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for March 24, 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.

3. Treasurer's Report for February and March 2021

Selectman House has reviewed both reports and they looked good.

Vote: Selectman House motioned to sign the above Treasurer's Reports which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

Adjournment

Vote: At 6:10 p.m. Selectman House motioned to adjourn which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.