

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
7:00 P.M. MONDAY DECEMBER 17th, 2007
YORK LIBRARY**

MINUTES

Attendees: Michael L. Estes, David F. Marshall, J. Dwight Bardwell, Kinley Gregg, Edward W. Little, Robert G Yandow, Town Manager and, Kathryn Danylik, Recorder, and Members of the Press & Public.

Call to Order - Chairman Estes called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

A. Minutes-No Minutes

Chairman Estes requested to move old business to the end of the agenda due to Mr. Marshall having to leave for a period of time during the meeting. Chairman Estes also requested to move #2 of New Business up to #1.

B. Chairman's Report

Chairman Estes reported that a citizens' petition has been presented to the town. The town attorney is currently looking at the petition and will determine if a public hearing is needed and what the next step will be.

Chairman Estes also stated that Tom Carnicelli from the Tax Task Force is here tonight and will be giving a short presentation during the citizen's forum.

C. Manager's Report

Mr. Yandow would like to remind everyone that Christmas Day Trash Pick Up will be on Saturday, December 29th. New Years Day Trash Pick-Up will remain on its normal schedule.

Mr. Yandow stated that the Public Works Crew has put in a lot of time and effort these past few weeks and they have done an excellent job. Thank you.

Mr. Yandow reported that on Friday bids were received and opened for a new trash collection contract. The information is being put together on spread sheets and the results will be shared soon.

Have a great holiday and happy New Year!

D. Reports

-Senior Center Advisory Board, Lori Nelson-Senior Center Director

Lori Nelson, Senior Center Director, joined tonight's meeting to give a presentation on the Senior Center Advisory Board and Board of Directors. Ms. Nelson reported that in the past the Advisory Board and the Board of Directors were the same entity, but now they are trying to develop 2 separate boards.

The Advisory Board acts as advisors to the Board of Directors; they attend meetings but do not vote. There are 3 opening currently on the advisory board and one alternate opening on the Board of Directors. You must serve on the Advisory Board before you can be a member of the Board of Directors, so one member of the Advisory Board will be voted on as an alternate member of the Board of Directors.

The Selectmen are responsible for appointing member to the Advisory Board and then the current members of the Board of Directors will vote to appoint and Advisory Board member to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is responsible for membership, how the money is used, overseeing finances, and helps staff to make decisions.

E. Citizens Forum - Open to audience for comments or questions on items to be addressed on this agenda or, to propose items for board consideration.

Public Comment: Jim Gambrill

Tom Carnicelli, Chairman of the Tax Task Force, presented the findings and recommendations of the Tax Task Force. They have come up with two caps, one for operational budgets and one for capital projects. For operational expenses, the formula requires the lower of two figures: one half the increase in total town valuation over that of the previous year or twice the CPI used for the current budget. The increase in total valuation last year was down to 5.1%. The CPI is currently 2.8%. The lower figure would be 2.6% half of 5.1%. The formula has the provision that limits the increase or decrease over the pervious year's figure to no more then 1%. The formula dictates a decrease from last year's figure of 4.7%. The committee decided that a decrease of .5% would be reasonable making the recommendation that the increase in operating expenses for next year be limited to 4.2%. The formula also provides a cap on major capital projects . The committee recommends that an average annual expenditure of 8.6 million be proposed for major capital projects over the next four years.

F. Approval of Warrant #25

Moved by Mr. Bardwell and seconded by Mr. Little to approve Warrant #25. Without objection so ordered.

G. ENDORSEMENTS

I. New Business

2. Regional Industrial Park Discussion

Jeff Grossman, Town Manager in South Berwick, and Craig Nelson presented the current proposed legislation for creation of the Southern York County Regional Development Authority. There have been 6 different towns working together to help create and promote economic development in Southern York County. Legislation has been filed to create this authority. This collaborative effort will work to avoid inefficient “community against community” competition, while at the same time promoting economic development. There will be a phased approach consisting of 3 phases: 1). Operational Planning Phase, 2). Developmental Implementation Phase, 3). Funding of Operational Costs of Authority.

The operational planning phase will consist of a governing board of three members from each community that will participate in developing an operational development plan that will include one or more economic development related projects within the region of the authority.

The developmental implementation phase will see a shift in the governing body where there will be one voting member from each community on the governing body and state valuation will come into play. State valuation will determine how much each community will contribute to the spending on each project.

The last phase of the project is a budget validation process where each town will vote separately on the budget in a town meeting form. This whole process is controlled by the voting members of the community. A key aspect the Southern York County Regional Development Authority is the revenue sharing agreement that each community will enter in to. This agreement will provide for sharing on a pro-rata basis of all taxes assessed and collected from properties and facilities that have been developed by the authority. The sponsoring community will be able to hold enough taxes to stay harmless from penalties from the property valuations. A statement of intent signed by partners will state that each municipality is treated fairly.

Moved by Mr. Bardwell and seconded by Mr. Little to ask Mr. Grossman and Mr. Nelson to submit York as an amendment to the legislation and allow York to be able to participate in the preliminary stages to develop the Southern York County Regional Development Authority. Vote 3-1 motion passes. (Ms. Gregg against)

1. York Land Trust Request for Funding

Doreen McGillis of the York Land Trust and Wolf Tone of the Trust for Public Land, made a brief presentation on the desire to preserve the Highland Farm property. Ms. McGillis explained that there has been on going negotiations with the owners of Highland Farm to protect the land and prevent a 37 lot sub-division from being built on the land. Terms regarding the property have been reached and soon a purchase agreement will be drafted. The price of the property is 2.7 million. There is about 150 acres with this property that is highly developable with 2 sub-division plans already in the works. A project of this magnitude will require a lot of communication and commitment from all parties involved.

The York Land Trust and the Trust for Public Land would like to partner with the town and consider presenting the citizen's of York with a \$1 million dollar bond in May. Half of this money would go toward Highland Farm and the other half would be put in a reserve fund for future projects. Other funders for the Highland Farm project include Kittery Water District, private donors, Land for Maine's Future, and Coastal Land Preservation.

The Selectmen are in favor and support both projects however there are some concerns regarding the funding mechanism. Historically voters have not supported bond issues and providing a million dollar bond that has only half the money going toward the land might not fair well. It was requested by the Selectmen that the parties involved get together with the Town Manager and the Finance Director to come up with some other alternatives to the bond. The Highland Farm property and the reserve fund are seen as two separate issues and should be presented as two separate issues.

H. Old Business

1. York Housing Authority Appointments

Mr. Yandow has worked with the York Housing Authority to amend their by-laws so that they are conducive to the policies followed by the Town's Boards and Committees. The board is also aware that re-appointments must go through the Selectmen.

Moved by Mr. Little and seconded by Mr. Bardwell to appoint Robert Palmer, Ellen Baldwin, and Jud Knox as members of the York Housing Authority Board of Directors. Vote 4-1 motion passes. (Ms. Gregg against)

2. Senior Center Advisory Board Appointments

Moved by Mr. Bardwell and seconded by Mr. Marshall to appoint Bonnie Bemis, Marjorie Edkins, and Edith Sissa as members of the Senior Citizens Advisory Board. Vote 5-0 motion passes.

New Business Continued

3. Business directional sign- Brixham Montessori Friends School

Mr. Bardwell expressed concern that these signs are getting to be very full and that maybe a more creative suggestion is needed for posting business signs. Mr. Yandow will work with Public Works to come up with a possible solution.

Moved by Mr. Bardwell and seconded by Mr. Marshall to approve the application for one business directional sign at the corner of Route One and Brickyard Court for Brixham Montessori Friends School. Vote 5-0 motion passes.

4. Appointment of Lewis Stowe as a regular member of the Planning Board from alternate member

Moved by Mr. Marshall and seconded by Mr. Little to appoint Lewis Stowe as a regular member of the Planning Board. Vote 5-0 motion passes.

J. Other Business

The next meeting will be January 14th

Mr. Estes will be sitting down with Mr. Yandow in the next couple of weeks to go over future agenda items. Please email anything you want to see on future agendas to Mr. Estes or Mr. Yandow

Adjourn

Moved by Mr. Bardwell and seconded by Mr. Marshall to adjourn at 9:38 PM. Vote 5-0 motion passes.

Respectfully Submitted

Kathryn Danylik