

Draft

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen - Town of Sweden

May 13, 2008

The Meeting was called to order at 7:02 by Selectman Willey with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Selectmen Willey, Jones and Noble. Representing Sweden Community Church were Rev. Anita White, Virginia Durr and Carol Sislane. Road Commissioner Clifford, Administrative Assistant Curtis and Clerk Gibbons were present.

Mr. Noble reported that he had discussed the church proposal with MMA. They stated that the town could work with the church as long as the town had no administrative part of the fund. Mr. Noble can refer people, including those who do not meet Town guidelines for General Assistance, to the church. Documentation is important and Mr. Noble stated that there are confidential records that he can refer to. It was stated that it would be simpler if the church received and distributed the funds. In a mailing Mr. Noble is sending out to tax payers and voters, he would include a note that the Sweden Community Church is discussing with the selectmen the possibility of setting up a Community Emergency Fund. The church committee will be given a brief period of time at the up-coming Information Meeting May 28th to present the idea after the Selectmen provide information about the Winter Roads deficit and before the Fire Building Committee presents their material.

D.J. Curtis reported that the Audit is still not completed, but is being wrapped up. She said that it is time to set up a line of credit as the check book only has \$17,00 after tonight's bills. Mr. Willey moved that a line of credit be set up with Norway Savings Bank for \$150,000. (3-0) Money is only withdrawn as needed. The surplus is being depleted. The figure of \$50,000 was suggested to meet the short-fall in Winter Roads. The Special Town Meeting will inform the citizens of this shortfall. The increase already voted will mean a tax rate of .01 or \$65 per \$100,000 valuation. The additional \$50,000 would raise the tax rate to .01055 or a \$120 increase per \$100,000 valuation. A Fire Building of \$400,000 would mean \$30-40,000 per year for a 30 year loan increasing the taxes \$155 for \$100,000 valuation. Various scenarios were discussed: A. Appropriate \$50,000. B Appropriate some from increased taxes and some from Summer Roads account which the town voted to increase to \$70,000 this year. It was hoped that none would be taken from surplus because surplus is needed to avoid extensive borrowing due to cash flow problems. There is still some money in FEMA accounts (\$1,900 from 2003 and \$5,800 from 2007). The salt shed is 1/3 full.

The 5 acres transfer out of tree growth on the property on Kezar River Road would incur a \$1,876 penalty. The Selectmen did not want to forgive this penalty.

Mr. Noble requested a monthly report on the Fire Association budget. DJ Curtis will email it to Mr. Noble.

Minutes from the April 22 and May 6 meeting were approved with the correction of spelling errors.

Mr. Steve Adamson was not present. Mr. Noble invited him to return to the next meeting to discuss the contract. Various errors were corrected in the proposed contract. Bonding insurance and the handling of the base plus gas surcharge will be discussed.

Roads: Mr. Noble moved that Rob Drew be released from the Bond he holds for Snow Plowing. (3-0) Mr. Noble moved that the town look into purchasing the salt through the Greater Portland Council of Government. (3-0) Mr. Drew will be asked to clean off the dust from roads.

A court date of 8:30 a.m. May 28th in Bridgton has been set concerning the Knights Hill Road issue. Jane reported that a neighbor had stated that dogs were chained without food or water for several days. Mr. Noble and Mr. Willey will investigate.

A bid for Cemetery mowing of \$1,575 was received from Chapman Lawn and Yard Works. Mr. Willey moved to accept the bid. (3-0)

Ms Gibbons reported on various treatments for the office window. Mr. Noble suggested a film that filters out the direct sun, but allows light in.

Tom Goodman of the Historical Committee received a bid of \$4,460 to replace the roof on the Brick School House. The bid for the suspended ceiling could not be found. Another contractor will be asked to bid on the roof.

The up-coming mailing was discussed. Mr. Willey moved that the town pay for the printing/copying and postage. (3-0) Mr. Noble will include information about metal pick-up at resident's homes August 3-9th and bulky waste pick-up to be brought to the office parking lot July 25-27th. The price for the metal pick-up has not been determined. The bulky waste pickup will cost the town \$250. Other information will include the short-fall in Winter Roads, General Assistance information, the statement about the Community Fund and the information about the Fire Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35.

Jane Gibbons, clerk