

TOWN OF GUILDHALL
SELECTBOARD MEETING
Tuesday, October 24, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Minutes

1. Call to Order 6:00 PM

2. Introductions
Gary Brown (GB), Chair; John Orłowski (JO), Vice-Chair; Jason Sterling (JS), Clerk;
George Blakeslee (gbl), Town Clerk/Treasurer;
Eileen Thietten, Zoning Administrator, Lister; Alfred McVetty, Delinquent Tax Collector;
Brad McVetty, road contractor; Rich Schiller, NEK Broadband town rep, resident; Bruce
Evans, town property owner; Dennis and Rebecca Bacon, residents; Tom Rogers, Chair,
Planning Board; Patrick Shattuck, resident; Valerie Foy, Emergency Manager, resident;
Alex McLain and Danielle Aretz and Corey Paarent, National Grid;

3. Discuss retaining a Town Attorney
 - a. Bruce Evans report on his contact with Maidstone Town Attorney.
 - b. See email – Brian Monighan, experience with town documents and litigation (225/hr and 215/hr) for Maidstone
 - c. Speakerphone with James Carroll, with the *possibility* that the Selectboard may go into executive session to discuss legal matters with counsel
 - d. Experience 25-30 years, with 20s VT towns, VLCT PACIF assigned counsel, employment law, zoning, ordinance, roads (no Bonding work), tax sales
 - e. Rates 225/hr and 130/hr para and cost sheet/ monthly billing

4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Regular Meeting, September 19, 2023 M, S, A

5. Citizens' Concerns none

6. Announcements
 - a. Trash pick-up ONLY, NO Recycling – November 9th
 - b. Thanksgiving closure – Tuesday, November 21 – Monday November 27, 2023

7. Reports of the Boards, Officers and Committees
 - a. Treasurer's Report M pending audit, S, A
 - i. Revenue \$ 1,008,581 vs. Expense \$ 345,905 (Jan 1 – Oct 24)
 - ii. WGSB/CDARS Balance \$ 878,368
 - a. (owed to school \$ 585,000)
 - b. (GF Acct Balance \$ 293,368)
 - iii. Budget vs. Actual handout
 - iv. Property Tax revenues (prelim) \$ 908,073 outstanding – 22 parcels/\$ 38,963

- b. Delinquent Tax Collector

DTC	P \$ 6,885	I \$ 1,799	P \$ 551	T \$ 9,236
DWT	P \$ 140	I \$ 4	P \$ 35	T \$ 179

- c. Road Commissioner's Report
 - i. GA#0324 reim received \$11,500
 - ii. Winter salt quote – Cargill \$95.00/ton
 - iii. Winter sand – chose Carroll – Brad will let them know
 - iv. Update on road maintenance
 Fellows Rd work complete; Granby Rd driveway meeting Nov 9th; all roads now graded; signposts received; logging out of Maplewood Farm Rd

- d. Listers' Report
 - i. Homesteads & Current Use & Sales Studies & Transfers

- e. Zoning Admin's Report
 - i. 2 building permits – 1 approved,
1 denied (owner has requested a Variance Hearing)
 - ii. Crum building?

- 8. Old Business:
 - a. MERP assessment on Sep 26th – awaiting report to base grant application on
 - b. Twin States Energy Project - Letter of Concern reply presentation (see handouts)
 - i. Questions asked about design, materials, manholes, heat (studies in process), road closures, estimated lifespan, established stone culverts; how to fix water lines at similar depth, how will work with Town occur (need to know State contact for AOT Permits)
 - ii. Patrick Shattuck – need to bring State Agency representatives to meeting
 - iii. What if Town votes non-support (not on Town property, so State can override)
 - iv. Need to bring matter to Town Open House
 - v. NEK Broadband – update (see handouts), received \$17M grant for NEK, working on price point with subsidies

- 9. New Business:
 - a. Choose Town Attorney – M to use Carroll et al for legal counsel on hourly basis, S, A
 - b. Rubbish/Recycling contract – review and action M to accept Quote and contract, S, A
 - c. Essex Co Sheriff contract - review and action - confirm Town Meeting allocation
 - d. Funds transfer to Planning Board for Town Survey mailing - M lister to planning bd \$500, S, A
 - e. Zoning permit fee increase - M increase to \$100 Jan 1, 2024, S, A

- 10. Other Need to advertise for Janitor for November meeting
- 11. Executive Session (if needed) none
- 12. Signing of Orders
- 13. Adjournment 7:47 PM