

**Town of Damariscotta  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Minutes  
Wednesday, January 3, 2007**

**I. Pledge of Allegiance**

**II. Call to Order**

The Board of Selectmen met at the Municipal Facility on Wednesday, January 3, 2007 to conduct town affairs. Chairman Richard McLean called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m. Members present were Richard McLean, Scott Gove, Walter Hilton, Vicki Pinkham, and Dave Wilbur. Staff present was Town Manager, Greg Zinser and Town Clerk, Cheryl Pinkham. Others present were Karen O'Bryan from LCTV, Dale and Sharlene Feltis of Reunion Station.

**III. Public Hearings**

- a. **Liquor License renewal for Reunion Station** McLean opened the public hearing at 6:31p.m. All advertising was properly done, and police reports have been obtained. Public comments or concerns were taken at this time.

Public hearing was closed at 6:32p.m

**On motion Gove/Hilton motion to approve liquor license application only. (Vote 5, 0, 0)**

**IV. Old Business-None**

**V. Communications-None**

**VI. Official Action**

**VII. Town Manager Discussion**

1. Zinser passed out some of the forms we will be using for the GA workfare program which the Selectmen approved back in October. He noted that these forms were the ones approved by the Board in October, and have also been approved by Department of Human Services, Legal, and Insurance.

Gove suggested a public hearing on the issue to see what the Town felt about it.

Pinkham questioned if that was necessary since the Board has already approved the program.

2. Zinser went to the solid waste meeting December 28<sup>th</sup>. He informed the board that the budget for transfer station would be staying the exact same, there would be no increase which was good news.

Pinkham asked how the tonnage was estimated.

Gove explained that the Solid Waste Ordinance now requires businesses to pay a fee which reduced the overall cost of residents, once you take out the commercial haulers our percentage went from 58% to 26%.

3. Zinser has received calls from residents of other towns on this issue. The MDOT is changing to a priority removal system. Classifying the snow storms by Class I, Class II, Class III etc. The roadways will also be classified, I-95 would be Class I, Route 1 would be Class II, Route 1B and side roads would continue down the classification.

McLean stated he was in favor of this plan, because in fact it was a plan, not just an idea. It makes sense.

4. Zinser mentioned the pre-emption at the Biscay Road intersection was not working. We can either replace now or budget for it in the future, pointing out that if they choose to fix this now, the funding will need to come out of their contingency fund. The Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director feel it is safer to do this now.

Gove stated he would like to wait for the upcoming budget cycle.

Pinkham wondered what the difference in cost would be from now to then.

Zinser was comfortable that the contractor would honor the original estimate of about \$4400.00

McLean asked Karen O'Bryan, (a resident on the Biscay Rd)

Gove said the loop sensor is what isn't working.

McLean disagrees with waiting for the upcoming budget season to fix the problem. He pointed out the difficulty the fire truck or other emergency vehicles would have in exiting Biscay Rd. Once you get 3 cars in line at the red light, it is impossible for emergency vehicles to pass. If the timing could be fixed with no noticeable delay then he would be willing to hold off until the upcoming budget.

Hilton suggested waiting to see if the loop could be fixed and then look again at it later in the budget season if it can't be fixed and decide then.

Zinser will look into it; the town just paid \$950.00 to fix the problem.

5. Zinser told the board the new water meter had been installed and it cost \$96.00
6. Zinser explained the chances of receiving the CDBG Planning Grant were very slim. He would like to have a month or two to work on it more. Feels coming up with a real plan, reviewing ordinances, working on the Comprehensive Plan, etc. would be beneficial. He will present the Board with a bulleted plan with options on how to proceed and see how the Board wishes to proceed. Looking more along the lines of a per diem planner.

Pinkham asked if he would need help with money, and suggested maybe pursuing an intern to assist with this project would be a good idea.

Zinser agreed to look into a planner-intern for this project. He went on to explain that he envisions ordinance review committee with staff members and such to get those all in order and moving forward. He would like to continue to use Bob Faunce as technical help only. Wants to be sure the Board understands that he only wants 'technical assistance' and not planning service from Bob for 2 reasons, #1) Knows the area and system well, and #2) works with the county and hopefully county tax money will pay for some of those services.

Wilbur questioned whether Zinser planned on running an ad for this per diem planner.

Zinser replied he had a job description written up, would e-mail it to the Board, and yes he did plan on advertising

Wilbur mentioned that Jane LeFleur, who is affiliated with Friends of Midcoast Maine, may be someone who is able to assist us with this also.

McLean agreed and said he would get Zinser the contact information for Jane.

Hilton added that the Town needed to be careful who they got to help with this project; we don't want someone coming in with an agenda already, we need someone who is going to work with us.

Zinser asked what the Board wants to do with this CDBG.

Pinkham suggested holding off until a plan is in place, and reiterated looking for a graduate to work as an intern would be beneficial. You get the educated assistance without the financial burden.

#### **VIII. Consent Calendar**

McLean suggested moving the minutes from two different meetings separately. The rest of the Board agreed.

**On motion McLean/Gove moved to accept minutes from 12-6-2006. (Vote 4, 0, 1) (Hilton abstained from voting due to his absence at the 12-6 meeting.)**

**On motion of Gove/Pinkham moved to accept minutes from 12-13-2006. (Vote 5, 0, 0)**

Wilbur commended Zinser for a job well done.

Pinkham stated that Brown's plowing was doing a great job.

#### **1&2. On motion of McLean/Gove moved to accept General Fund Warrant #25 & Payroll Warrant #26 with discussion.**

Gove questioned the expense of replacing brake pads on the police cruiser, felt \$228.00 was high.

McLean pointed out that we did not have to use the car dealership to fix this; we could shop around for a better price. To have the vehicle need new brake pads at 27,000 seems excessive.

Gove agreed, considering the vehicle has the police package option.

Zinser agreed that there are some ongoing police issues and cost.

Gove asked about the Tidewater bill for the police department and municipal office, has anyone looked into a different long distance carrier. If not he would like to see this done

Pinkham questioned internet cost, and maybe getting a package with phone, and internet.

Zinser said he would look into it, but now we are receiving internet for free through Time Warner.

**(Vote 5, 0, 0)**

#### **3. December Expense Report** McLean requested that Greg have the monthly expense reports e-mailed to them so the Board has a couple days to review.

Zinser agreed to do this.

Gove asked why we were at 52% and should be at 50%

Zinser mentioned that the hydrant rental increased, along with seasonal cost that come up this time of year, heat, plowing, etc.

**On motion of McLean/Hilton moved to accept December expense report. (Vote 5, 0, 0)**

#### **IX. Other Business**

Pinkham mentioned she had received a phone call from Christian Buehner and he has received a personal property bill for Land Shapers Inc, which the Board abated already.

Zinser will have Janice Miller look into that.

Hilton mentioned that the company we are getting the video equipment from wants a purchase order, and the cable company is to put a drop in for us.

McLean asked about the timing of the clock coming down. He also queried the Board as to how they felt about McLean approaching the Skidompha Library and having the clock on display there. He believes it's an amazing and beautiful piece of machinery that it really should be seen, and displaying it may assist in the fund raising.

Pinkham would like to see it enclosed or some protection around it.

**X. Executive Session**

The Board went into executive session at 7:36p.m. to discuss poverty abatements.

The Board was out of executive session at 8:01p.m.

**On motion of McLean/Pinkham moved to deny both poverty abatements request. (Vote 5, 0, 0)**

**On motion McLean/Wilbur moved to adjourn Board of Selectmen meeting at 8:02 p.m. (Vote 5, 0, 0)**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**Cheryl M. Pinkham, Town Clerk**