

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen
June 24, 2008 @ 6:00 P.M.
Southwest Harbor Town Offices

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call: call to order at 6:00 p.m.
Present: Trudy Bickford, Chair; Berten Willey, Kristin Hutchins, Dorr “Skip” Wilson, Whitney Granholm
Robin M. Bennett, Town Manager
Visitors: Dick Broon, BHT; Mark Good, MD Islander; Ralph Dunber, Jr., (Selectman elect); Tom Benson, Ronald Sanborn, David Chapais, Police Chief; Norman Hill; Michael Allen, Jr.; Elizabeth Gaiser
- II. Visitors to be heard not on the agenda: none
- III. Approval of Minutes: June 10, 2008 – Wilson said he didn’t have a copy of them in his packet – the minutes were deferred while Wilson reviewed a copy provided by the Chairman.
- IV. Warrants: Administration 163 – 168, Water 14, Sewer 30;
Fire_____
- V. Old Business
- a. Facilities update: no new developments (Bennett)
 - b. School consolidation – no new developments (Hutchins)
- VI. New Business
- 1. Union 98 – Island Wide Wireless initiative: Bennett introduced Mr. Norman Hill from MDI High School. He is proposing an island wide wireless internet to facilitate students working at home with their lap tops. This creates an even playing field for students who don’t have computer access at home. The Jackson Lab and U. Maine have cooperatively put together a huge internet service and there is a huge jump in band width to supply the whole island student population. The students are put into the system, and they will have the access with the appropriate blocking as exists at the school. Red Zone is the company that will offer full wireless internet to anyone who wishes to join. Mr. Hill will be applying for a grant in July and will be looking for Town support to include in his grant application. This does not involve funding from the Towns, but simply a letter from Town officials saying they support the project. Red Zone will

maintain the wireless internet ongoing. Mr. Hill asked the Selectmen for questions: Hutchins asked how the students get access and regular wireless users do not. Mr. Hill said the aim is for 100% of the students to be covered. He said in meetings held at the school previously, discussions were held about the health danger of the transmitters. Mr. Hill said he spent three plus weeks researching this concern and found that the transmitters are harmless. Most of the data provided combines cell towers, hydro transmission stations and a variety of other signals, which is where the danger, if any lies. The radio transmitters used for this purpose have little or no danger attached.

The student computers will be filtered. Mr. Hill has used available federal funds to build the infrastructure to connect all the schools – this will allow even the outer islands to have 60 megabytes (mb) of service. Hutchins asked about the percentage of island residents on Mount Desert Island that have internet service. Mr. Hill estimated that 40% of the island residents have internet service. He needs a letter of support from the Town before the July 15th deadline for the grant. It was Moved (Wilson) Seconded (Willey) to write the letter of support. 5 – 0 in favor. Bennett will put the letter on letterhead.

2. Comprehensive Plan Committee: Worcester explained the fisherman/boat builder meetings that have been held by the Comp Plan. Committee There was also a meeting with the Harbor Committee and the Planning Board. The Committee is waiting for feedback from the Planning Board. They would also like feedback from the Selectmen before the committee finalizes that portion of their work. Wilson: said there is an “incredible wealth of information” in the report. Willey agreed. The Chair thanked Mr. Worcester and the committee for the work involved.

3. Annual Appointments: Bennett said the Selectmen packets contained a list of appointments for vacancies and for renewals of members.

Acadia Disposal District: It was Moved (Wilson) and Seconded (Granholtm) to appoint Robin M. Bennett. Vote in favor: 5 – 0.

Board of Appeals: It was Moved (Wilson) Seconded (Granholtm) to re-appoint Charles Morrill. Vote in favor 5 – 0.

Building Committees: The Chair asked each candidate why they wanted to serve on the committee. Benson – wants to get involved; Hutchins said the items talked about as a charge to the committee was to review prior information, analyze that and come to the Selectmen with a couple of recommendations; as well as do some public outreach and get feedback.

It was Moved (Wilson) and Seconded (Granholt) to appoint Tom Benson to the Building Committee. Vote in favor: 5 – 0.

Ed Davis was absent, due to illness.

Elizabeth Gaiser: participated in the fire station proposal and building completion. It was Moved (Wilson) and Seconded (Willey) to appoint Elizabeth Gaiser to the Building Committee. Vote in favor: 5 – 0.

Dale Mills: said a short term committee would work with his part-time residency and he has served on Committees previously; he is concerned about the Town and would like to help get something on the ballot in November that makes sense to the voters. It is a way of giving back. It was Moved (Wilson) and Seconded (Granholt) to appoint Dalen Mills to the Building Committee. Vote in favor: 5 – 0.

Ronald Sanborn stated he is concerned with the direction of the Town and would like to serve and help with the decision; It was Moved (Granholt) and Seconded (Wilson) to appoint Ronald Sanborn to the Building Committee. Vote in favor: 5 – 0.

Worcester said he has served on this Committee with the Fire House project and is interested in the building and facilities, he wants to help as it moves forward; It was Moved (Wilson) and Seconded (Willey) to appoint Ben C. Worcester III to the Building Committee. Vote in favor: 5 – 0. Bennett asked if the Board wanted a Selectman, the Police Chief, and Town Manager to be on this committee. Chair said they would sit in informally. Hutchins said she would like to attend only to assist with questions; Granholt felt it was important to have the Chief of Police there to answer questions.

Johnson suggested that it might not be a wise decision to have the Police Chief on the committee officially. Chair said he should be there. Mills said the Committee should look over the information first and then go back to the Board and Police Chief and invite them in after the first couple of meetings. The Board of Selectmen said they want to have something on the ballot by November. Worcester asked the time frame. Bennett said the recommendation should come in to the Selectmen before Labor Day. Hutchins said the Town would help with advertising public meetings. Granholt said all meetings are public meetings. Wilson would like to encourage the two who were not able to make it to come to the next Select meeting. Worcester asked about the legal requirement of Notice of the meetings. Bennett said at least 4 days notice – posted and hopefully in the paper. This coming Thursday, July 2nd at 6:30 p.m. is the first scheduled meeting date.

The following citizens were appointed to new terms on committees and boards listed below:

All motions were voted 5 – 0 in favor as follows:

Moved Wilson and Seconded Willey that Weldon Leonard be re-appointed to the Harbor Committee.

Moved Wilson and Seconded Hutchins that Carolyn Maling and Sandy Johnson be appointed to the Planning Board.

Moved Wilson and Seconded Hutchins that George Jellison, Clayton Strout and Ed Reed be re-appointed to the Shellfish Commission:

Solid waste: Lee Worcester and Erika Shriner expressed interest in being on the committee. Ms. Shriner was not in attendance. Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Worcester if he felt, being owner of E.M.R. Recycling, it would be a “conflict of interest” for him to be on the committee. Mr. Worcester replied that as it is not a policy making committee, he felt it would not be a conflict, and that he would bring a great deal of expertise to the committee.

Moved Wilson and Seconded Willey to appoint Lee Worcester to the Solid Waste Committee.

Moved Wilson and Seconded Hutchins that Sandy Johnson be re-appointed to the Warrant Committee.

Moved Wilson and Seconded Granholm that Robert Duplisea (RJD Associates) be appointed as Tax Assessor.

Moved Wilson and Seconded Willey that Chadbourn Smith be re-appointed as the Town Attorney

Moved Wilson and Seconded Willey that Beatrice Grinnell be re-appointed as Town Clerk:

Moved Wilson and Seconded Willey to re-appoint Beatrice Grinnell as Registrar of Voters.

Moved Wilson and Seconded Hutchins to re-appoint Efrima (Emma) Tigno as Deputy Registrar of Voters

Moved Wilson and Seconded Hutchins to re-appoint Donald Lagrange as Code Enforcement Officer:

Moved Wilson and Seconded Willey to re-appoint Donald Lagrange as Deputy Plumbing Inspector.

Moved Wilson and Seconded Hutchins to re-appoint Efrima (Emma) Tigno as Deputy Tax Collector.

Moved Wilson and Seconded Willey to re-appoint Linda Corson, Efrima (Emma) Tigno and Carol Walsh as Deputy Clerks.

Moved Wilson and Seconded Willey to re-appoint David Chapais and Michael Miller as Constables.

Moved Wilson and Seconded Willey to appoint the following as Full time Police Officers: David Chapais, Michael Miller, Michael P. Allen, Brian O’Neill, Andrew Weatherbee

Moved Wilson and Seconded Willey to appoint the following as Reserve Police Officers: Ryan Haines, Nick Hardwick, Crystal Hobbs, Christopher Pitman, Shawn Murphy, John Weaver

Moved Wilson and Seconded Willey to appoint Lyle Dever as Interim Harbormaster.

Police Chief Chapais introduced Michael Allen who has just been hired and will start on the 29th of this month. Andrew Weatherbee has also been hired full time. The current plan is to get Weatherbee in the August police training and Mike in the January.

Chair announced that the contract has been renewed with the Town Manager.

4. Harbor House - Flamingo Days: information provided by Mark Campbell. The Chair read a proclamation letter from Mr. Campbell and asked the Board of Selectmen to officially declare July 18 – 21 as official Flamingo Days. It was Moved (Wilson) and Seconded (Willey) to sign the proclamation. Vote in favor: 5 – 0.

5. Harbor House – Gaming Permit: Diana Novella explained that during the Quieside Festival Harbor House wanted to conduct a Texas Hold'em game of chance as a fundraiser and as an event for adults. Historically the events have been for children. Wilson said he has attended this at Bar Harbor events and it is a great fund raiser. Diana said Harbor House has all the other permits needed for the weekend. It was Moved (Wilson) and Seconded (Willey) to approve the application for Texas Hold'em game of chance, for Harbor House Flamingo Days. Vote in favor: 5 – 0.

6. Board of Selectmen Chair/Vice Chair Elections: Chairman Bickford nominated Kristin Hutchins for Chairman, the nomination was seconded by Granholm. Vote in favor: 5 - 0; Vice Chair: Berten Willey nominated Dorr “Skip” Wilson for Vice Chair of the Board of Selectmen., seconded by Bickford. Vote in favor: 5 - 0

7. Street Name Request: Bennett said the road is private and the requested name is Windy Woods. It was Moved (Hutchins) and Seconded (Bickford) to accept the name Windy Woods Way. Vote in favor: 5 – 0.

8. Legislative Policy Committee Election: Two candidates from the area are up for approval. It was Moved (Wilson) and Seconded (Willey) to vote for the two candidates listed as running for the Legislative Policy Committee. Vote in favor: 5 – 0.

VII. Manager's Report: Lyle Dever has agreed to work as the interim Harbormaster; two vacancies are filled in the police department; water audit was provided to Selectmen in their packet; water quality project (1st year) Olver Associates will meet with the Board of Selectmen in the next few weeks – Hutchins commented that we will expect “another expenditure”; Bennett said that in the current year end report the HAA's are not longer an issue and the Trihalomethanes are easier to remove through technology.

The school has found the money for the legal expenses – Hutchins would like to see the Board make a motion to put in the same funds as the other Towns have put forward; Bickford reiterated the desire to see the funds come out of the school budget. Granholm said it was a re-vamping of the whole union, and she thinks the Town should give the money to the cause – it's a rare occasion. Granholm thought the Town voters would want to. Wilson said the school knew there was going to be legal expenses; and they could have “very easily” added the money into the school budget and sold it to the voters. Johnson said she believes it is not a good precedent to set by going back and giving money after the fact. Bickford said most budgets have some leeway; but Granholm said it will be at the expense of something else. Hutchins and Wilson said the Town turned them down before. Granholm said the school was faced with a complicated issue. Wilson said long before the budget process the school discussed this with the Selectmen and were told the Town wanted this to be a part of the school's responsibility. Granholm said she understands that they could have done that, and they didn't do that, but the Town could move beyond it, and said we don't have to “stick it to them” because they didn't put the money in the budget. Hutchins said – we all have an interest in supporting the school, but where do we draw the line – when we pay out taxes, each and every one of us will be supporting them. Chair suggested taking a vote on giving Granholm made a motion to grant the request for \$3,000 to support the school. The motion was seconded by Hutchins: discussion: Skip would be curious as to where they found the money? Is this money in the current school year? Yes according to Hutchins, the money will be part of the school's carry-over. He would guess that it will be \$3000 less in the carry over. Vote was taken and the motion was defeated: 1 for 4 against(Hutchins, Wilson, Bickford, Willey).

Acadia Disposal District (ADD) is ongoing; A purchase will be made of a bike for the Police use - fuel conservation is on-going; department heads

were asked to find ways to promote savings with fuel. Chapais has talked with other towns and the general consensus is that the bike patrol is a great idea. He said Bob Shields will order the bike at a greatly discounted rate. Bennett said this is a good article for the newsletter. Hutchins suggested: follow up on the bicycle safety presentation – this is an opportunity to follow up with the 2 year D.O.T. plan

VIII. Other Business: Chair suggested consideration of the meetings for July and August. It was Moved (Wilson) and Seconded (Willey) that the Board of Selectmen set one meeting for July and one for August. Vote in favor: 5 – 0 Date set for July and August would be the second Tuesday of each month.

Hutchins noticed that Mr. Korona is doing some work on the Post Office parking lot – Bennett will follow up. Wilson said he has had some lengthy discussions on that in the past, and it came all the way around to the Carroll Drug Store, Wilson suggests a 3-phase plan for the Post Office parking lot repair– and this good faith effort should allow the Town to maintain the lease in the future. Willey suggested adding money enough to that repair project to do it right – perhaps removal of the surface and grinding down.

The Board presented Whitney Granholm (outgoing Selectman) a gift and flowers, with thanks for her service from the Town and the Board of Selectmen.

Warrants: Wilson said there was a duplicate invoice for the Police department. Bennett made the adjustment. It was Moved (Wilson) and Seconded (Willey) to accept the Warrants as presented with the exception of the duplicate Police bill. Vote in favor: 5 – 0.

IX. Executive Session, Re: Personnel Matters in pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) – no executive session was needed.

The Chair asked for approval of the minutes of June 10, 2008: Discussion: none. It was Moved (Hutchins) and Seconded (Wilson) to accept the minutes as presented. Vote in favor: 5 – 0.

X. Adjournment to adjourn at 7:49 p.m.