

**Town of Damariscotta, Maine
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, August 17, 2005**

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Call To Order

The Board of Selectmen met at the Municipal Facility on Wednesday, August 17, 2005 to conduct town affairs. Second Vice-Chairman Walter Hilton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Members present were William Earle, Walter Hilton and Joshua Pinkham. Scott Gove arrived at 6:35 p.m. Absent was Richard McLean. Staff present was Town Manager William Post and Road Commissioner Terry Sutherburg. Others present were Al Mulkern, Julie Clark (LCTV) and one representative of the media.

III. Public Hearings – None

IV. Old Business

1. Revaluation Project.

Post stated that notices of assessments were mailed to all taxpayers, and the notices included an estimated tax for each property. The estimated tax was based on a mil rate of \$12.00 per \$1,000 of valuation. Informal hearings began on Wednesday August 17th, and continue through August 26th. At these hearings taxpayers can ask questions about their assessments and discuss any discrepancies that they feel are in their property assessment record. After the hearings are concluded, adjustments will be made and then the Board can set the actual tax rate. Tax bills will then be mailed.

2. Work Plan Workshop.

Post handed out a list of projects to be discussed at the Work Plan Workshop that will be held at a future meeting. Post asked the Board members to review the list so they are prepared to discuss these items.

V. Communications – None

VI. Official Action

1. Act on Paving Bid Award.

Post stated that the Town received two bids for paving from Lane Construction at \$49.40 per ton and Marriner's, Inc for \$40.25 per ton. He and the Road Commissioner recommend awarding the Paving Bid to Marriner's, Inc. at \$40.25 per ton. Post estimated that the Town would spend approximately \$46,000 on paving this year.

On motion of Hilton/Earle, the Board VOTED: To award the Paving Bid to Marriner's, Inc. for a price of \$40.25 per ton (Vote: 4 – 0).

2. Discuss Circuit Breaker Program for Taxpayers (Bill Earle).

Bill Earle attended a meeting that briefed him on the Circuit Breaker Program offered by the state. Earle stated that the program is a rent and property tax refund program that gives refunds to those that meet certain income guidelines. The income limits were raised considerably this year so more people

are eligible for the refunds. The total maximum refund allowed is \$2,000. Applications are accepted from August 1, 2005 to May 31, 2006 and the forms can be picked up at the Town Office.

VII. Town Manager's Discussion

1. Assessing Clerk Position.

Post stated that he received 22 applications and resumes for the assessing clerk/deputy clerk position. He is scheduling interviews for the following week and hopes to make a decision and have the position filled in three weeks.

VIII. Consent Calendar

1. **Regular Meeting Minutes of August 3, 2005.**

On motion of Hilton/Pinkham, the Board VOTED: To approve the minutes of August 3, 2005 as submitted (Vote: 4 – 0).

2. **Financial Reports:**

- a. Payroll Warrant #8 eneral Fund Warrant #9.

On motion of Hilton/Earle, the Board VOTED: To approve the General Fund Warrant #8 and General Fund Warrant #9 (Vote: 4 – 0).

- b. June Monthly Expense Report (End of FY05).
- c. 4th Quarter Revenue Report (End of FY05).

On motion of Hilton/Pinkham, the Board VOTED: To accept the June Monthly Expense Report and 4th Quarter Revenue Report as submitted (Vote: 4 – 0).

IX. Other Business

1. Pinkham stated that the Fire Department did not receive the grant for the rescue/hazardous materials vehicle they for which they applied.
2. Hilton stated that there are more businesses putting merchandise on the sidewalks on Main Street downtown. He asked if there was anything that could be done about this. Post asked Sutherburg if he knew any history on this. Sutherburg suggested sending a letter to the business owners. Gove suggested that Post should discuss this with the Police Chief.
3. Hilton asked if the Board has any input in the Jail Authority purchasing more property. Post stated that they do not, as the Jail Authority is an independent body established by the legislature.

Gove stated that he is outraged that the jail is proposing to purchase more property. He stated that the County Commissioners should come to the Boards of Selectmen in the county and get their opinions on these projects before they take part in them. He stated that Commissioner Bond has never appeared before the Board to discuss projects.

On motion of Hilton/Gove, the Board VOTED: To send a letter to the County Commissioners, the Sheriff, the Jail Authority and to Wayne Applebee stating they are opposed to the purchase of any additional property (Vote: 4 – 0).

Gove asked if the letter should be sent to the newspapers so that it could be published also. The Board agreed to send it to the newspapers for publication if the response was negative from the Commissioners and Jail Authority.

4. Gove stated that he has been receiving calls about the new assessments and asked Post to review the process. Post stated that informal hearings have begun in which the property owners can discuss their assessments with the revaluation company. If there are adjustments to be made, they will be completed. Once the hearings are completed, then taxes will be committed after the Board sets a tax rate. After taxes are committed, property owners can request an abatement should they still believe that their assessments are incorrect. The abatement would be reviewed by the Assessors' Agent and forwarded to the Board of Assessors with a recommendation by the Assessors' Agent. If the property owner still does not agree with the decision, they can appeal the Board of Assessors decision to the County Commissioners. If they disagree with that decision, then they can appeal to court. However, it is up to the property owners to prove that their assessment is incorrect, and does not reflect market value.

X. Executive Session - None

XI. Adjournment.

On motion of Hilton/Pinkham, the Board VOTED: To adjourn at 7:00 p.m. (Vote: 4 – 0).

Respectfully Submitted:

William S. Post, Town Manager