

Submitted By:

Approved by Selectmen:

Amber L. Jones
Amber L. Jones
Administrator

**TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
May 9, 2018**

RR 6/13/18
Sh 6/13/18

The regularly scheduled Selectmen's meeting convened at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, with Administrator Jones, Selectman House, Selectman Read and Selectman Mixon present.

I. New Business

1. Review the Patrol Officer job description and consider raising the starting pay rate for the vacant Patrol Officer position from \$15 - \$16/hour to \$16-\$17/hour, based on experience. *Administrator Jones explained that the position has been advertised for over a month without much response. There was one applicant, but it wasn't a suitable situation. She felt that the rate increase may be a necessary move to get more applicants. Selectman House stated that if the Board increased this pay rate they would have to increase the other Patrol Officer's rate as well. She felt it wouldn't be fair to Zech Thomas, the current officer, and that the budget for the upcoming year is already so the hours would have to be cut to accommodate the higher pay rate. There are just too few applicants for Police Officer positions everywhere. It is a problem State-wide, not just Phippsburg. Selectman Mixon asked the question "How do we get more suitable applicants to apply?" Selectman House asked what the Chief's thoughts were and Administrator Jones response was he thought the starting pay increase was good. Selectman Read stated that he doesn't want to increase the rate - if a good applicant came in and that was a deciding factor for their employment, then that is when we ought to consider raising the rate. Selectman Mixon stated they should think of some ways to encourage people to apply. Selectman House says it's hard because it is a part time position.*

No action taken.

2. Review the status of the foreclosed properties list.

Selectman House stated she did look this list over earlier, has spoken with Lisa, asked if she wanted us to send out any letters, invite anybody in and Lisa's response was that she is in good shape; people are making payments. Discussion held that there has been a lot of good progress on this. Selectman House asked if it was 2015 or 2016 that was just foreclosed - the answer was 2016.

3. Consider appointing Bethany Mitchell to the vacant seat on the Recreation Commission.

This will be filling a three year term ending in June 30th, 2021.

Vote: Selectman Mixon motioned to appoint Bethany Mitchell to the above vacant seat on the Recreation Commission, which was seconded by Selectman Read and passed by a vote of 3-0.

4. Appoint Democrat and Republican Election Clerks.

They are all listed in the book.

Vote: Selectman Read motioned to appoint the Democrat & Republican Election Clerks, which were read aloud by Selectman House, seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

5. Review Town Meeting Hand-outs to further explain:

- 1) Article 22, the sum appropriated from Surplus to reduce taxes
- 2) Article 24 & 25 the Salary Articles

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*GRK 6/13/18
Olm 6/13/18*

3) Article 26, the H.M. Payson distribution
Selectman House would like to see it. Keep it very simple.

4) Article 33, Town Hall maintenance, the difference in recommendations
Does not need a hand out - very simple explanation for it.

5) Article 52, Winter Road Contract Article
There wasn't anything to offer in terms of further clarification on Article 52, because the Select Board is hoping to continue working with the same contract format. Selectman Mixon stated that his only concern is that the Town can put drivers and their trucks on the road, without having to go to a Special Town Meeting. Mike Young confirmed that the wording in the Article should cover both scenarios if we do have to go out to bid for a contract.

II. Correspondence

1. Letter to Ellen Hart regarding the parcel alternately identified as Lot 29, now part of Map 014, Lot 125.

Selectman House reported that the Board met with Ms. Hart back in September. Ms. Hart stated her interest in purchasing the dunes lot that is part of Map 014 Lot 125. At that time, the Board explained to her what the Town's policies are around the sale of Town-owned land. (However they did not speak to whether or not they were considering the sale of this parcel). The Board reached out to all the conservation-related committees (Town Lands Management Committee, Conservation Commission, Town Landings Committee, Phippsburg Land Trust, and the Historic Preservation Commission) and they all agreed to maintain ownership of the parcel, mainly to protect public access to the beach. Selectman House read the letter aloud.

Vote: Selectman Read motioned to sign and send the above mentioned letter to Ms. Hart, which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

III. Selectmen/Administrator Comments and Announcements:

Administrator Jones announced that absentee voting ended; and unless there are extenuating circumstances the time for requesting an absentee ballot is over. Municipal Elections are scheduled for May 14th at the Town Hall from 1-7 p.m. Town Meeting follows on Tuesday, May 15th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Phippsburg Elementary School and will continue on Wednesday, if needed.

Selectman Mixon stated, to be clear, the deadline for requesting absentee ballots has passed but they can be turned in as late as Election Day.

Selectman Read asked which positions are currently open. Administrator Jones replied, in terms of employment, the Town is actively searching for a part time patrol officer and are willing to train the right candidate. There are currently two openings on the Road Committee and would love to see people fill those seats. For the next meeting, Administrator Jones will come with a complete list of openings. Mike Young stated the Shellfish Commission is in need of two alternates

Selectman House would like to thank the individuals who cleaned up the Basin over the weekend: Kayden Otis, Alex Gurney, Logan Pelletier, Mason Small, and Reece Coffin; and possibly others. Someone dumped quite a bit of trash in the Basin and the residents mentioned volunteered their time to clean it up. Their effort is very much appreciated! Dumping in the Basin is prohibited and we work very hard to keep our Town clean.

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IV. Public Forum:

Mike Young wanted to mention that the American Legion Post will be having their Flag Disposal Ceremony in June, so if anyone has any old US Flags or Maine State Flags you can bring them into Town Hall or take them to the Transfer Station and give them to the attendant. We will pick them up from those spots and properly dispose of them.

V. Review and/or Sign:

1. Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrants
2. Treasurer's Report April 2018

Vote: Selectman Mixon motioned to review and sign the above, which was seconded by Selectman Read and passed by a vote of 3-0.

3. Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for April 4 & April 11, 2018

Vote: Selectman Read motioned to table the minutes until the next meeting, which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

VI. Adjournment

Vote: At 6: 32 p.m., Selectman Mixon motioned to adjourn, which was seconded by Selectman Read and passed by a vote of 3-0.