

# TOWN OF GUILDHALL

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

September 22, 2011, 7 p.m.

### Minutes

Present: Gil Rainault (GR), Citizen, Essex County Deputy Sheriff; Cassandra ?, Town Attorney; Melody Shores (MS), Citizen; Rachel Calhoun (RC), Citizen; Bob Root (BR), Citizen; Sharon Root (SR), Citizen; Pat Rogers (PR), Zoning Administrator, Justice of the Peace; Rebecca Bacon (RB), Citizen; Barbara Peaslee Smith (BPS), Road Commissioner, Justice of the Peace; Richard Burgess (RichB), Citizen; Valerie Foy (VF), Citizen; Rep. Janice Peaslee (JP), R-Essex-Caledonia-1; Shawn Carroll (SC), of Carroll Concrete; Dwyane Gilchris (DG), of Carroll Concrete; George Blakeslee (GB), Lister, Auditor, Town and School Moderator; Teri Anderson (TA), Zoning Board Member, Planning Board Member, Lister; Ed Clark (EC), Tree Warden, Planning Board Member; Laura Wilson (LW), Treasurer, Planning Board Member; Lj Holland (LH), Selectboard Vice-Chair; Richard "Stretch" Martin (RSM), Selectboard Clerk; Tom Dubreuil (TD), Selectboard Chair; Sam Swope (SS), Town Clerk; Al McVetty (AM), Delinquent Tax Collector, Justice of the Peace; Susan McVetty (SM), e911 Coordinator, Cemetery Commission Member; Will Berry (WB), Citizen; Josh Judge (JJ), Citizen; Lynne Berry (LB), Citizen; Andy Berry (AB), Citizen; Bob MacIlvane (BM), Constable, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator; Phil Nelson (PN), Citizen; Karen Nelson (KN), Citizen.

1. **Call to Order:** TD called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.
2. **Introductions:** TD said that introductions would be made as needed.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** On a motion by RSM and seconded by LH, it was

**Voted:** To approve the minutes of the August 22, 2011 meeting.

4. **Citizens' Concerns:**

BM announced his resignation as Constable, saying that his physical health prevented him from discharging his duties effectively. He said he appreciated all who helped him over the years, and he called on everyone in town to get along. At the suggestion of TD, BM was given an enthusiastic round of applause for his years of service as he exited.

RichB said he was concerned about the state of the Guild Hall steps. SS said he was in contact with the town's regular contractor and that the steps would be repaired soon. RB then asked if Bulky Day was still being planned for November; SS replied that it was.

PN discussed the history of the Guild Hall steps and a general discussion of them ensued. TD announced a Selectboard meeting, to be held next Thursday at 7 p.m., to discuss the issue.

## 5. Announcements

TD reviewed several documents that he had received in his capacity as Chair.

## 6. Reports

Treasurer: LW presented her report as usual. On a motion by RSM and seconded by LH, it was

**Voted:** To accept the Treasurer's report pending audit.

TD said he was still concerned about the "Misc." category on the Treasurer's report. LW clarified that this described revenues, not expenditures. At TD's request, LW said she would supply a detailed report of this category in future Treasurer's reports.

LW presented a proposed policy on the Town debit card, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. LH read the policy in its entirety.

On a motion by LH and seconded by RSM, it was

**Voted:** To adopt LW's proposed policy on the Town debit card.

Road Commissioner: BPS presented her report. AM asked when a section of the Fellows Rd. would be mowed. After a general discussion, TD instructed BPS to mow the section in question.

Salt Shed: TD opened the floor to discussion. TD summarized the situation by saying that there were now two possibilities, the Carrol Concrete site and the historical site of the salt pile, the Peaslee farm. EC spoke against having it at the Peaslee farm. SC said he was willing to house the facility at Carroll Concrete's property but was also open to having it at the Peaslee farm. PN brought up the possibility of a third option but emphasized the need to clean up any remaining salt mess at the Peaslee property; he also spoke in praise of the late Bert Peaslee. LW and EC expressed concern about a conflict of interest if the shed were located at a business she operates, since she is Road Commissioner. SC said that there would also be a conflict of interest were Carroll Concrete to house the shed. The Town lawyer said that conflicts of interest were inherent in small towns and that there was not a clear one in this case. There was a general discussion, prompted by a question from AM, of the status of the Town's salt shed

reserve account; LW said it was at about \$30,000. BPS said that there was no conflict and that she could separate her two roles; she also emphasized that the farm has liability insurance and that any backout provision in the contract would not leave the town saltless for a winter.

JP spoke in praise of her late husband, Bert, emphasizing his long history of service to Town and the long history of the Town's salt pile being stored at the Peaslee property.

GR pointed out that, since both Carroll Concrete and Peaslee's Vermont Potatoes are private businesses, any conflict issues would be similar no matter which vendor the Town chose; he also proposed putting the shed on the Town's Morin Rd. property. The Town lawyer said that private/public partnerships were not uncommon in Vermont and that the key was to have a transparent process. EC suggested putting the shed on public property and proposed a straw poll to gauge support in the meeting for each option. AB asked about the original purpose of the reserve account, with LW responding that it was not specific as to location.

EC reiterated his desire for a straw poll, which TD called for. 5 were in favor of the Peaslee property, 9 were in favor of the Carroll property, and 8 had no preference.

Pursuant to a V.S.A. 313, the Board went into executive session at 8:32 p.m. They returned at 8:56 p.m.

On a motion by RSM and seconded by LH, it was

**Voted:** With an abstention by LH, to put the salt shed on Peaslee's Vt. Potatoes's land with a 3-year contract, after which the Town could consider a permanent location.

Health Officer: The HO was not present, and TD read VF's letter regarding the HO's attempt to inspect the Essex County Courthouse. PR said that only food-serving facilities need be inspected. SS clarified that he had been in touch with VF on the issue and had no record of the Selectboard instructing the HO to inspect all public buildings in Guildhall. VF said that the Assistant Judges would not allow the HO into the ECC without a specific complaint. LW then read the VLCT guide to HOs, which said that the local HO "must inspect all public buildings" yearly." VF and TD emphasized the need for a clearer understanding of the relevant Vermont laws. MS expressed opposition to the HO.

Listers: TA and GB said that the listers, as required by the State, would either be doing a reappraisal or a statistical update.

ZA: PR said she had been in touch with the Vermont Dept. of Ag. Regarding the Jim Homer proposal and that Mr. Homer had shifted his focus to a new possible location for his proposed hydroponics facility (the new location is the Hodgdon property on Route 102 by the New Hampshire line).

E911: SM said there was nothing to report, as no new 911 numbers had been assigned since the last Selectboard meeting.

7. **Old Business:**

Town Hall Key Update: SS said that the Town's locksmith would be by soon to make new keys for the Selectboard so they would have access to the Town Office. VF requested a copy of the Guild Hall key for the Courthouse, as access has been customary; SS said he would provide one.

Update on Sale of Town Property: AM said he had spoken with Mr. John Chessman and that Mr. Chessman was not angry at the town over the recent problems with the sale of the Morin Rd. property. The Board expressed their view that the Town lawyer should help with the wording of any newspaper ads or announcements in regard to a second attempt to sell the property.

Update on Survey of Garrow Lot: EC summarized the situation: when he was on the Board, TruLine Surveying had done a preliminary survey of the lot but had not returned to complete it. EC stressed the importance of getting TruLine to finish the survey, given the fact that the town had already paid the company some money. TD said he would contact TruLine and make sure they finished the survey.

8. **Signing of Orders:** LW presented the orders for payroll and accounts payable for Town and highway accounts for September, and they were duly signed. On a motion by LH and seconded by RSM, it was

9. **Adjournment**

On a motion by LH and seconded by RSM, it was

**Voted:** To adjourn, at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sam Swope, Town Clerk

