

## **Board of Selectpersons, Sweden, ME**

January 26, 2010

Present were Ron Kiesman, John Clifford, Carroll Murphy, Warren Noble, DJ Curtis, Morris Gibely, Jane Gibbons, and Selectpersons Alberta Ridlon, William Jones, and John P. Smith. The Meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6 p.m.

The warrant was signed. There was one question about telephone calls to a person who wished to register a vehicle in Maine.

Roads: (1) Stone dust was used to fill pot holes on Hardscrabble Road. (2) Mr. Smith reported a conversation with Phil Curtis, the Road Ranger, who would come to help us with specifications for Sweden roads. (3) There had been complaints about ice on Haskell Hill, Hardscrabble and the Waterford Roads following the rain storm on Monday. Calls had been made to selectpersons at 5:45 a.m. The icy spots were sanded.

Fire Department: (1) The letter to Dead River closing the gas account was discussed with Mr. Noble. Mr. Noble was concerned that the Bridgton Convenience Store was not open 24 hours a day. He wanted the flexibility of using Molloy pumps at the Wicked Good Store. Mrs. Ridlon moved that the Fire Department use the Bridgton Convenience Store and Molloy Energy for gas and diesel. Voted (2-0). (3) Mr. Noble requested that he be given a copy of the warrant showing items approved by the Select Board which concerned the Fire Department. (4) Mr. Noble reported that Maine OSHA would be inspecting the Fire Station and files this week. An inspection requested by the local Fire Department would include advice on correction. An inspection that was not requested would incur fines for violations of code.

General Assistance: There was discussion concerning a fuel bill. Mr. Noble was requested to have a report on how much Sweden contributes to the poor through General Assistance for the Town meeting. Mrs. Gibbons reported that the Sweden Emergency Fund had helped Sweden Residence with more than \$6000 in Emergency Assistance in 2009.

Finances: (1) A report has been received from the Budget Committee. (2) An appeal for \$1,500 has been submitted by the Charlotte Hobbs Library in Lovell. The Select Board voted to change article 17 to the requested amount. (3) The Budget Committee will meet on Monday to do more work on the Budget. (4) Mr. Smith wanted to add an article for legal fees. (5) A communication with the Ambulance provider revealed that if the town cut its allocation to the service back to \$1,200, the service will not try to help get another ambulance if Bridgton ambulance is out. If Sweden paid them \$2,400 they will try to send an additional ambulance to Sweden if their ambulance is out. Select Board voted (2-1 abstention) to contribute \$2,400 to the Ambulance Service.

The question was raised about whether the town meeting time should be moved to June. DJ stated that there are many disadvantages and advantages, one of which is that tax

money would come in later. Initiating a credit card payment system would cost the town 2.8% per use of credit card. Mr. Smith requested that the Winter Roads article 10 include a breakdown of sand, salt, and plowing contact. There was discussion concerning the Donee cards whereby towns could purchase items from State surplus. Mrs. Ridlon will check with DJ to see if she has ordered them.

Other: Joseph Neville will be asked to inspect the School House. His fee is \$85 per hour for a structural analysis. The minutes of the Jan. 12 meeting were approved with the correction that we will "contact him about coming." Voted (3-0). It was decided that instead of printing out two versions of the minutes, the first set would be the official minutes and that the minutes of the subsequent meeting would include the corrections.

Mr. Murphy asked why the state valuation for Sweden increased by \$5,000,000 in a short period of time. The State's explanation is verbose and unclear. This increase affects our school taxes which dramatically increase every year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

Jane Gibbons, Clerk