

MINUTES
Town of New Gloucester
BOARD OF ASSESSOR'S AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
7:00 p.m.
Monday, October 19, 2015
At the Meetinghouse

For review of the complete discussions and motions, please see the recording available at the Public Library or on our website at www.newgloucester.com

BOARD OF ASSESSOR'S MEETING

I. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Chairman, Joshua McHenry, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman, Joshua McHenry; Vice-Chairman, Linda Chase; Selectmen, Stephen Hathorne, Steven Libby and Laura Sturgis; Town Manager, Paul First; Recorder, Sharlene Myers; and Michael O'Donnell, of O'Donnell Associates.

II. To See What Action the Board Wishes to take in Regard to 2015-16 Abatements, Batch #1

Mr. Libby said the last property on the abatement list, Anderson's Equipment Company, should read "Moved out of Town before April 1, 2015".

Ms. Sturgis said she would recuse herself from the vote because she is related to John Sturgis who is on the Abatement list.

Mr. Libby moved and Mr. Hathorne seconded a motion to grant the 2015-2016 Abatements, Batch #1, as amended. The motion carried on a vote of 4-0-1, with Ms. Sturgis abstaining.

III. To See What Action the Board Wishes to take in Regard to Uncollected Personal Property Tax

Mr. O'Donnell gave a brief overview of the uncollected Personal Property Tax listing.

Mr. Libby said he could not make any decisions on the Personal Property Tax listing without more information on each.

Mr. Libby moved and Mr. Hathorne seconded a motion to schedule a workshop for a future meeting and the Board receive additional detailed information on Accounts #190, #85, #362, #40, #242 and #146, in the packets. The motion carried on a vote of 4-1, with Mr. McHenry opposing.

IV. ADJOURN

Mr. Hathorne moved and Ms. Sturgis seconded a motion to adjourn the Board of Assessor's meeting at 7:23 p.m. The motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

I. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Chairman, Joshua McHenry, called the meeting to order at 7:24 p.m. Present were Chairman, Joshua McHenry; Vice-Chairman, Linda Chase; Selectmen, Stephen Hathorne, Steven Libby and Laura Sturgis; Town Manager, Paul First; and Recorder, Sharlene Myers.

II. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING:

Board of Selectmen's Meeting – 7:00 p.m., Monday, November 2, 2015

A. Adjustments to the Agenda

Mr. First said there would be no Executive Session due to having not received paperwork needed for the Executive Session from the interested parties.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. Maine Turnpike Authority – Signage Presentation

Ralph Norwood, Project Manager, and Bruce Van Note, Director of Policy and Planning for the Maine Turnpike Authority (MTA), gave a presentation on upcoming changes, over the next two years, to exit signage on the Maine Turnpike. They stated that Exit 63 signs Northbound will no longer have New Gloucester listed on the sign and they will read "Gray and Windham". They said a smaller sign would be placed northbound stated "New Gloucester Next Exit". They said that exit signs will no longer have the option of three towns listed on the sign. Also, changes in signage Southbound before the Auburn exit will read "Auburn and New Gloucester". They said New Gloucester businesses could place their business logo on the newly designed logo signs, for a cost. They said currently it is \$1,500 per year, per sign and that will decrease to \$500 per year, per sign. They said the current brown signs stating Pineland and Shakers will be removed and currently, there was no fee for these signs.

The Board expressed their displeasure to the MTA representatives, stating that removal of the Town's name from the signage is taking New Gloucester off the map. They said it would hurt businesses in the Town and are making businesses such as the Shaker's, spend money on the logo signage, which they do not have. The board requested that MTA discuss these changes in full detail with Pineland and Shaker's. The Board stated that when the barrier toll was placed in New Gloucester, traffic increased on Route 100, due to many cars and trucks avoiding paying the new toll. They said this has increased accidents on Route 100 and the safety of the citizens of the Town. The Board said between the toll barrier and now the signage issue, New Gloucester is getting it from both sides.

Ellie Espling, State Representative, said she has been very involved with the new signage policy from the beginning. She said she sponsored a bill to address/amend the sign policy, which did not pass. She said she will do all she can to fight for the Town.

B. Other

None.

IV. SCHEDULED ITEMS

4.33 To See What Action the Board Wishes to take in Regard to Revaluation

Mr. O'Donnell said he would not recommend doing a revaluation in 2016 but would look at it passively in 2017. He said currently, sales are above the assessed value. He said the Town does not have a lot of website presence and would like to see the Town migrate to O'Donnell's website in conjunction with the revaluation. He said he would do a presentation at a future meeting, if the Board wishes.

Mr. Hathorne moved and Ms. Sturgis seconded a motion to table to a future meeting and Mr. O'Donnell to bring his recommendations to the Board. The motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

4.34 To See What Action the Board Wishes to take in Regard to Special Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. First said the Board asked him to draft a warrant for the Special Town Meeting. He said he selected a Saturday date because Memorial School is booked each night with programs, and he does not like to ask for these programs to be bumped. He said he could look for an alternative venue and/or date.

Mr. Libby said one of the items on the agenda is to see if the Town will vote to move the day of the week for Town Meetings. He said he doesn't think this meeting should be scheduled for a Saturday.

Mr. First said he still struggles with the wording of Article #2, "village concept" or "village orientation".

The Board said to change "concept" to "orientation"; and as asterisk after the word orientation; and below the article, give a definition of "orientation".

Mr. Libby said Article 4 should have the word "annual" added before the word Town.

Mr. McHenry said no action taken and the Town Manager present a revised Special Town Meeting Warrant at the November 2nd meeting.

4.35 To See What Action the Board Wishes to take in Regard to the Board Endorsing the Upper Village Plan as a Working Document

Mr. Libby said the Board has endorsed previous plans as working documents.

Ms. Chase moved and Mr. Libby seconded a motion for the Board of Selectmen to endorse the Upper Village Plan as a working document. The motion carried on a vote of 4-1, with Mr. Hathorne opposed.

The Board asked to add "Board of Selectmen recommend passage" under the articles on the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

V. APPROVE FY16 WARRANTS AND PAYROLLS #15 and #16

Ms. Chase moved and Mr. Libby seconded a motion to approve FY16 Warrants and Payrolls #15. The motion carried on a vote of 4-0-1, with Mr. McHenry abstaining.

Ms. Chase moved and Mr. Libby seconded a motion to approve FY16 Warrants and Payrolls #16. The motion carried on a vote of 3-0-2, with Mr. McHenry and Ms. Sturgis abstaining.

VI. APPOINTMENTS

None.

VII. LEGAL

None.

VIII. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

A. Approve Minutes of the October 5, 2015, Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Mr. Libby moved and Mr. Hathorne seconded a motion to approve the Minutes of the October 5, 2015, Board of Selectmen's Meeting. The motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

IX. ORAL COMMUNICATION

A. Selectmen

Stephen Hathorne – asked about the new “No Hunting” signs that were posted at the Cemetery and why the Board was not notified.

Mr. Libby said the cemetery property borders the Wayfinders School property and there was concern with the close proximity and hunters. He said also, hunters park on the cemetery driveway blocking access for those who visit the gravesites. Mr. Libby said the Cemetery Association is charged with the upkeep of the property.

Mr. McHenry asked Mr. First to research this issue and get back to the Board on his findings.

Laura Sturgis – no comments.

Linda Chase – no comments.

Steven Libby – said the Public Works Design Committee recently visited four Public Works Buildings and will be visiting four more in the upcoming week. He said the next Committee meeting is scheduled for October 28th and the intent will be to discuss the visits and review the several pictures taken. He said at the same meeting, Oak Point Associates will make their recommendations to the Committee on the three sites reviewed. Mr. Libby said the previous week, he went moose hunting with his family and shot a moose.

Joshua McHenry – no comments.

B. Town Manager

Mr. First said he put the Public Works Mechanic position back out to advertising, which will close on October 30th.

Mr. First said the Fire/Rescue Chief search closes on October 23rd. He said he met with the Fire/Rescue officers and got their input on qualities they would like to see in the person hired. He said the new hire advisory group will consist of: Steve Libby, Selectmen Rep; Brian Chipman, Fire Dept. Rep.; Mary Rich, Rescue Rep.; and himself. He said the group will have over seventy applications to review and some of the applicants are very qualified for this position.

Mr. First said he presented the Board with a job description for Janitorial Services for the Town. He said he will be moving forward with advertising this position.

C. Boards & Committees

XII. ADJOURN BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

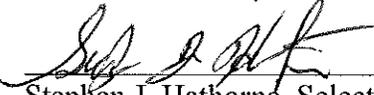
Mr. Hathorne moved and Ms. Chase seconded a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen's meeting at 9:18 p.m., and enter in the Selectmen's Workshop. The motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Approved December 7, 2015

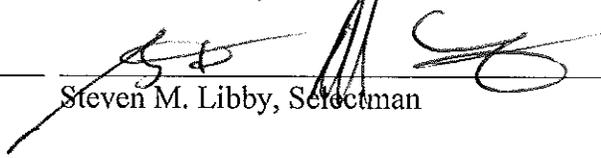
Joshua J. McHenry, Chairman



Linda D. Chase, Vice-Chairman



Stephen J. Hathorne, Selectman



Steven M. Libby, Selectman



Laura J. Sturgis, Selectman