

2007

Board of Selectmen Minutes 2007

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TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

January 2, 2007

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:00 PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, Rick Lander, and Pete Martell, and guests Carrie Fellows and Sally Pearson.

2. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Burdin, to approve minutes of previous meeting. Unanimous.

3. Balance sheets distributed.

4. Recreation committee member Carrie Fellows gave a report on recent meeting of the regional recreation committee. They had met to determine if there would be any advantages to consolidating and coordinating some of the programs currently being offered by the individual towns. There is some objection to certain changes and some agreement in areas where improvement may be possible. The committee has another meeting soon and will report further following that event.

5. Manager stated that the underground duct bank construction on Elm Street was proceeding with the good weather predicted for this week. He had received a letter from OCD informing the town that they would be eligible in the upcoming grant round, to apply for a Housing Assistance grant.

6. It was noted that the SAD #4 Board of Directors had approved a warrant article to issue bonds in the amount of \$608,200.00 through the State of Maine's Revolving Renovation Fund Program, and that there would be an informational meeting for the public on January 17th at 7:00 PM at the Middle School. This would be followed by a district wide referendum vote to be

held on February 6th, 2007

7. On a motion from Martell, seconded by Dexter, it was unanimously voted to renew the liquor license for Drake's Restaurant on Elm Street.

8. Lander requested that the manager attempt to compile all the meeting minutes of the various boards, departments and other public entities and make them available through a link on the town website. Manager agreed to contact the various organizations in this regard.

9. A letter from our insurance providers at Maine Municipal Association was read regarding gaps in our coverage under the current policy due to the existence of incorporation papers for the Guilford Fire Department indicating in some situations they could be viewed as a separate entity. Manager said he had notified the Chief and was expecting to meet with him later to address possible solutions. Burdin inquired as to what the advantages may be for either the Fire Department or the Guilford Memorial Library to be separate entities rather than Municipal Departments, given that there are some obvious disadvantages considering insurance coverage issues. Chairman Thompson stated that this debate has been ongoing for twenty years and the board should plan to address it and come up with a mutually agreeable plan. Manager requested to invite both the Fire Department and the Library to the February selectmen's meeting to discuss this further.

10. There being no further business, Burdin moved the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Lander, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:13 PM.

TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

February 6, 2007

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:00 PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, Rick Lander, and Pete Martell, and guests Sally Pearson; Firemen Jeff Libby, Baxter Stone, Chief Mike Nichols, Keith Kendall, Maged Shahin, Willy Williams, and Allen Emerson; and from the Library Trustees, Danielle Gioia, Lisa Martell, Janie Lander, Dodie Curtis, Sheila Thompson, Alvin MacDonald, Pat Littlefield, and Mary McReavy

2. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Martell, to approve minutes of previous meeting. Unanimous.

3. Balance sheets distributed.

4. Chairman Thompson welcomed the guests and then addressed the Library Trustees, reiterating the discussion from the January meeting, adding that the selectmen were not attempting to micromanage the library, but rather to initiate a dialogue as to whether or not it made sense for the library to become a town department. Dodie Curtis spoke for the trustees, outlining recent changes at the library and questioning what would happen with their endowment funds and what would the trustees' role be if the library did become a municipal department. Manager replied that the endowment monies currently administered by Maine Community Foundation should remain in place and designated the same as before, and stated that the trustees' supervisory role would also remain the same. There is no desire for the selectmen to develop library policy and run day to day operations. Changes would be in the areas of insurance, audit, and minimal oversight. Dexter asked the trustees which setup they felt would best benefit the library. The trustees agreed to become a town department subject to the manager investigating all the requirements to accomplish this and the town meeting vote going along accordingly.

5. Chairman Thompson then called on Fire Chief Mike Nichols to ascertain the Fire

Department's opinion on becoming a municipal department rather than remaining incorporated. Nichols mentioned that there was some apprehension among the members as they felt there may be a loss of control over their operations, although stating they basically operated as a town department now. Lander expressed some concerns about lack of department voting on purchases and lack of communications. The discussion then turned to issues similar to those in the library scenario: dealing with insurance matters, coverage gaps, bookkeeping, audit, and budget concerns. Most all concerns were addressed and most likely resolved. The members of the fire department present agreed to bring the matter to a vote at their next meeting.

6. Selectmen were reminded of the upcoming Budget Committee meeting on February 12th at 7:00 pm at P.C.H.S.

7. Manager gave an update on the progress toward applying for a CDBG Housing Assistance Grant. The Public Hearing was held and was very well attended with over forty pre-applications turned in to date.

8. On a motion from Lander with a second from Dexter, it was unanimously voted to set the delinquent tax interest rate at 12%.

9. Manager explained that a tax cap override would again be required at the town meeting if this years' budget increased over the set amount prescribed in LD-1.

10. Pole permit signed for Blaine Avenue.

11. On a motion from Dexter, seconded by Martell, it was unanimously voted to renew the town's septage contract with Patterson Brothers.

12. Lander moved that the appointments for Fire Department Officers be tabled until next meeting. Seconded by Martell; unanimous vote.

13. On a motion from Lander, seconded by Dexter, it was unanimously voted to give Joshua Hansen an Emergency Red Light Permit.

14. Lander moved that the board go into executive session for the purpose of discussing employee pay, as per MSRA ss 405 (6)(A)&(D). Seconded by Dexter and the vote was unanimous. Executive session began at 8:46 PM. Lander moved and Dexter seconded to leave executive session. Unanimously exited session at 8:52 PM. Lander then moved to give all hourly employees an increase of fifty cents per hour and an annual increase of \$1500.00 for the manager. Seconded by Dexter; unanimous vote. Martell then requested that manager develop an employee evaluation form to be used at set intervals to provide feedback to employees.

15. Manager presented annual budget for selectmen review and comment. Following comment and adjustment, the selectmen adopted a budget to present to the Budget Committee on February 12th.

16. There being no further business, Lander moved the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Dexter, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 9:53 PM.

TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

March 6, 2007

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:00 PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, Rick Lander, and Pete Martell, and guest Sally Pearson.
2. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Burdin, to approve minutes of previous meeting. Unanimous.
3. Balance sheets distributed. Correspondence read; thank you letter from Piscataquis Sheriff's Office for use of our facilities for their training program and a request from the Atlantic Salmon Federation to support a 25 million dollar bond request for riverfront grants. No action taken.
4. Manager explained the mechanics of increasing the tax levy limit noting there would be an article on the warrant to address this at town meeting on March 19th. It was further noted that the overall taxation budget increased by 2.7 percent.
5. A list of the newly elected Fire Department officers was read. A motion to appoint the officers as listed was made by Dexter and seconded by Burdin. Lander inquired if the department had made a decision on keeping their charter and was told more information was needed before deciding. The motion to approve was unanimous.
6. Guilford's application for a CDBG Housing Assistance grant was sent in before the deadline. We should know the results before the end of April.
7. The new Town Reports were presented to the selectmen and were well received.

8. A junkyard permit was renewed for R&K Towing following a motion to approve made by Lander and seconded by Dexter. Unanimous.

9. A liquor license was renewed for Gene and Darlene Dami for their location at the Piscataquis Country Club. Motion by Martell, seconded by Dexter; unanimous.

10. On a motion from Burdin, seconded by Martell, it was unanimously voted to give Donald Woodard an Emergency Red Light Permit.

11. The Piscataquis County warrant was read and approved following a motion from Lander, seconded by Dexter. The county tax assessment for the town is \$199,118.19, a one percent increase over last year.

12. Burdin moved that the pole permits for Oak Street and Morse Avenue be approved. Seconded by Lander; unanimous vote.

13. Renewal contracts for fire protection for the towns of Abbot and Parkman were presented with no increase. Lander moved to approve these, seconded by Burdin; unanimous vote.

14. The 2007 warrant was presented for review; no changes requested. Warrant will be posted beginning March 7, 2007 at the usual places.

15. Under other business, Dexter requested that one parking spot in front of the office along School Street be designated "reserved parking," manager to determine wording and to order and install sign. Following his motion and a second from Burdin, motion passed unanimously. Martell presented a generous donation from Hardwood Products Company to the Fire Department for deposit.

16. There being no further business, Lander moved the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Burdin, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:35 PM.

TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

March 19, 2007

1. Meeting called to order by Kent Burdin at 8:31 PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, Rick Lander, and William Thompson. Also Town Clerk, Michelle Nichols attended.

2. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Dexter, to appoint Bill Thompson chairman of the Board of selectmen. Unanimous.

3. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Dexter, to appoint Barry Goulette and Wendell Hall to the Planning Board. Unanimous.

4. Motion made by Martell, seconded by Burdin, to appoint Allyn Ward to the Board of appeals. Unanimous.

5. Motion made by Burdin, seconded by Martell, to appoint Anthony Davis to the Guilford-Sangerville Water District Board. Unanimous.

6. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Burdin, to appoint Robert McReavy and Roberta Thomas to the Economic Development Board for the term of three years. Unanimous.

7. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Burdin, to appoint Tom Goulette as Town Manager; Tax Collector; Agent, Overseer of the Poor; Road Commissioner; Deputy Treasurer; Health Officer; Emergency Management Director; Constable; and Deputy Forest Fire Warden. Unanimous.

8. Motion made by Dexter, seconded by Martell, to appoint Michelle Nichols as Town Clerk; Treasurer; Deputy Tax Collector; Registrar of Voters and Deputy Forest Fire Warden. Unanimous.

9. Motion made by Martell, seconded by Burdin, to appoint Joyce Burton as Deputy Treasurer; Deputy Town Clerk; Deputy Registrar of Voters; Deputy Tax Collector and Deputy Forest Fire Warden. Unanimous.

10. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Burdin, to appoint the following:

- A. Charles MartellForest Fire Warden
- B. H. Kent BurdinSurveyor; wood, bark and logs
- C. Timothy BriggsSealer of weights and measures
- D. Allan LandrySexton
- E. Frank RuksznisPlumbing Inspector
- F. David Cotta.....Constable
- G. Guy DowConstable
- H. Allen EmersonConstable
- I. Joe GuyotteAnimal Control Officer

The vote was unanimous.

11. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Burdin, to appoint Nathalie Marsh, Ann Panciera, and Jane Rozelle as Election Officials. Unanimous.

12. Motion made by Martell, seconded by Burdin, to appoint Keith Doore as Code Enforcement Officer. Unanimous.

13. Chairman Thompson requested that assessor’s meetings with the industries be set for Tuesdays and Thursdays in April.

14. Motion by Burdin, seconded by Martell to adjourn. Adjourned at 8:58 PM.

TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

April 3, 2007

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:00 PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, Rick Lander, and Pete Martell, and guests Sally Pearson, Dodie Curtis and Mary McReavy.

2. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Burdin, to approve minutes of previous meeting. Unanimous.

3. Balance sheets distributed. Correspondence read; letter from Community Health and Counseling requesting support for them against planned cuts in federal funding. No action taken.

4. Dodie and Mary brought in questions about the transition of the Library to a municipal department. It was requested that they bring in a written statement of the boards' current responsibilities. Personnel policy was discussed along with hours, vacations, holidays and insurance and it was decided these items would continue as usual until the change is completed. Manager stated that the town attorney was working on the process.

5. Manager explained that the Fire Department was rewriting its by-laws to eliminate some gaps in the insurance coverages provided to both the department and the town, as well as to clarify some other issues and establish protocols.

6. A liquor license was renewed for the Covered Bridge Restaurant on Water Street. Motion by Lander, seconded by Martell; unanimous.

7. Under other business, it was agreed to change the regularly scheduled May Selectmen's meeting to MAY 8th, rather than the first. Manager announced he would be traveling in May to the Risk Management seminar sponsored by the National League of Cities as part of the Maine Municipal Association contingent.

8. There being no further business, Burdin moved the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Dexter, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 7:48 PM.

TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

May 8, 2007

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:00 PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, and Rick Lander, and guests Sally Pearson and Don Ebbeling; Dodie Curtis, Linda Packard, Pat Littlefield, Barbara Reardon and Mary McReavy from the library, and Craig Connery, Michael Carter and Lisa Buker from The Red Maple Inn..

2. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Burdin, to approve minutes of previous meeting. Unanimous.

3. Balance sheets distributed. Correspondence read; letter from Villages of Piscataquis read, letter from County Commissioners to M.D.O.T. in support of Elm Street road project read, letter from Superintendent Paul Stearns providing preliminary school budget figures read. Letter from State Planning Office advising that Bowerbank has submitted a Comprehensive Plan for approval read. No action taken.

4. Library trustees discussed hours and benefits for current staff. It was agreed to complete the payroll and insurance changeover effective July 1, at the beginning of the third quarter. Trustees signed the deed conveying the trustees portion of the property to the town. Burdin moved that there be no downward changes in benefits for library staff in the event of a conflict with the town's personnel policy for this coming year. It was seconded by Dexter and approved unanimously.

5. Manager read letter from the Office of Community Development advising that Guilford had been awarded a Housing Assistance grant in the amount of \$250,000.00 subject to completion of the project development phase.

6. Manager advised that a new John Deere front end loader had been purchased from Nortrax after going through the bid process and that it had been delivered.

7. Manager noted that the workers compensation policy audit had been revised with a savings of over a thousand dollars.

8. Manager spoke of his attendance at the Risk Management seminar sponsored by the National League of Cities as part of the Maine Municipal Association contingent in Florida.

9. An advertised Public Hearing was held for a liquor license application for the Red Maple Inn. Upon a motion from Lander and a second by Burdin, the motion was approved unanimously.

10. James Drinkwater was appointed as an alternate member of the Planning Board to fill the existing vacancy following a motion by Dexter, seconded by Burdin. Unanimous.

11. Manager detailed the sharp increase in paving costs and its affect on current plans. It was suggested that the manager determine what could be accomplished with a one million dollar road building borrowing program.

12. Following the Abaris Club's request for one months' rental of a port-a-potty for \$85.00, the request was granted on a unanimous vote on a motion from Lander, seconded by Dexter.

13. Manager noted that Guilford had received the Gold Heartsafe Award for its compliance with heart safety training and education protocols, including automatic external defibrillator use.

14. The assessor's issues were postponed to a separate meeting to be held May 15 at 7:00 PM in the selectmen's office.

15. There being no further business, Lander moved the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Burdin, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:07 PM.

TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

June 5, 2007

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:00 PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, Rick Lander, and Peter Martell, and guests Ron and Cathy Harriman from Harriman Associates, Gayle Watson on behalf of Villages of Piscataquis, and Robert McReavy, Sheila Thompson, Joni Slamm and Carrie Fellows from the Economic Development Board.

2. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Martell, to approve minutes of previous meeting. Unanimous.

3. Balance sheets distributed. No action taken. Chairman Thompson moved ahead to item #14, the scheduled public hearing and item #15, the presentation by Gayle Watson, both outlined below.

4. Read thank you note from Abaris Club for recent contribution.

5. Read notes from students attending Piscataquis Valley Adult Education cooperative thanking the town for its support.

6. Read letter from P.C.H.S guidance office announcing the names of Jeffery Robinson as Valedictorian and Jesse Soden as Salutatorian for the class of 2007.

7. Read letter of thanks from Tim Smith, Foxcroft Academy athletic administrator, for use of the town tennis courts this past season.

8. The Town of Willimantic has requested that Guilford officials continue to serve in the positions of tax collector and treasurer for the coming year. Following a recommendation by the manager and a motion from Dexter, which was seconded by Lander, the board unanimously agreed to continue.

9. Manager announced that the deed from the Trustees of Guilford Memorial Library had been signed making the facility fully municipal property.

10. The board and guests were reminded that the S.A.D. #4 budget meeting was scheduled for Monday evening, June 11th at 7:00PM at PCMS and were urged to attend. Chairman Thompson also reminded those present to vote in the June 12th referendum.

11. Manager spoke of recent meeting of the economic development board and other interested parties with the architectural firm, C.C.S. regarding the Samuel project. Preliminary plans should be available in two to three months according to principal, Cass Smith.

12. On a motion from Burdin, seconded by Dexter, it was unanimously agreed to hold the July selectmen's meeting which traditionally has been omitted from the annual calendar, on July 10 at the regular time and place. On a motion from Burdin, seconded by Lander, it was further agreed to move the August meeting to the 14th that more could attend.

13. Manager announced that the town received a grant from the Maine Municipal Association safety program to purchase safety cans for flammables for both the municipal garage and the fire station.

14. At 7:03 PM, Chairman Thompson opened the advertised public hearing on the Housing Assistance grant program. There were twelve in attendance. Ron Harriman addressed the group and discussed the stages remaining to receive our funding and the steps toward implementing the grant, explaining that we are probably a month from actually starting the first renovation. He answered questions and the hearing ended at 7:16PM.

15. Gayle Watson made a presentation on behalf of Villages of Piscataquis, a class of 2006 Penquis Leadership Institute project, and their plans to place between 20 and thirty interpretive signs at cultural and historical points throughout the Penquis area. The first sign is installed at Low's Bridge in Guilford. Work has begun on an audio CD that will accompany the maps and signs to create a driving tour designed to cover 134 miles and take about four hours to complete. Initial funding came from a Maine Community Foundation grant and sponsorships are being solicited for future signs.

16. Under assessor's issues, an abatement request was heard and denied; a sample letter sent to businesses was read, and a tree growth penalty was assessed following a motion from Lander, seconded by Dexter, with a vote of four in favor, one abstention.

17. Under other business, the Program Guidelines for the housing grant which spell out the eligibility requirements and selection process of grant awards, were adopted by the board upon a motion from Martell and seconded by Lander. Unanimous.

18. Under other business, Burdin moved the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Dexter, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:36 PM.

TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

July 10, 2007

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:00 PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, Rick Lander, and Peter Martell, and guests Paul Herrick, Joni Slamm, Laurel and Al Hunt, Sally Pearson, and Fran Emmons of the Piscataquis Observer.

2. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Burdin, to approve minutes of previous meeting. Unanimous.

3. Balance sheets distributed. No action taken.

4. Read thank you note letter from Tim's Cove Association regarding work done on the Sebec Shores Road by the town.

5. Sad #4 assessment to the Town of Guilford of \$1,058,454.37 discussed.

6. Manager detailed some of the many comments received following the revaluation tax bills. About 77 taxpayers have scheduled appointments to see the assessor, believing their values to be out of line. Many are simply increased to a fair level, but nearly all resulted in a higher cost. The balance between the industrial property and the other property consisting of residential and commercial, has changed from a ratio of 40 to 51 to one of 42 to 58. This is one reason for the boost in taxes for many residential owners.

7. Board reminded that the August meeting had been previously re-scheduled for the 14th.

8. Manager circulated a warrant to pay downtown revitalization program invoices from the escrow account maintained for said purpose.

9. Under other business, Dexter asked for an update on the River Festival. Manager noted that a POW-MIA honor roll would be there as well as a traveling display known as Mobile Memories that honored the 343 Vietnam soldiers from Maine who were killed in action. The Garden Club's efforts were recognized and it was noted that the many volunteers that maintain these areas have been a great blessing to this town.

10. Burdin moved the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Dexter, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 7:36 PM.

TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

August 14, 2007

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:00 PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, Rick Lander, and Peter Martell, and scheduled guest Jim Wierman. Also in attendance was a large contingent of about 50 taxpayers to ask questions about the recent revaluation.

2. Motion made by Burdin, seconded by Dexter, to approve minutes of previous meeting. Unanimous.

3. Balance sheets distributed. No action taken.

Jim Wierman was introduced as he had requested being put on the agenda. He stated that he had five questions that he felt were relevant to everyone and began to go through his list. First he asked why residents could not have access to the sand pile all hours of the winter. Manager explained that the gate needed to be locked after hours and the unattended sand pile presented a sizeable liability exposure. It was agreed to consider the feasibility of a separate, accessible area for this purpose, outside the gate. Question two sought a breakdown of costs for using the transfer station at Dexter/ Corinna and manager explained the tipping fees and eighteen percent of operations costs were a contracted figure for the year. The third inquiry was about the formula used by the assessor to determine cost per square foot of buildings and manager gave a brief overview of various factors while explaining that a guide sheet with the codes would be supplied to those who wanted to look into it. The fourth question was simply a comment; he felt the assessor hired by the town was very rude. His fifth question was simply, how do we, as a town, stop this guy? Manager explained that the board would review the work-product and the contract and make a determination on final compensation.

The question came up about delaying the due date and giving people more time to pay these unanticipated increases. Manager stated that the board had considered this but was advised by

counsel that statutes prevented any change in due date, interest rate, or start of interest date once taxes had been committed. He further explained that assessors, in this instance, the selectmen, became state agents performing a state function in their elected capacity. Legislature has sworn to never delegate the authority to tax; it has become a state prescribed process at this point. No outside committee could be appointed to review and determine new tax values, even if so voted in a town meeting. The assessors cannot abdicate their duties and no committee may usurp them. The course of action remaining is to follow the process, apply for abatements where believed to be needed, lacking satisfaction there, appeal to the county commissioners and otherwise continue to follow the laws of the state.

Numerous comments from the gathering followed. Robert Shaffer asked if a committee could be formed to put this on hold and Chairman Thompson referred to the legal advice the manager had just explained; no it could not. He further stated that the selectmen have never refused to visit and review a home or property when asked to do so.

Most of the comments could be summed up as; he was extremely rude, he never looked at my property even though he was there, he never came to visit the property, he never returned my calls, he did not keep the appointment or call to cancel it, he measured wrong, he imagined buildings that do not exist. The manager stated that many had already had appointments following the receipt of their bills and some of those meetings would result in changes. Otherwise, an abatement request must be filled out and filed and help is available to complete these. Burdin added that he had heard no complaints until after the bills went out; otherwise they would have become involved earlier. Mr. Thompson said he would ask for a motion, later on the agenda, to hold an assessors meeting on August 21st at 7:00 PM and the public is invited. Donald Ebbeling asked if the assessor had to go by state laws and was answered in the affirmative. James French stated that errors notwithstanding, hopefully errors that would be addressed, the fact is, many, many homes have been undervalued for years and that all in all, perhaps with some adjustments, the overall assessment had all properties on a more even plane. Andy Lovell agreed but added we have gone from way too low to too high. Mr. Thompson ended this session and moved on in the agenda.

4. Manager read a letter from Piscataquis County Silo and Water Conservation District about a Wetlands Workshop for landowners and others with interest to be held on August 21st at the USDA office in Dover-Foxcroft.

5. A letter from Paul Stearns informed that two letters of intent had been filed by SAD#4 with the state regarding the study of a new school administrative unit. Burdin moved to appoint Brad Deane as the citizen-at-large to the study committee, was seconded by Dexter and Mr. Deane

was unanimously accepted.

6. A letter from the law firm of Brann and Isaacson offering their services for guidance in school consolidation was read. No action taken.

7. A report on the Piscataquis River Festival was given by the manager. The weather was better than predicted, the parade was great if a bit loud, the new events such as chili cook-off, cotton candy stand and scavenger hunt were successful, and the duck race netted \$1600.00 in profit which was turned over to the town by its sponsor.

8. Lander made a motion, seconded by Martell, to table the discussion on grants for non-profits until the next meeting. Unanimous.

9. Manager outlined sidewalk and road repair plans: the sidewalk along Water Street from Clark's Restaurant to the Shell station would be rebuilt with granite curbing and an asphalt surface; the road construction project on Guilford Center Road would be extremely expensive and only a section could be completed this year due to increased costs of asphalt. Manager also explained that an inquiry was being made of MDOT for assistance in repairing some of the damages caused by truck traffic during the reconstruction of Route 15.

10. A motion made by Burdin and seconded by Lander to hold an assessor's meeting on August 21st at 7:00 PM at the town office passed unanimously.

11. Under other business, Martell described the success of the newly formed Pirate Rec committee including a \$700.00 fund raiser conducted by the kids to purchase equipment. Dexter commented that Joe Gallant did another excellent job as recreation director with the Summer Program as well. Manager noted that the Housing Assistance grant had been encumbered, thereby locking up funds in the amount of \$250,000.00 for home improvements in Guilford, and that the administrator had received 25 applications to start with. On a motion from Burdin with a second from Dexter, manager was directed to verify with legal counsel the validity or lack thereof of the petition presented.

12. Burdin moved the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Dexter, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 9:21 PM.

TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

September 4, 2007

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:00 PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, Rick Lander, and Peter Martell, and guests Al Hunt, Donald and Eileen Ebbeling, Marie Landry, and Robert Shaffer.

2. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Burdin, to approve minutes of previous meeting. Unanimous.

3. Balance sheets distributed. No action taken. Lander asked about taxes paid to date and manager stated that we have received approximately eighty percent to date.

4. Manager read a letter from Ernie Martin of Maine D.O.T. informing that the Elm Street Rebuild project had been awarded to Farrin Brothers and Smith, Inc. of Brighton Plantation. Martell mentioned that the town crew had done a good job on the trench repair at the five way intersection south of the bridge. Manager stated he had heard too many complaints to wait for a determination of who was responsible for the repairs and proceeded to have the work done.

5. On a motion from Burdin with a second from Martell, the manager was unanimously appointed to be the voting delegate at the Maine Municipal convention to be held in October. The official form was circulated for signatures.

6. Manager read a letter from MMA Risk Management Services announcing a dividend of \$2863.00 on insurance programs through them.

7. A letter from Anthony Davis, president of Guilford Development Corporation (Riverbend

Homes) was read requesting that the town accept a PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes,) not to exceed \$25,000.00. Burdin moved, Dexter seconded, and it was unanimously agreed to accept said payment.

8. A thank-you letter from the Piscataquis River Festival Chairman, Carrie Fellows, was read expressing appreciation for the support and assistance from the town crew and the board during the recent festival.

9. Manager read a notice as published regarding the School District Reorganization meeting to be held on September 5th at 7:00 pm at the Piscataquis County Middle School and urged everyone's attendance.

10. A report from Recreation Program Director, Joe Gallant was read detailing the successful recreation program of the past summer.

11. Manager outlined the bids received on the planned work for the Guilford Center Road, explaining that Pike Industries was low bidder and would be awarded the contract to reclaim and pave 1.7 miles of said road. He further stated that the road would be reclaimed and surfaced with two inches of binder this summer and that another inch of surface paving would have to wait until 2008 due to the high costs of materials.

12. Manager read a list of all non-profit requests for funding and following motions and seconds by various board members, it was voted to fund the following agencies in the amounts listed: YMCA, \$1,000.00; Pine Tree Hospice, \$600.00; Red Cross, \$1513.00; Womancare, \$1500.00; Eastern Area Agency on Aging, \$1500.00; Community Health and Counseling Center, \$1200,00; and the Older American Center, \$800.00. Receiving no funding were Kennebec Valley Metal Health, Contact, Penquis C.A.P., United Cerebral Palsy, Bangor STD Clinic, and Guilford Historical Society, the latter of which stated they were all set financially and needed no assistance.

13. Under New Business, the manager expressed appreciation for the warning lights installed on the corner of Interface Fabric Group's building at the north end of the bridge. This addition appears to be a great help to traffic control and Interface paid the entire cost of the project, declining reimbursement from the town.

14. Chairman Thompson set Tuesday, September 11th at 7:00 pm as the date for the next assessor's meeting to be held at the selectmen's office. On a motion from Burdin, seconded by Lander, this date was unanimously agreed upon. Lander noted that the selectmen should thank the ladies in the town office for all their efforts in dealing with the extra work from the revaluation process, including putting up with a considerable amount of abuse from some frustrated taxpayers.

15. Under other business, Dexter asked if the hump in the Guilford Center Road just north of the Butter Street intersection could be smoothed out and Lander suggested that the Butter Street entrance might benefit from removal of the large tree and island in the "Y" formed where the roads meet. Manager agreed to discuss this with the contractor. Robert Shaffer inquired as to whether or not the town was going to accept the recent petition for a special town meeting and was again told that since the proposed article would require an illegal process, that it would not be acted upon. He stated that he believed state law allowed for a board of overseers to inspect and amend work done by the assessors in the event of errors or questionable assessments and Dexter replied that there are currently three layers of government in place for this process and that the selectmen had yet to deny any abatement requests. The manager also added that the petition, besides requesting an article that legal counsel had deemed illegal, was not certified nor completed according to law. Al Hunt recalled that the matter was tabled at the last meeting and manager stated he thought he had been very clear that the decision had been not to table but to deny the petition. (See August 14, 2007 minutes, discussion following item 3, third paragraph.) Shaffer stated that such a meeting would have provided a forum to explain the process to the public and manager replied the petition did not request a forum but rather a specific article and in fact there had been three assessor's meetings which spelled out the process in detail. Mr. Ebbeling asked if the TRIO program in use had been state certified and Burdin stated that it was in use by 75% of towns in Maine and he felt it was adequate.

16. Dexter moved the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Burdin, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:25 PM.

TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

October 2, 2007

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:00 PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, Rick Lander, and Peter Martell, and guests State Senator Doug Smith, Peter Johnson, Fire Chief Mike Nichols, Donald and Eileen Ebbeling, Robert Shaffer, Fran Emmons, and Sally Pearson.

2. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Burdin, to approve minutes of previous meeting. Unanimous.

3. Balance sheets distributed. No action taken.

4. State Senator Doug Smith addressed the board and stated a willingness to attend any of their meetings should they have a desire to discuss State issues. He expressed sympathy for the loss of Representative Earl Richardson who passed away recently, and then introduced Pete Johnson, a candidate for the vacant seat. Mr. Johnson gave a brief glimpse of his background and experience and told of his hope to address the issues of loss of local control, schools and taxes.

5. Thank you notes read from the following Non-Profits, recipients of town grants for their service programs: Pine Tree Hospice, Piscataquis YMCA, Community Health and Counseling Services, and American Red Cross.

6. Manager announced the annual Leaf-Peepers Tour, a town sponsored recreational activity for our seniors who will be visiting the Stonington area this year. Their trip is scheduled for October 4th.

7. On a motion from Dexter, seconded by Lander, the board went into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Unanimously voted to go into session at 7:43. On a motion from Lander, seconded by Burdin, it was voted to come out of executive session at 7:57. Action taken: On a motion from Dexter with a second from Burdin, it was agreed by the board to amend the personnel policy to state that 35 hours per week constitutes a full time position.

8. A Public Hearing was called as advertised to discuss the adoption of General Assistance Appendices A through C and F. These are the maximums per household and per category that the town will approve in aid. Following a motion from Burdin with a second by Martell, it was unanimously voted to approve the adoption of these appendices as written by DHHS, in compliance with Title 22 MRSA ss 4305 (4) retroactive to October 1, 2007.

9. Chief Nichols announced that the fire department was looking into the purchase of a generator large enough to supply power to the entire town office and fire station building in the event of a catastrophe. He anticipated an initial cost of around \$6,000.00 for a 20kw generator, plus installation costs, and although the department had saved up most of the required amount, they would like some assistance from the town funds. The manager explained that such an assist could be made from one of two sources; the municipal building account or the fire department supplies account, depending on which had a surplus at year end. Chief Nichols will return to the November meeting with exact costs and needs at which time the board will discuss the issue again.

10. Under Assessor's issues, it was unanimously voted to again enter executive session to hear a request for a poverty abatement, (36 MSRA ss. 841), following a motion from Dexter, seconded by Lander. Went into executive session at 7:58 and voted out of session at 8:09, on a motion from Lander, seconded by Burdin. Action taken: Abatement denied. Then on a Burdin motion with a second by Lander, it was unanimously agreed that the board would waive the pending foreclosure on this individual. Also under assessors' issues, the board agreed to meet with Mr. Edwards, the Assessor's Agent on October 16th, subject to scheduling.

11. Under New Business, Martell recounted that the Pirate Rec Committee was well coordinated and doing a great job. They have engaged the schools, coaches, many area volunteers and primarily the area youth in expanding opportunities for recreational activities. Thompson mentioned that Carmen Lander, with an assist from Rick, has done a tremendous job at the medical building with plantings.

12. Martell moved the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Burdin, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:19 PM.

TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

November 6, 2007

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:00 PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, Rick Lander, and Peter Martell, and guests Gary Grant, Jeff Libby, Al Hunt and Laurel Hunt.

2. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Martell, to approve minutes of previous meeting. Unanimous.

3. Balance sheets distributed. No action taken.

4. Eight thank you notes read from guests that had taken the annual Leaf-Peepers bus tour. The group went to Stonington and also visited the Penobscot Narrows Observatory Tower at the new bridge.

5. Gary Grant brought figures in as requested at a prior meeting as to the costs of a proposed 20kw generator that would supply power to the fire station and municipal building in the event of an emergency. The total figure is \$8125.00 and they are asking for about \$2000.00 to be able to make the purchase and installation. Six thousand dollars of the costs would come from donations that the department already has received. Manager gave the options for funding the additional sum either from the municipal building account or the anticipated surplus in the fire department supplies account, stating he believed the funds would be available at year end. Lander moved that the town provide up to \$2500.00 to accomplish the project. Following a second from Burdin, the motion was voted unanimously.

6. Manager gave an update on recent school consolidation meetings involving two potential units, both of which had been included in two separate letters of intent filed by MSAD#4, and

explained the composition of the two groupings. Nothing has been decided to date and there is much work to be done.

7. Manager explained the impacts of LD 227, a law that permits the return of excise tax credits in the event of a midyear vehicle trade and the towns' ability to grant rebates or maintain them. On a motion from Lander with a second by Dexter, it was unanimously voted to leave the current situation in place with no refunds granted.

8. Manager gave a brief report on the new food pantry in town operated by Al and Laurel Hunt; The Partnership for Self Reliance. Coupled with coaching, classes and mentoring on becoming self reliant, this new program could do a great deal to alleviate hunger and hardship among many area families. Currently operating from a mobile unit, they are hoping to obtain a permanent location. Their next date to be open is November 14th, followed by November 28th. They will also be holding a Turkey Drive on November 18th from Noon to 4:00 pm at the IGA Store in Guilford. Chairman Thompson thanked the Hunts for their service to the community in this effort.

9. Under Assessor's issues, manager detailed that two properties are now owned by the town due to the automatic foreclosure provision in unpaid tax liens dating to 2005 property taxes, one a vacant lot, the other an occupied dwelling. Following a motion from Martell, seconded by Lander, it was decided to explore options of disposal regarding the vacant lot. On a motion by Burdin with a second from Dexter, it was agreed to have the manager investigate the situation of the dwelling further before proceeding with municipal occupancy to best determine resolution in this case.

10. Under New Business, Martell explained that the medical building storage shed had its door broken and subsequently repaired by the town crew. Dexter told of how the town crew had given the school an assist with the rebuilding of the baseball diamond infield at the town athletic field.

11. Burdin moved the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Lander, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:17 PM.

TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

December 4, 2007

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:00 PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, Rick Lander, and Peter Martell, and guests Linda Packard, Al Hunt and Laurel Hunt.

2. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Burdin, to approve minutes of previous meeting. Unanimous.

3. Balance sheets distributed. Discussion on discrepancy in Fire Department equipment accounts. Manager will resolve.

4. Note from Mary Johnston read complimenting cemetery appearance.

5. Letter from Christopher Rice read thanking selectmen for viewing his property and granting the requested abatement. He expressed satisfaction for fair and considerate treatment.

6. Letter from Scott Roach read complaining about sanitary conditions neighboring his property created by neighbor's clientele.

7. Letter from Piscataquis County Commissioners read which found for the town in abatement hearing case in Debbie Pettigrew v. Town of Guilford

8. Linda Packard, town librarian spoke and detailed upcoming library budget meeting and some

concerns; primarily need for replacement cellar windows and snow shoveling. Manager stated that his crew would seal up the windows for the winter and that he could find a shoveler for their sidewalks.

9. Manager gave update on RPC (regional Planning Committee) work, explaining that SAD#4, SAD#46, Harmony and Willimantic had all voted independently to authorize the superintendents to submit a plan by the Department of Education's December 1st deadline for the proposed new school unit.

10. Manager presented 2007-2008 snow plowing contracts arranged between the town and Haley Construction for signatures at the same rates as the previous year. On a motion from Burdin with a second from Martell, the vote was unanimous to accept the contracts and they were signed by the board members.

11. Trapper's Pub had forwarded a request to renew their liquor license, but it was withdrawn as the pub is closing on December 6th. No action taken.

12. Under Assessor's issues, the board agreed to grant an abatement as presented by Edwards for Jennifer Gamblin following a unanimous vote on a motion from Lander with a Burdin second. Manager discussed his meeting with the owners of a property that had been acquired by the town for non-payment of taxes and a plan was accepted to grant them time to pay the entire outstanding balance by February 29th. Manager to ensure that property and liability coverage is in place through the MMA policy to protect the town's interests.

13. Under Other Business, Thompson asked Al Hunt to say a few words about his food pantry and the recent turkey drive. Mr. Hunt stated that they were very gratified to have received so much community support in this effort and that they had exceeded their modest goals. He stated that they now are serving 35 families and they expect that number to increase sharply in the next month. He also stated that it was too bad that the need is so great but at the same time, very good that are able to meet it. He further elaborated that they are hoping to find a permanent home rather than remaining a "mobile food pantry," and their present need is for \$750.00 in funding to obtain 501©3 certification which would allow them access to several grants and USDA surplus food. Also under other business, it was decided that Martell would set a date and call a meeting of the Medical Building Committee to inspect and discuss some carpet replacement at the building. A motion from Lander, seconded by Dexter resulted in a meeting date change for the January Selectmen's meeting; it will be held at the regular time and

place on January 8th, rather than on the 1st.

14. Burdin moved the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Dexter, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:46 PM.