

MINUTES OF MEETING
Board of Selectmen
November 25, 2008
Southwest Harbor Town Offices

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
Attending: Kristin Hutchins, Chair; Ralph Dunbar, Jr., Skip Wilson, Vice-Chair; Trudy Bickford; Robin Bennett, Town Manager. Excused: Berten Willey
Visitors: Ken Salvatore, David Chapais
- II. Visitors to be heard not on the agenda:
- III. Approval of Minutes: November 12, 2008:
Corrections/additions: Add Trudy Bickford as attending;
Change vote re police station 3 – 2 (Bickford, Hutchins opposed) It was Moved (Wilson) and Seconded (Bickford) to approve the Minutes of November 12, 2008 as amended.
- IV. Warrants: Administration 29 – 36 Water 23 Sewer 13
- V. Old Business
- a. Facilities update – RFP has gone out for Police Station renovations.
- b. School consolidation – December 4th at the High School at 7:00 p.m.
- VI. New Business
- a. Warrant Committee Appointment: Susan Allen appeared before the Select Board for a one – year term on the Warrant Committee. Mary Anne Griffin also appeared before the Board for a one-year term. Bickford thanked both volunteers. Moved Wilson and Seconded Bickford to nominate Susan Allen to the Warrant Committee for a one year term. 4 – 0 in favor. Moved Hutchins and Seconded Wilson to appoint Mary Anne Griffin to the Warrant Committee for one year. 4 – 0 in favor.
- b. Causeway Club Billing Dispute: Ken Salvatore reminded the Board that the Causeway Club brought up this issue last Spring and decided to monitor usage this Summer to see if the water meter reading was lower. Hutchins showed Salvatore a copy of the terms and conditions with the PUC. The Board does not have the authority to make any changes

to the bill. Salvatore suggested that there may have been a mistake somewhere else. Bennett said all things have been checked, including the billing, testing the meter twice which came back both times as accurate, as well as double checking the numbers that were reported back to the office. Hutchins reiterated the Board's difficulty and said she felt there was nothing the Board could do. Wilson felt it was a difficult situation – Bennett pointed out that the Water Department personnel went to the maintenance personnel at the Causeway Club when the meter indicated activity in the Fall of 2006. Bickford felt there was no legal way the Town could give an abatement. Salvatore felt this was very poorly mishandled by the Town. He said he understood the legality and thanked the Board for their time.

c. Special Town Meeting Warrant: December 9 at 5:45 p.m. The Town cannot “Not” foreclose on a property without this type of notification. This meeting will waive the foreclosure. Hutchins made a motion to warn the meeting for the purpose of waiving the foreclosure on the property on December 9 at 5:45 p.m. Vote in favor: 4 - 0

VII. Manager's Report – The Town Dock project is on-going; A copy of the 07/08 audit was sent out in Selectmen's packets; Wadman will present at the next meeting. Bennett has attended two workshops. The holiday party will be on Dec 12th at Fiddler's Green; Regarding decorations on Main Street there is not the proper electrical at the poles to do that; working with Fair Point to get the appropriate electrical hook ups for future years.

VIII. Other Business: Wilson asked about the McEachern Hutchins negotiations and the drain: Bennett said she met with McEachern's son after the Planning Board meeting, and they discussed items to be done, but she has not heard back. She reported that the Planning Board made a condition for the permit that McEachern replace the pipe under the building with 24” pipe. The Town will pay for the upgrade from the 18” up to the 24” and Bennett is now waiting for the cost difference from McEachern. Monson confirmed this and said the 24” is being installed now. The State is concerned that the pipe not go into the manhole at the present, and that is being addressed. Monson said the best time to do the tie-in will be in Spring. Monson is trying to get the State to commit to this in writing. Hutchins asked about the cost of tying into the manhole. Monson believes the State must deal with that in the Spring. Bickford suggested again that there be clear map or inventory that will better inform the Selectmen of this type of infrastructure. Damon can attend the Selectmen's meeting on the 23rd of December.

Wilson said all Towns within the area are putting sand on the road and last Saturday Southwest Harbor was the only one using salt. Monson said that at the time, the crew was calibrating the machinery. Monson was asked about his knowledge of the Select policy on sand and salt. He said Public Works likes to get a layer of salt down first and then they use 125#'s of salt to a yard of sand. He said he was not aware that the Town wanted to reduce the salt use by 50%. Wilson said it makes more sense to use sand for traction and safety. Monson said he recommended using the salt first to bond to the highway and then switch to the salt/sand mix. He agrees sand is good, but recommends the salt application first as a tried and true method that works. Bickford said that her memory of last year was to cut the use of the salt by 50%. She would like to have the 50/50 policy met. Wilson suggested "hot loading" for the first trip. Monson said his method uses less salt than the 50/50 policy, and that is a proven method. Bennett reminded the Board that DOT said each road has to be considered separately, and Monson did do that last year; every effort is being made to comply with the Board's wishes, but to comply with the overall wishes of the residents of the Town as well. Bickford suggested putting the policy in writing; Monson would like to see a written policy from the Board. Bennett said she put together with Monson, a spread sheet that will give salt priority to individual roads, and can present that to the Board. Hutchins is satisfied with Monson's explanation, and would like to see the spread sheet. Bickford doesn't believe that Monson's plan meets the Boards directive of last year. She would like to see the Board policy adhered to. Dunbar said it seems the Town wants to use less salt and suggests leaving it up to Monson's discretion, but reduce the amount of salt in the process. So moved Hutchins. No second. Hutchins asked Monson to put in writing his protocols for winter roads treatment. He agreed. Bickford said the Board must be much clearer and put these things in writing. Monson will offer a preliminary written policy and provide the spread sheet to the Board. Allen suggested there may be an alternative to the salt, and asked if Monson would be able to add that to the proposed policy.

Hutchins brought up the financial sheet that was in the packet. She asked about the debt service – Bennett said the abatements for 2007 values were recent and that will put that line item over. Overall the financials are just about where they are expected to be.

Dunbar referred to the Wadman report. Bennett said that Wadman will be able to answer questions at the next meeting.

- IX. Sign Warrants: It was Moved Wilson and Seconded Bickford to accept the Warrants as presented. Vote in favor: 4 – 0
- X. Adjournment - It was Moved Hutchins and Seconded Wilson to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m. Vote in favor: 4 – 0