

Submitted By:

Approved by Selectmen:

**TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MINUTES  
October 3, 2018**

Amber L. Jones  
Administrator

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

**I. New Business**

1. Meet with Assessing Agent, Juanita Wilson, to set the Fiscal Year 2019 mil rate for property taxes.

*Assessing Agent Wilson stated that in each of the Board members' packets there is a range of possible mil rates. The law limits the minimum and maximum mil rate that may be selected based on the amount of funds that need to be covered. If the overlay of \$103,600 was adequate for the Board's planning needs, Juanita recommended the mil rate of \$9.00. Administrator Jones remarked that if the Board went with a \$9 mil rate, it would be close to the overlay amounts used in prior years. We are still waiting some more information from the auditor's. Selectman Young stated that he would personally be happy with a 10¢ increase.*

**Vote: Selectman Read motioned to set the mil rate at 9.04, which was seconded by Selectman Mixon, and passed by a vote of 3-0.**

2. Meet with Assessing Agent, Juanita Wilson to process Supplemental Warrant for Map 004 Lot 017-01, a Tree Growth withdrawal penalty.

*Assessing Agent Wilson supplied each Selectman with an information packet and the original warrants. This is a voluntary tree growth withdrawal at Cold Spring Farm, the extended Gillette Family territory. This has been 15 acres all tree growth; there is no waterfront involved. They have improved the site with a septic system and a very minor amount of clearing. They submitted their tree growth schedule for 13 acres of hard wood, 2 acres out of the building site. They have been in the Tree-growth program since 1990, (after 28 years of tree growth, the penalty has dropped 20% of the Method A & B that is on the spreadsheet). By law Method A or B must be used and the higher calculation must be invoked. The valuation difference for 15 acres enrolled – the hardwood at \$440/acre; it was \$6,600 for the full value of that acreage. By taking out the 2 acres in the neighborhood, the full value will be \$88,220, so the valuation difference is \$81,620. If it was simply forgone tax with the municipal interest rate and simple interest, the foregone plus simple interest would be \$3,635. The law says we cannot do that. The penalty, based on the \$81,600 difference is a penalty \$16,324. They are aware that will be due 60 days from now, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. If not paid, no lien will be placed, but this year's interest rate of 8% would start to accrue. The Board also has the warrant and a supplemental tax bill prepared by Assessor Wilson, which is in reverse of that warrant, and what would go into the commitment book.*

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**Vote: Selectman Young motioned to review and sign the above, with a valuation difference of \$81,620 for a penalty of \$16,324 which was seconded by Selectman Mixon, and passed by a vote of 3-0.**

3. Vote, pursuant to Title M.R.S.A. Section 2253, to appoint Joseph T. Spear Jr. to the Harbor Commission for a two-year term ending June 30, 2020.

*Administrator Jones announced that the committee recommends this appointment.*

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

4. Consider Front Loader options for the upcoming winter maintenance season.

*Selectman Mixon stated that there are a couple of different options on the table. A lot of discussion was held regarding the loader options available, which could include the scheduling of a Special Town Meeting.*

**Vote: Selectman Young motioned to approve the used loader, \$4,200/month until Town Meeting approval for the new loader at a better rate, which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.**

**Vote: Selectman Young amended his motion to approve the used loader, \$4,200/month until Town Meeting approval for the new loader at a better rate, as long as Curtis is not willing to use his machine, which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.**

5. Consider Winter Road Maintenance contracts for signing.

**Vote: Selectman Young motioned to approve the Winter Road Contracts for Small Point, West Point, Sebasco, Winnegance and Fire Station, Parker Head and Popham, for the \$6,500/mile rate with the addition that the Town have a right to renegotiate the annual fixed price of the contract should the requested annual amount listed not be approved at Town Meeting, which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.**

6. Consider setting a date for a Special Town Meeting to address the need for funding a front loader for the sand/salt shed, and for the use of Town -owned parcel (Map 043 Lot 035) by the Community Garden Committee.

**Vote: Selectman Young motioned to have a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, October 30th if possible, for an article regarding the Community Garden, the cost of the beam for repairs done at the Sand & Salt Shed, the \$6,500 rate which would be an additional \$16,000 and the five year contract for the loader which was seconded by Selectman Mixon, and passed by a vote of 3-0.**

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**II. Selectmen/Administrator Comments and Announcements:**

**Town Office Closed: Monday October 8<sup>th</sup>**

*Administrator Jones announced that the Town Office will be closed on Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, in observance of Columbus Day. She also stated that she received a notice from Maine State Parks about Popham Beach – it's a reminder that as of October 1, dogs and horses can be brought onto the beach. Administrator Jones also commented that even though the Town has had volunteers come forward to fill empty committee seats, there are still a few available. The amended list is as follows: two Community Garden Committee positions and two Shellfish Commission positions. Selectman Young attended the MMA Business Meeting in Augusta, which is part of the MMA Conference. He will write up a short briefing so you will have an idea about what was discussed and he will distribute that at the next Selectmen's Meeting. Selectman Young also gave his condolences to the Stockwell Family. Their son, Jonathan, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday night. Also, Selectman Young will not be in attendance at next week's Selectmen's Meeting.*

*Selectman Mixon reminded that people who are lighting their fire places and wood stoves that it is chimney fire season, so please remember to run a brush down the chimney before it gets too hot.*

**III. Public Forum:**

*Two representatives of The Bath Area Age Friendly Livable Communities Committee were present, Ruth Lawson-Stopps and Allison Hepler. They are interested in seeing what can be done to keep seniors at home. Ruth talked about a regional approach, in an attempt to identify regional resources, (ones that don't cost anything). The committee began meeting last January in a public forum setting, with different speakers presenting topics like data demographics, and State and Federal policy. The first step for the Committee is an assessment. The assessment will be done through a survey. In Woolwich the survey was sent out with the tax bills. The Committee is interested in what communities have, what they need, what services they don't need, whether or not they plan to age here, etc. There has been spotty representation from Phippsburg so the Committee thought this would be a good opportunity to talk to the Select Board, share some ideas, and answer any questions. If you look at the percentage of the population that is over age 65, its 18.8% for the State of Maine, Sagadahoc County is 19.4%, Phippsburg is 26.3% and Arrowsic is 35%. A Steering Committee was formed and it was decided that a survey was needed to find out what people feel their needs are, along with any issues and concerns. It would be helpful to have someone from Phippsburg on the Steering Committee. The goal is to get the survey out this fall to as many places as possible, tabulate the data over the winter, analyze it, and then as a group, figure out how to move forward. We know people want to be able to stay in their homes, that transportation is an issue, and social isolation too, particularly of older folks. Selectman Read asked how people would get in touch with Ms. Lawson-Stopps or contact information out to the community to see if there is any*

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*interest in this. Ms. Lawson-Stopps will follow up with an email to Administrator Jones and Administrator Jones will also post it on the website; will also put it on the local cable channel. Question was asked if the Board would be willing to circulate the survey around town. The survey could be dropped off at Town Hall once completed, and once the data is tabulated, it will be shared with everyone.*

**IV. Review and/or Sign:**

1. Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrants

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

2. Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for September 12, 2018

**Vote: Selectman Read motioned to table the Selectmen Meeting Minutes from September 12th, which was seconded by Selectman Mixon, and passed by a vote of 3-0.**

**V. Adjournment**

**Vote: At 7:19 p.m. Selectman Mixon motioned to adjourn, which was seconded by Selectman Young and passed by a vote of 3-0.**