

TOWN OF WINSLOW, MAINE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
& PUBLIC HEARING
Minutes of Meeting
January 11, 2010

PUBLIC HEARING:

Chairman Russell opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 and asked for comments on the following:

1. Order No. 20-2009: Providing for The conveyance of Town owned, Sebec Riverfront, Property.

The council heard from several residents including riverfront property owners, members of the snowmobile club and non riverfront property owners. Chairman Russell closed the public hearing and opened the regular meeting at 7:47 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

1. Roll call attendance was taken with six (6) members present.

James Byrne, Raymond Caron, Paul Manson, Catherine Nadeau, Steven Russell and Gerald Saint Amand. Roland Michaud was absent.

Michael Heavener, Town Manager was present along with attorney Bill Lee, and many residents.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Motion by Mr. Saint Amand and seconded by Mr. Byrne that the minutes of the meetings held on December 14 & January 4 be approved. Motion carried. Unanimous.

3. Communications

- a. Legislative Update

No Comment.

1. Copy of Minutes from Kennebec Water District meeting held December 3.
2. Copy of Minutes from Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District meeting held November 17.

4. Reports of Committees and Commissions

a. Town Manager's Report

PUBLIC HEARING POSTPONED

We were planning to conduct the public hearing and second reading for Ordinance No. 6-2009 at our Council meeting on January 11th. The ordinance determines which matters will be approved by order and which by resolution. Unfortunately we did not meet the deadline for posting a notice in the newspaper on the ordinance so we will have to conduct the public hearing and second reading at our February Council meeting.

ANTICIPATED REVENUE SHORTFALL

As you know, in December Governor Baldacci proposed state budget cuts to help address a projected \$400 million revenue shortfall. Some of the proposed cuts will have an impact on our current municipal and school budgets.

For example, the Governor is proposing a \$12 million cut in municipal revenue sharing, this fiscal year, which equates to a loss of revenue for us of **\$228,671**. I have begun working with the department heads to identify budget cuts to address a projected revenue shortfall. I hope to have a proposed budget reduction plan for the February Town Council meeting.

The School Department has lost \$186,858 so far this year in State Aid, however, they have been able to absorb this loss with the use of stimulus money. It is unclear at this point how much additional revenue they will lose as a result of the Governor's most recent announcement.

ASSESSOR RESIGNING

As you know, our Assessor Kelly Karter is resigning her position here. Her last day of work will be January 12th. Kelly has been our Assessor for the past 5 1/2 years and she will be missed.

I have begun discussions with Waterville City Manager Mike Roy regarding sharing assessing services. I hope to have further information by this month's Council meeting.

LETTER TO RIVER LAND ABUTTERS

Attached to this report is a draft of a letter I am proposing we send to each of the River Land Abutters if the Council approves of conveying the abutting land to them.

As you will see, I am proposing that if an abutter does not want to acquire the land then we would offer it to the abutters on either side.

I am also proposing that all land transactions occur before March 30, 2010. To accomplish this there will need to be a special Town Council meeting in January to conduct the second reading of Order #20-2009.

Also attached to this report are revised fee options and a river land balance sheet depicting the projected total costs.

We can discuss the letter further at the Council meeting on 1/11/2010.

ORDER No. 19-2009

We are scheduled to have the second reading of Order #19-2009 at our Monday Council meeting. This order is for the installation of a streetlight on Timber Oaks Drive.

The neighborhood association is asking that we table the second reading until February because the association would like to meet to discuss the proposed location of the streetlight

SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION

If there are no objections by the Council, MDOT will authorize us to lower the speed limit on Quimby Lane from 45 MPH to 35 MPH.

The Public Works Director is recommending that the speed limit be lowered due to the character of the road and the additional homes that have been built in that area.

FORT HALIFAX RESTORATION & DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

As you probably know, for many years the Friends of Fort Halifax have been working towards improvements at the Fort Halifax Park.

A collaborative effort has recently begun involving the Friends of Fort Halifax, the 4th of July Committee and the Winslow Parks & Rec. Department. The group has been working towards restoring portions of the old fort and developing the park into a popular destination point.

One goal of the group is to complete the restoration and development project without the use of local property tax dollars.

In order to pursue other funding sources and to develop the park approval is needed from the Town Council. Therefore, I have put this project on this month's agenda as a discussion item.

SUSTAIN MID-MAINE

Last year at around this time Councilor Cathy Nadeau and I attended a Catalyst event in Waterville designed to develop strategies on sustainability for this area. As a result of the event the Sustain Mid-Maine Coalition was formed and progress is being made towards sustainability.

A follow-up to last year's event is being scheduled for Saturday, January 16th, from 9 to 12 noon in the Waterville City Council Chambers.

If any of the Town Councilors would like to attend this event then please let me know. This would be a good opportunity to learn about what is being done in this region towards sustainability.

BUDGET WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

The schedule for our upcoming budget workshops is as follows:

Monday, March 15th @ 7:00 pm

Departments

Monday, March 22nd @ 7:00 pm

Miscellaneous

Monday, March 29th @ 7:00 pm

Schools & Agencies

Monday, April 12th @ 7:00 pm

First reading

Monday, May 10th @ 7:00 pm

Second reading

The Council instructed Mr. Heavener to advertise for an Assessor to replace Kelly Karter. Council had no objections to lowering the speed limit on Quimby Lane.

Department Reports

Reports were received from Code Enforcement, Police Department, Fire Department, Parks & Recreation and Library.

- b. Treasurer’s warrant approved and signed by the Finance Committee during the Month of December.

No. 11.....	\$ 536,797.65
No. 12.....	\$ 292,557.28
No. 13.....	<u>\$ 1,008,473.50</u>
Total	\$ 1,837,828.43

- c. Financial Report

Motion by Mr. Saint Amand and seconded by Mr. Byrne to approve all reports.
Motion carried. Unanimous.

TABLED ITEMS:

Motion by Mr. Byrne and seconded by Mr. Saint Amand to remove Order No. 20-2009 from the table.
Motion carried. Unanimous.

- 1. Order No. 20-2009: Providing for The conveyance of Town owned, Sebasticook Riverfront Property. (First Reading) Sponsored by Steven Russell.

Mr. Saint Amand and Mr. Russell recused themselves from the vote.

Motion by Mr. Byrne and seconded by Mr. Manson to accept the First Reading of Order No. 20-2009.
Motion carried. Unanimous.

Motion by Mr. Byrne and seconded by Mrs. Nadeau to amend Order No. 20-2009, line 4, to add “abutting owners means having direct frontage to the riverfront property”.
Motion carried. Unanimous.

After a lengthy discussion a roll call vote was taken.

James Byrne—Yes	Raymond Caron—Yes
Paul Manson—Yes	Catherine Nadeau—Yes

Motion passed, 4 – 0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1. Ordinance No. 6-2009: Providing for the Repeal of Town Council Rules 213 A 1-3 and the adoption of this Ordinance Determining which matters will be approved by Order and which by Resolution. (Second Reading) Sponsored by Steven Russell.

Motion by Mr. Saint Amand and seconded by Mr. Byrne to adopt Ordinance No. 6-2009 as amended. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Mr. Heavener explained the Ordinance had not been advertised. Motion by Mr. Saint Amand and seconded by Mr. Byrne to Table Ordinance No. 6-2009 until the next regular meeting. Motion carried. Unanimous.

2. Order No. 19-2009: Providing for the Installation of a Street Light at the Timber Oaks Drive cul-de-sac on CMP pole #4. (Second Reading) Sponsored by Steven Russell.

Motion by Mr. Saint Amand and seconded by Mr. Byrne to table Order No. 19-2009 until the next regular meeting. Motion carried. Unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Order No. 1-2010: Providing for the Authorization for the Town Manager to Sign an Option to Convey Town Owned Property. (First Reading) Sponsored by Steven Russell.

Motion by Mr. Saint Amand and seconded by Mr. Manson to accept the first reading of Order No. 1-2010. A roll call vote was taken.

Catherine Nadeau—Yes	Raymond Caron—Yes
Gerald Saint Amand—Yes	James Byrne—Yes
Paul Manson—Yes	Steven Russell—Yes

Motion passed, 6 – 0.

2. Order No. 2-2010: Providing for authorization for the Town Council Chair to sign an Employment agreement with Michael W. Heavener (hereinafter Called the “Manager” to perform the services of Town Manager. (First Reading) Sponsored by Steven Russell.

Motion by Mr. Saint Amand and seconded by Paul Manson to accept the first reading of Order No. 2-2010. A roll call vote was taken.

Paul Manson—Yes	Catherine Nadeau—Yes
James Byrne—Yes	Gerald Saint Amand—Yes
Raymond Caron—Yes	Steven Russell—Yes

Motion passed, 6 – 0.

3. Order No. 3-2010: Providing for Authorization for the Town Manager to sign an Employment agreement with Jeffrey P. Fenlason (hereinafter Called the “Chief”) to perform the services of Police Chief. (First Reading) Sponsored by Steven Russell.

Motion by Mr. Saint Amand and seconded by Mr. Byrne to accept the first reading of Order No. 3-2010. A roll call vote was taken.

Raymond Caron—Yes	Gerald Saint Amand—Yes
James Byrne—Yes	Paul Manson—Yes
Catherine Nadeau—Yes	Steven Russell—Yes

Motion passed, 6 – 0.

DISCUSSION:

July 4th committee, Friends of Fort Halifax along with Parks & Recreation have been working together and presented a slide show depicting a ten (10) phase project to improve and develop Fort Halifax Park. Motion by Mr. Saint Amand and seconded by Mr. Byrne that the Committee move forward with obtaining an earmark from the Federal Government for phase 1 (Riprap), phase 2 (Walking path) and phase 6 (Boat Landing/ Boardwalk) of their proposed plan. Motion carried. Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Mr. Saint Amand and seconded by Mr. Byrne to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Town Clerk of Winslow Maine