

2010

Town of Amherst Selectmen's Meeting Minutes 2010

Amherst (Me.). Board of Selectmen

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/towndocs>

Repository Citation

Amherst (Me.). Board of Selectmen, "Town of Amherst Selectmen's Meeting Minutes 2010" (2010). *Maine Town Documents*. 13.
<https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/towndocs/13>

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Town Documents by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

**Selectmen's Meeting
January 13th, 2010
Amherst, Maine**

- **Minutes December 9th, 2009 Approved 3-0**

- **Treasurer's Warrant: \$22,049.38**

- **Hancock County Block Grant Held the Public Hearing at 6:00 prior to the Selectmen's Meeting. Denny will organize all paperwork and get Cheryl to attest it. The packet will be dropped off to HCPC by Tuesday. 32 citizens attended the Hearing in support. Thanks to all!!**

- **Tax Maps: The new updated Tax Maps are now at the Town Office. Denny will contact Mark Gibson to find out where the CD of the maps is so we can post them on the Town's website**

- **Town Website: The website now includes the Selectmen's minutes and we are posting all notices. The Planning Board minutes will also be posted on the website.**

- **Planning Board: Rick Whitmore is in the process of scheduling the first meeting of the new board members. He asked if a member of the Selectman's board would be willing to attend. We will be represented.**

- **Delinquent Tax Rates: The state has mandated that 7% is the new rate of interest that can be applied to delinquent taxes.**

- **Bank Accounts: All Bank accounts now have current names attached to them. Denny will have each Bank come meet with the Board and Karen with proposals so that we can make an educated decision on whom to put our business with.**

- **Open Forum Discussion**

Tree Growth Penalties: Letters will be sent out next week to those in arrears

School Board Nominees: None yet. Still looking for interested people.

Phil made a motion to Designate \$87,000 of the accumulated funds of \$100,000 (Articles 28 and 52 in Amherst Town Meeting Warrant of Sept. 8, 2009) to the Tannery Loop Reconstruction project with the balance of \$13,000 dispersed to other Town Road projects.

Greg seconded the motion and it was passed 3-0.

**Selectmen's Meeting
February 10th, 2010
Amherst, Maine**

- **Minutes January 13th, 2010** Minutes Approved 3-0 As Written

Treasurer's Warrant: \$ 33,226.11

Planning Board Member Louis Peterson was voted in 3-0 to Replace Jim Beal (Retired) until Jim's term ends in September 2009

School Board Member Holly Cram was voted in 3-0 to replace Tyler McIntosh (Retired) until Tyler's term ends in September 2011.

Shoreline Zoning Reports-CEO Phil Deckers will deliver the reports to Rebecca Albright (CEO) to be filled out and turned into the State before March 1st, 2010

River Access Site Management Plan Selectmen will review the access plan and approve or disapprove during their March Meeting. This is land currently owned by Bangor Hydro.

DOT Highway Resurfacing Plan – 2010 The Maine DOT will be re-surfacing Route 9 this summer. Beginning 1.89 miles east of the Amherst/Clifton town line extending easterly 4.36 miles to .17 miles east of the Smith Road.

Tree Growth Penalties The select board believes that all tree growth penalties are now up to date and confirmed with those in arrears.

Town Owned Properties The select board is now committed to selling off all town owned properties. Our goal is to be out from under these prior to the end of the fiscal year.

Other Business Concern with State re-imbursment cuts. Between the 10% cuts proposed in Revenue Sharing, Homestead re-imbursement, tree growth re-imbursement and the town's share of the education cuts, we are looking at around \$24,000 of increase in fees. We will work diligently to insure we keep these increases at a minimum.

**Selectmen's Meeting
March 10th, 2010
Amherst, Maine**

Minutes February 13th, 2010: Minutes Approved 3-0 as written

Treasurer's Warrant \$21,996.42

Hancock County Commissioners County Tax The County assessed Tax for Amherst increased from \$9,051.00 this year to \$9,377.00 for the upcoming fiscal year.

Radar Speed Trailer Program The town did not get chosen for the Radar Speed Trailer loan program for this summer. This was a lottery draw that the board applied for.

General Assistance Threshold for 2011 The Board of Selectmen chose to stay at the current rate of 50% reimbursement from the State. The current threshold is \$7,620.00

Amherst Community Forest Public informational hearings will be held March 16th in Amherst and March 17th at the Bangor Motor Lodge at 5:00 p.m.

Spring Clean-Up Tentatively scheduled for Father's Day weekend. There will be more information to follow. We are also working with Hancock County Planning Commission to confirm alternate dates available to Amherst residents.

Town Bank Accounts All Town Accounts now have the current Town Officials names on them. The Selectmen will be setting up meetings with all banks involved to ultimately consolidate Town accounts into one institution.

Other Business Karen is currently updated all Town Owned Properties and the Liens. Once updated, the Board will start working on selling off all Town owned properties.

The Board of Selectmen were uncomfortable with the wording of the "River Access Management Plan" submitted to them from the Maine DOT. We sent back an edited version where the Town would not be responsible for policing and maintaining the parcel in question. We will wait to hear the response.

Selectmen's Meeting
May 18th, 2010
Amherst, Maine

Minutes March 10, 2010 Approved 3-0

Treasurer's Warrant: \$22,116.18

James Wadman (CPA) Audit: Phil will contact for yearly financial audit.

Mark Gibson: Open dates were agreed upon to meet with our Assessing agent in June. Denny will contact Mark with these dates and set up a meeting for June.

Bangor Savings Bank: Denny will set up a date for meeting with their Representative. It is felt that we need to get all town financial business into a common area. Right now we have 3 different banks holding different accounts. This causes a lot of extra travel and paperwork to follow.

Tannery Loop Roadwork: The selectboard has schedule a meeting with HCPC on Tuesday, June15th to review our grant application and see what we can improve on in order to receive a "Road Block Grant". We feel that it is well worth waiting for grant monies so that we can repair our roads to last instead of patching them. More to come on this issue.

Town Owned Properties: All town owned properties have been established and accounted for. We will go through the proper notification processes as described in Ordinance and put these parcels up for public sale in the near future.

Tree Growth Penalties: We have started to receive tree growth penalty monies from the assessed parties. The goal is to have these all off the books by the end of the fiscal year.

Cemetery Accounts/Perpetual Care Amherst has many individual cemetery accounts held several different banks. Law allows us to only spend the interest on these accounts for cemetery upkeep and improvement. With our meeting with the banks, we will look into combining these accounts in order to give us more "interest" to utilize yearly.

Town Budgeting Meeting The selectboard will have a special meeting on June 17th to start putting together a preliminary budget for the town. With the many state cuts in funding, we want to see where our starting ground is.

**Selectmen's Meeting
June 17th, 2010
Amherst, Maine**

Minutes May 18th, 2010 Approved 3-0

Treasurer's Warrant: 11: \$22,778.23 11A: \$10,320.74 Total of: \$33,098.97

Mark Gibson: Select board met with the Town Assessor. Mark is afraid that our Assessments are deteriorating. He would like to re-vamp the Buildings and Land Schedules by doing ½ the town one year and the other ½ the next. Another option was to spread work over 5 years. It is important to re-evaluate completely every 10 years. The Board listened to Mark's suggestions and will consider the issue in upcoming meetings.

Final School Budget: The final Airline school budget has been approved. The new assessment for the Town of Amherst is \$214,602.77. This is an increase of \$22,264.73 from the previous budget. This will have to be applied to this coming year's budget.

GeoParcel Project: The Board is working in co-ordination with HCPC and the University of Maine at Machias in a Tax Map digitalization project. We had our Tax Maps updated in January 2010. This project will have all the maps digitalized for web use at no cost to the town.

James Wadman Audit: The Board, Treasurer, Clerk, and Tax Collector are now preparing documents for our yearly financial audit required by the state. We will be spending the month of July working on this project to meet deadlines.

Tuesday's HCPC Meeting: The Board has a meeting with the Hancock County Planning Commission and a Grant writer from the state on Tuesday, June 22nd. We will be going over our Road Grant application and how to improve our chances on receiving funding for 2011.

Other Business: Next Meeting will be held on Thursday July 15th at 6:00 p.m. The Board will be meeting with a representative of Bangor Savings Bank prior to the meeting at 5:00.

Selectmen's Meeting
July 15th, 2010
Amherst, Maine

Minutes June 17th, 2010 Approved 2-0 (Denny Honey and Greg Palman) Phil Deckers
Absent

Treasurer's Warrant: \$22,989.22

CDBG Grant on Well and Septic Funding: Informational packets are posted at the
Town Hall. Grants available for Well and Septic overhauls in 2011.

James Wadman Financial Audit: Town Treasurer, Clerk, Tax Collector, and
Selectboard are now working on the Town's yearly financial audit. Results will be posted in Town
Report.

HCPC Road Grant Meeting: Denny and Greg met with the state agent that serves on the
board for Road Grant Review. We came in 2nd this year and were given tips on how to receive the
grant monies in 2011. Anyone interested in joining a Road Grant committee, please contact a
selectman.

HCPC Road Salt Bid (2010-2011): The Selectboard has put in its application to join
HCPC for Road Salt purchase. This will save the town approximately \$20.00/Ton on salt for the
coming year. (A savings of around \$2,000)

R. Leon Williams Property Lien Release: Lakeville Shores, Inc. has purchased the
R. Leon Williams property in Amherst. They have paid all back taxes and liens. The Town has
signed a lien release for the property.

Amherst Community Forest Public Forum: No information on the meeting results

Bangor Savings Bank: Bangor Savings Bank is in the process of working up a proposal for
the Town for all its financial needs. We currently have accounts with three banks and are looking to
consolidate into one institution for ease and control. Bangor Savings is currently one of the banks we
utilize as a Town.

**Town of Amherst
Selectmen's Meeting
August, 19th, 2010**

Minutes of Meeting July 15th, 2010: **Approved 3-0**

Treasurer's Warrant: **\$20,725.68**

State Valuation Report: **The 2011 State valuation for Amherst came back at \$23,900,000. This is 1.5 million dollars less than last year. The difference was the value of the Amherst Community Forest that is now not figured into our valuation.**

Airline School Alternative Organizational Structure (AOS): **The Airline school has been approved by the State to join an AOS. This will be with other local K-8 schools in our area. The community will have an opportunity to vote on this structure with the November elections.**

Hancock County Commissioners Warrant: **This is posted at the Town office. Please stop by and view this warrant if you have a desire to be part of the voting process.**

HCPC Road Grant Committee: **Phil Deckers is in the process of putting together a Road Grant committee for the Town of Amherst. This will allow us to receive the full amount of credit on our scores for the Grant process in 2011. Citizen participation was the area we needed improvement on our 2010 application.**

Summer/Fall Road Work: **The Selectboard has decided to move forward with the ditching and brushing plans for the town this fall. We will hold off on any paving until we get the results from the HCPC Road Grant program in the spring.**

Budgeting Meeting: **We will be meeting the next 2 Thursdays at the Town Office to put together the 2011 Town Budget and Town Meeting Warrant.**

Other Business: **The Selectmen will attend the School Committee Meeting on Wednesday August 25th to get better informed on the proposed AOS project.**

**Town of Amherst
Selectmen's Meeting
Wednesday October 20th, 2010
Agenda**

Minutes 8-19-2010: **Approved 3-0**

Warrant for October: \$27,110.34

2011 State Valuation: **Came back this week at \$23,900,000**

2011 General Assistance Ordinance: **The Selectboard signed the new GA ordinances for 2011. These take effect on Nov. 1st, 2010**

HCPC Block Grant Program: **Greg is drawing up our letter of Intent to apply for the Road Grant money. This is due into the HCPC by December 3rd. We can get \$100,000 of funding for a \$25,000 match.**

James Wadman Financial Audit: **The Town's financial audit came out fine for this year. The selectboard will be working on getting computer programs during the year that will speed up this process in the year's to come.**

MMA Insurance Dividend: **The town received a dividend check for \$194.00 from the Maine Municipal Association. This was a result of the town's good loss experience and loss prevention programs.**

HCPC Road Salt Bids/Pricing: **The selectmen went through the HCPC joint purchase bidding process this summer for our Winter rock salt needs. As a result, we are able to purchase this years salt for a price of \$69.00 per ton. This is down from approximately \$98.00 per ton the last few years. This should save the town around \$1200.00 this winter.**

Tax Commitment Meeting Date: **Mark Gibson is finishing up Osborn and Aurora at this time and should be able to meet with us to complete our commitment book and tax schedules during the first week of November.**

School Committee Appointment: **The selectboard is looking for a candidate to appoint to school committee. This is due to the resignation of Floyd Lawrence. Anyone interested in this position please contact one of your selectmen.**