

October 02, 2013 Public Safety Committee Meeting New Gloucester Meeting House

Members in Attendance:

John Randall, Chairman

David Lunt

Nat Berry

Steven MacCallum

Frank Chambers, Secretary

7:00pm - Meeting called to order by John Randall

- Meeting was held at the New Gloucester Meeting House. The meeting was televised on Channel 3.
- Tonight's Guest Speaker: Representative Ellie M. Espling
- John Randall was nominated as Chairman and Frank Chambers was nominated as Secretary.
- Tonight's topic of discussion was on fireworks.
The sale of fireworks does not make sense:
 - a) There are no ordinances and law enforcement to enforce the sale and purchase of fireworks.
 - b) State and County Sheriff are limited in manpower. They may be on another urgent or priority issues and they may be several towns away.
 - c) It has been a struggle for local towns in creating an ordinance.
- Representative Ellie Espling went talked about the following fireworks bills:
 - 1) LD 478: "An Act to Require a Local Permit for the Use of Fireworks" The bill is DEAD.
 - 2) LD 456: "An Act to Protect Farm Animals from Noise from the Discharge of Fireworks or Explosives" Require a 1 mile restriction of setting off fireworks or explosives. The bill is DEAD.
 - 3) LD 111: "An Act to Restrict the Sale, Purchase and Use of Fireworks in the State" This is a carryover bill.
 - 4) LD 168: "An Act to Establish Reasonable Restrictions on the Use of Fireworks:
Sponsored by Senator Christopher Johnson
This act deals with reasonable restrictions on the use of fireworks. Someone may have PTSD, animals may get stressed out, people on vacation and disturbing the peace. Limitations of time of use, permits required from local fire chiefs and the State Fire Marshall.
 - 5) LD 663: "An Act to Change the Time Restriction on the Use of Fireworks"
The bill is DEAD. Recommend to change the hours to 9:00am to 10:00pm

- Recommend to look into call data: hospital records with the number of people being injured from fireworks and police data dealing with firework issues.
- People may purchase fireworks and fill the vehicles up with fireworks. The vehicle has no markings of hazmat material.
- State Public Safety and the Legislature will continue to hassle with the fireworks issues.
- Recommend by Representative Espling to write a letter to the State regarding LD 168: “An Act to Establish Reasonable Restrictions on the Use of Fireworks. Also don’t reference LD 168 in the letter.
- Code Enforcement: simply “No Sale of Fireworks”
- School Safety: one school may be locked down all day and another school is wide open (side door may be open). Gray-New Gloucester covers two towns.
- Scott Doyle is working on Public Safety week. New Gloucester Fire & Rescue Open House on Wednesday, October 9th, 5pm to 7pm at 611 Lewiston Road, New Gloucester.
- Topic idea for the November 6th meeting will be on Gun Safety.
- Next Public Safety Committee meeting: Wednesday, November 6, 2013 @ 7:00pm

Meeting adjourn at 7:47pm