

**Town of Damariscotta, Maine
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, April 19, 2006**

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Call To Order

The Board of Selectmen met at the Municipal Building on Wednesday, April 19, 2006 to conduct town affairs. Chairman Richard McLean called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Members present were Richard McLean, Scott Gove, Walter Hilton, Joshua Pinkham and Vicki Pinkham. Staff present were Interim Admin Liaison, Janice L. Miller, Others present were Linda Cote-Small (Visioning Group), Steve O'Bryan, Karen O'Bryan (LCTV) and two members of the media.

III. Public Hearings – None

IV. Old Business – Hilton; Open House

1. Hilton reviewed the plaques that are proposed to be made in time for the Open House. Chf. Hutchings _ \$299; Selectmen of 2003 - \$395; plaque listing past Selectmen; \$1500. These are approx. costs. Day selected for Open House will be Saturday May 20, from 11:00 to 1:00. A cake and coffee will be served.

On motion of McLean/Hilton the Board VOTED: To approve up to \$1500 to be spent towards the cost of the three plaques. (Vote: 5-0)

V. Communications -

1. Acknowledged receipt of Warranty Deed from Carolyn Reny on the Biscay Beach property.
2. Sealer of Weights & Measures – received faxed letter from Robert Wiggin thanking us for considering him. No one knew who he was. V.Pinkham is going to check with the State, as the person that we have had for years, retired.
3. CED Invitation – McLean wanted to make sure that all Board members knew of the invitation to the Annual Meeting & Dinner.

VI. Other Business (taken out of order on suggestion of McLean)

1. Damariscotta Region 20/20 – Linda Cote-Small here as representative of recently formed group interested in the visioning process for the Town.

She described how the group began and that it's goal is to work with the leadership of the Selectmen. They are not trying to duplicate any efforts of any other group. She invited the Selectmen to a showing of the video "Growing Together" to be shown on May 2 @ 6:30 @ Skidompha Library. They believe that involving the community is essential and are wondering if the Selectmen have any thoughts or ideas for them on how to proceed from here. McLean stated that they had done the same presentation for the Land Use Committee and that they are a very diversified group. They further request that the Selectmen consider sponsoring the film. Handouts were given and she thanked the Board for their time.

VII. Official Action –

1. Act on Town Meeting Warrant –
 - a. Discussion on difference in CEO request #'s between Board approval and Budget Committee. Janice explained that the difference came in the form of a request from the CEO himself, due to rising fuel costs. Budget Committee agreed to \$ 36,218. on the request that the CEO begin tracking mileage and being paid as such, rather than the stipend he now receives.

On motion of Gove/Hilton, the Board VOTED: To approve the change in the CEO Budget request to \$ 36,218. (Vote 5-0)

- b. There is still no budget figure for the County Tax Assessment. The decision was made to contact the MMA as to the legality of leaving the number blank until Town Meeting. Janice will do this.
- c. Article #26 – currently shows a 11% interest rate. Discussion ensued.

On motion of McLean/Hilton the Board VOTED: To change the percent rate to 7.75% the same as last year on Article 26. (Vote 4-1 J.Pinkham in dissent)

- d. Secondary School Budget – Janice explained that the numbers were blank, due to her inability to accurately place the proper # in the proper place. Board reviewed what she meant – she suggests that the three articles be approved as are, with the condition that the numbers would be placed in their respective locations prior to going to print AND that the total of the numbers would be exactly as previously approved by the Board and the Budget Committee.

On the motion of Hilton/McLean the Board VOTED: To approve the Town Warrant as amended and with the Secondary School Budget numbers to be inserted as approved in the appropriate places within Articles #18,19,20 & 21. (Vote 5-0)

2. Authorization of execution of Church Street Bldg closing

On the motion of Hilton/McLean, the Board VOTED: To authorize Gove to execute the closing on behalf of the Town and The Board for the Church Street Building Sale. (Vote 5-0)

3. Assessor's Contract – Signing of agreed contract with Assessing Agent Gary Robbins.

On the motion of McLean/Hilton the Board VOTED: To execute and sign the Assessing Agent's contract as agreed upon. (Vote 5-0)

4. Steve O'Bryan, EMA Ordinance –
Draft EMA Ordinance has been reviewed by all Selectmen. McLean stated that he did not like the way some of it was worded. He would like to send it for legal review.

On motion of McLean/Gove the Board VOTED: To forward the draft EMA Ordinance for review by MMA counsel. (Vote 5-0)

VIII. Management Discussion (in lieu of a Town Manager) –

1. Update on Selection Committee – Janice reported that interviews are scheduled for The 21, 22 & 26 of April.
2. MMA Insurance request – Janice explained to the Board that the MMA is requesting a letter of request to drop the Indemnity Plan portion of the Town's Insurance offering. The reason behind this, is that it has not been used since inception of plan. It is more costly with less coverage than the used POS.

On Motion of Gove/Hilton, the Board VOTED: To authorize Janice to send a letter of request to MMA, to drop the Indemnity Portion of the Town's Employee Insurance Package. (Vote 5-0)

IX. Consent Calendar

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of April 5, 2006.

McLean noted an error in dates regarding the planned Office closure. Requested correction to Thurs. May 4, 2006.

On motion of Hilton/Gove, the Board VOTED: To approve the minutes of April 5, 2006 as amended. (Vote: 5 – 0).

2. Financial Reports:

- a. General Fund Warrant #46.

On motion of Hilton/J. Pinkham, the Board VOTED: To approve General Fund Warrant #46 as submitted (Vote: 5– 0).

X. Other Business

1. Business Licenses – Janice brought up this option as a way to track businesses in Town. Board was not in favor at this time.
2. J. Pinkham brought up the subject of tax exempt properties and what can be done to offset this impact on our tax base. Discussion followed with Gove requesting a better worded PILOT request to be sent.
3. J. Pinkham brought letter from McLean in reference to opposition to LD1481. J. Pinkham expressed concern that a personal opinion was issued on behalf of all Selectmen and the Town on Town Letterhead. He expressed that he had never authorized such a letter on his behalf or on the behalf of the residents. McLean acknowledged his responsibility in this matter. J.Pinkham, further requests that in the future all such letters be reviewed and approved by the Board of Selectmen prior to sending.
4. Gove questioned who has been awarded the Main Street project. Miller will contact MDOT in regards to this.
5. Paving Bids – bid requests have been sent out with a return no later than 1:00 pm on May 3rd.

XI. Executive Session – Personnel Issue

1. At 8:15 pm the Board went into executive session – with Hilton abstaining from attendance. Out of session at 8:30 pm.

On motion of Gove/J.Pinkham, the Board VOTED: To have McLean handle the personnel issue upon his return on Monday April 24, 2006. (Vote: 4-0 with Hilton abstaining)

XII. Adjournment.

On motion of Gove/Hilton, the Board VOTED: To adjourn at 8:36 p.m.(Vote: 5 – 0).

Respectfully Submitted:

Janice L. Miller
Interim Town Liaison