

## Board of Selectpersons, Sweden, ME

February 23, 2010

Present were John Clifford, Jean and Annette Bouchard, Warren Noble, DJ Curtis, Jane Gibbons and Selectpersons Alberta Ridlon, William Jones, and John P. Smith

The meeting was opened at 6 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Warrant was signed. There were legal posters sent to the town which were not ordered.

Roads - Mr. Clifford had the signs for weight limit posting and these would be distributed soon. The Selectmen explained the article in the town report concerning the establishment of a position of Assistant Road Commissioner. Mr. Clifford agreed with the idea of having someone else learn the job. Mr. Smiths asked how the cost of sanding compared with last year.

Fire Department - A sheet concerning hazardous materials is now on file in the Town Manual on Health and Safety. Items purchased which are hazardous should be recorded on it. Mr. Smith pointed out that there was no penalty for findings on the SafetyWorks inspection. Mr. Noble stated that he still needed help with documentation. Lynn Horn, Compliance Service representative, comes every 2 ½ months to help with labor regulations. Mr. Noble hopes that in time it can be cut back to twice a year. Mr. Noble said that there was a training event by the ME Forest Service on Wild-land use of chain saws which he hoped 4 fire fighters could attend at a cost of \$75 each. The Board was not able to see where such training events were covered in the 2010 budget and suggested that he wait until after the Town meeting to register.

Finances - DJ Curtis presented 6 Discharge of Liens dating from 1996 to 2003 for notarization. She had been advised that even though quit claim deeds had been filed, the discharges also need to be filed at a cost of \$13 apiece. There was discussion on the next steps after foreclosures have been issued. Legal advice from Peter Malia had been sought. The town legally owns the properties, but has not taken possession. The current resident could buy the property back from the town. Forms for poverty abatement may be issued to those who might otherwise loose their homes. There was question about whether Poverty Abatements could be issued once the property had been foreclosed on or whether they could be submitted up to 60 days after foreclosure. The town would not need to have liability issuance on the property unless they took possession. Questions: Should attempts be made to collect the taxes in total or/and work out payment schedules? Could General Assistance funds be used to help pay taxes? Whatever is done, the amount owed should include interest and fees. This is uncharted territory for the town.

The Planning Board wrote a letter to the Board asking the Selectmen to approve the Planning Board asking the Assessors to complete subdivision maps. The \$200 for this would come from Planning Board budget.  
Approved.

Annual Report: Corrections were made to the article about election of Selectpersons. There is one two year term (to complete a term) and one three year term to be filled. Approved (3-0).

Article 25 concerning legal counsel was approved: (3-0)  
Article 35 was changed to say "capital projects on State aid roads would come from surplus." The word appropriate was deleted. (3-0).

It is noted that the Budget Committee had not seen article 5E concerning the Assistant Road Commissioner.

Minutes of the Feb. 2 and Feb. 9 meetings were approved with the following clarification from John P. Smith.

*The meeting notes for the 2/5 meeting.....under Roads*

*This is what our Ordinance says:*

*Private roads: Where the subdivision streets are to remain private roads, the following words shall appear on the recorded plan.*

*"All roads in this subdivision shall remain private roads to be maintained by the developer or the lot owners and shall not be accepted or maintained by the Town"*

*The two subdivisions, on Black Mountain Road and Popple Hill, had the above language included in the final plan recorded at the Registry. This was done at the insistence of the Planning Board.....so I guess that is where the final authority lies, not in any zoning ordinance as I might have cited.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Jane Gibbons  
Clerk