TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

January 8, 2008

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:02 PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, Rick Lander, and Peter Martell, and guests Linda Packard, Dodie Curtis, Al Hunt, Laurel Hunt, Chris Reardon, Allen Emerson, Gary Grant, Jeff Libby and, from the Observer, Fran Emmons.

2. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Burdin, to amend minutes of previous meeting to include discussion as to whether or not the Fire Department account known as the D.W. M. account was public or private. This question had come up at the end of the prior meeting and was never resolved. Minutes accepted as amended. Unanimous.


4. Martell discussed Medical Building Committee meeting of January 2nd. The group inspected the building and noted several floors are in poor condition and the committee intended to try stripping and waxing one room as a pilot. If this process was satisfactory, all tile floors to be redone. Other items needing attention were some gouges in walls, leaky faucets, outside staining, a non-working exterior light fixture and possibly carpet replacement. Dexter suggested looking into carpet squares which are replaceable. Martell mentioned the group is seeking a long term solution prior to lease renewal which comes up in 15 months.

5. Al Hunt stated that the Partnership Food Pantry is doing well and wanted the board updated on its progress and plans. He then introduced Mr. Chris Reardon of S.A.V.E. Virtues and distributed his biography via pamphlet to the board. Chris is a well known consultant, speaker and adviser with several areas of expertise in starting and running businesses, both small and very large. He spoke of his association with Al and his pantry and explained how he planned to assist in achieving the goals of getting people from the food pantry line onto their feet on their way to self-sufficiency. Chris’ group will train Al’s group to in turn train local clientele as a means of reducing area hunger by helping people take control of their own destinies.
6. The Fire Department returned with an alternative request regarding the generator they wished to purchase for the fire station and municipal building. They now are offering to contribute $4000.00 towards its purchase and installation if the town will pay the balance; approximately $3500.00 plus the propane to fuel it. The Chief and Town Manager were asked if funds were available for the difference, and noted that there is nearly $8,000.00 remaining in the Supply Account. Burdin moved to approve this request, and following a second from Lander, the motion carried unanimously.

7. On a motion from Martell with a second from Dexter, it was agreed to approve the liquor license application renewal for 28 Elm Street. Unanimous.

8. Dodie Curtis addressed the board with the by-law amendments proposed for Guilford Memorial Library. She explained the changes which consisted of language clarifying that the library is now a municipal department, identified the Trustees’ roles, and explained the duties of the secretary and treasurer in supplying data to the town office. Following the change of the words town clerk to town treasurer, the by-laws were approved on a motion from Burdin, seconded by Lander. Unanimous.

9. The slate of officers voted in at the previous meeting of the Guilford Fire Department was presented and approved. Motion was made by Lander, seconded by Burdin and was unanimously accepted.

10. Manager announced that Moosehead Enterprises had increased its basic cable rate by $1.00 per month (to $24.00) and had added two channels to its programming.

11. Burdin moved to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing employee compensation as per MRSA ss 405 (6)(A)&(D). Seconded by Lander, the board went into session at 8:32 pm. Following a motion by Dexter with a Martell second, the board voted to come out of executive session at 8:47 pm. The board then voted unanimously to increase the rate of pay for employees by $.50 per hour, to more closely align the public works positions, and to increase the manager pay by $1500. annually.
12. First notice given for any articles the selectmen may wish to appear on the warrant for the March town meeting.

13. The date for the annual budget committee meeting was set for February 11th at 7:00 pm at P.C.H.S. following a Lander motion and a Burdin second.

14. Under Assessor’s Issues, a list of abatement request reviewed by the agent was presented and decisions made on all but one. Selectmen agreed to visit and inspect one of the residences.

15. Under Other Business, Thompson stated he had attended an abatement hearing at the County Commissioner’s Office and we would get the results within 60 days. He noted this was only the second one out of all the requests to go to hearing. Manager commended the board for the extra effort and results obtained in attempting to hear everyone out and resolve the many requests.

16. Burdin moved the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Lander, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:47 PM.
TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN’S MEETING

February 5, 2008

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:01 PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, Rick Lander, and Peter Martell, and guests Linda Packard from the Library and Gary Grant from Guilford Fire Department.

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

3. Balance sheets distributed. Latter from Superintendent Stearns read regarding uncertainty of school budget numbers at this time.

4. Reminder given that Town Budget Committee meeting scheduled for February 11th at 7:00 pm at P.C.H.S.

5. Gary Grant gave an update on the generator. It is now installed and fully functional although the installation was $250.00 over the bid due to location requirements. He stated that Jeff Libby was making plans to enclose or fence it in to prevent vandalism issues.

6. Manager presented renewal fire service contracts for Abbot and Parkman at last year’s rates. Approved following a motion from Lander, seconded by Burdin. Unanimous.

7. Burdin moved to set the delinquent tax interest rate at 11% and the return rate at 7%. Seconded by Dexter. Unanimous.
8. Lander made a motion, seconded by Burdin to approve the renewal contract with the Patterson Brothers for septage disposal. Unanimous.

9. An easement from M.D.O.T. for a drainage pipe on Elm Street was presented. It was voted to have the manager sign and return the easement following a motion by Burdin, seconded by Martell. Unanimous.

10. Manager explained the likelihood of a tax cap override article on the March warrant in compliance with LD-1. This article, if approved will allow the town to exceed the cap in the event that voters approve spending limits to that effect.

11. Final notice for warrant articles announced. Martell inquired if background checks should be required on all future town employees and officers and whether this should be on the warrant. Following discussion, manager was directed to investigate with Maine Municipal Association as to requirements.

12. Manager presented annual budget for selectmen review and comment. Following comment and adjustment, the selectmen adopted a budget to present to the town committee on February 11th at its annual meeting.

13. Under Assessor’s Issues, a list of abatement request reviewed by the agent was presented and decisions made to abate and or deny.

14. Other Business; none presented.

15. Burdin moved the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Dexter, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 9:41 PM.
TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN’S MEETING

March 4, 2008

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.

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

3. Balance sheets distributed. Letter from M.D.O.T read requesting permits for heavy trucks as per item #8 below. Letter from Al Hunt read praising road crew for their work during the latest storm. Letter from Superintendent Stearns read regarding continued uncertainty of school budget numbers at this time.

4. Manager gave update on tax acquired properties. One has been redeemed as per prior agreement by the owners, and the other, a small in-town lot will be advertised for bid before the next meeting.

5. A liquor license for Gene and Darlene Dami to sell spirits at Piscataquis Country Club was renewed following a unanimous vote on a motion from Lander with a Dexter second.

6. Red light permits were granted to three firefighters on Guilford Fire Department following a motion from Martell, seconded by Burdin. Unanimous.

7. The 2008 annual town meeting warrant was approved. It was noted that the budget committee accepted all the recommendations of the board at their February 11th meeting. Burdin moved to accept as written, seconded by Lander, and the vote was unanimous.
8. It was agreed to allow overweight construction vehicles on town roads as needed by the M.D.O.T. contractors for the purpose of the Water Street construction project. This job calls for repaving the section of Water Street from Main Street to where the Dover Road project began. A motion from Burdin with a Dexter second led to a unanimous vote.

9. Resignations from the S.A.D. #4 School board were read from Pam Goulette and Ralph Eastman. It was moved by Dexter to accept these “with regret”, seconded by Burdin. Unanimous.

10. Manager explained the mechanics of a tax cap override article on the March warrant in compliance with LD-1. This article, if approved will allow the town to exceed the cap in the event that voters approve spending limits to that effect. Manager further noted, however, that he expects it will not be necessary, as the final number should be within the acceptable limit.

11. On a motion from Burdin, seconded by Burdin, it was unanimously agreed to accept and sign the county warrant. It was noted that there was a decrease in their assessment to the town of nearly $25,000.00 from the prior year.

12. Under assessors’ issues, five old abatement requests were addressed.

13. Under Other Business, Dexter asked what the personnel policy said regarding compensation time. Manager reported that the policy provided for it but he had limited its use to no more than one week per year per employee. Dexter moved to amend the policy to specifically state that compensation time could be built up for only one week per fiscal year, that it would need to be taken during that fiscal year, and that its timing would be up to the manager’s discretion. Following a second from Burdin, the motion carried unanimously. Dexter also brought up that a sign was needed to prevent parking in front of the door at the medical building. Manager to order and install sign.

14. Burdin moved the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Lander, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:16 PM.
TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN’S MEETING

April 1, 2008

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. Guests present were Dr. Ken Woodbury and Thomas Kittredge from PCEDC, J. Paul Curtis, Richard Panciera, and Al Hunt.

2. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Burdin, to approve minutes of March 4th and March 17th meetings. Unanimous.


4. Bids on tax acquired lot at Map 15- lot 70 on Morse Avenue opened. There were three bids and it was unanimously voted to award the bid To Brian Church, following a motion from Burdin with a second from Dexter.

5. A decision letter from the County Commissioners was read regarding the abatement hearing for Richard Manganiello, granting him a refund of $121.00. It was moved by Lander, seconded by Dexter to accept the decision. So voted; unanimous.

6. Chairman Thompson introduced Thomas Kittredge from PCEDC and Mr. Kittredge gave a brief overview of his function as Business Development Specialist and the makeup of PCEDC. He also announced a conference titled New Directions for Piscataquis County to be held on May 16th which would host a panel of industrial experts in wind power, water power, wood pellet manufacturing and other new ideas being utilized in the state. Dr. Kenneth Woodbury, Jr. then explained his role as Community Development Specialist and discussed grant funding and PCEDC’s ability to assist towns with the grant writing process.
7. A liquor license for The Covered Bridge Restaurant to sell spirits was renewed following a unanimous vote on a motion from Martell with a Lander second.

8. Consent for Mount Kineo Lodge Charity Fund to apply for a bingo license was approved. A motion from Burdin with a Dexter second led to a unanimous vote.

9. A copy of a letter sent to John Noll, planner for EMDC by the County was read along with a note from County manager Mike Henderson requesting support for the letter. It was moved by Martell, seconded by Dexter to have manager write a support letter and forward it to Noll. Unanimous.

10. Manager brought up resident’s inquiry into posting “engine brake” signs and an MDOT position paper on the subject was presented. It was agreed to refer the matter to the planning board for their consideration and follow-up.

11. On a motion from Burdin, seconded by Lander, it was unanimously agreed to set the Declaration of Certified Ratio for 2008 at 100%. This step determines the percentage of reimbursement the town will receive from the state for homestead exemptions.

12. Under assessors’ issues, three old abatement requests were addressed, a Veterans’ exemption was granted, and the board agreed to set the per acre value of Farmland/ pasture at $325.00 for both 2007 and 2008.

13. Under Other Business, it was agreed to call an assessor’s meeting for April 15th at 7:00pm at the selectmen’s’ office and to set dates for industry review for May. Manager directed to obtain all updated data from Penquis Real Estate Services prior to meeting.

14. Burdin moved the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Lander, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:29 PM.
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. Guests present were Al Hunt, Laurel Hunt, Joni Slamm and Carrie Fellows from the Economic Development Board, Josh Salm from the Piscataquis Observer, and Donna Fichtner from The Nature Tourism Committee.

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


   Donna Fichtner was then introduced and she gave a presentation on the work of the Nature Tourism committee. Following the Blaine House Conference on Natural Resources, it was noted that while Maine offered extensive marketing to attract people to the State, there was no “product” in the way of creating experiences, providing restrooms and parking, providing directions to sites and coordinating a statewide network. People could not find what we had to share. Under the umbrella of the Piscataquis Tourism Task Force, a committee of the Piscataquis Economic Development Council, this committee has identified over 40 tourist sites in the county, obtained some grant funding, and started a signage program to identify them in a unified thematic manner. Guilford’s Memorial River Walk is among the sites. Watch for the Big Chickadee signs in the future.

4. Manager explained that the Planning Board had discussed the use of engine brakes relative to a citizen request and had decided to post one sign requesting voluntary compliance on Water Street. Dexter moved that the manager determine appropriate wording for such a sign, check it with the M.D.O.T. and report back at the June meeting. Seconded by Lander and unanimously agreed.
5. Manager read letter from the school superintendent, Mr. Stearns, outlining the final draft of the upcoming school budget and noted a decrease in the share paid by the Town of Guilford.

6. Burdin moved and Dexter seconded a motion to appropriate $85.00 for the rental of a Port-a-potty for the athletic field in response to a request from the Abaris Club. Unanimous.

7. Manager announced that Mr. Joe Gallant would again head up the Guilford summer recreation program and that discussion was ongoing with the Piscataquis County YMCA regarding continuation of the swim program. Lander inquired as to how that relates to Pirate Rec and was told that they are a separate, district wide group that has done an outstanding job through volunteer effort of coordinating recreational opportunities for the youth of area towns with great success in programming and fund raising.

8. A letter of invitation to the May 20th meeting of the Piscataquis County Commissioners was read. This meeting will address the state requirement that a county must discuss police protection annually with all involved towns.

9. An assessors’ meeting was announced by Chairman Thompson for May 13th at 7:00 pm. Lander asked if at some point a clarification of when building permits are required could be published locally.

10. Under Other Business, manager was asked to give an update on the Elm Street construction project. He stated that work had started and that the completion date is October 17th, adding that there will be work stoppages around the three holidays involved.

11. Burdin moved the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Dexter, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:07 PM.
TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN’S MEETING

June 3, 2008

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. Guests present were Al Hunt, Laurel Hunt, Ed Stupakewicz, Vicki Stupakewicz, and Gary Grant.

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


4. Correspondence read and distributed.

5. Manager stated that No Jake Brake signs should be worded as a request; if it is to be an ordinance, the town would be responsible to enforce it. “Please refrain from using engine brakes” would be appropriate. Manager directed to order a sign and place it on Water Street, and follow up with residents to determine compliance.

6. Manager read letter from the Piscataquis County Commissioners’ office stating that Mr. Ebbelings’ abatement request had been denied.

7. Assistant Fire Chief Gary Grant proposed that the board allow the Guilford Fire Department to expand its roster to provide slots for Junior Firefighters who are turning eighteen. Following discussion regarding age requirements and insurance, Burdin moved that Juniors be allowed membership upon turning eighteen until such time as the by-laws are written to address the situation. Following a second from Dexter, the motion carried unanimously.
8. Al Hunt of Partnership Food Pantry gave an update of the growth of the service in Guilford. On June 10th, this food cupboard will greatly expand its outreach effort by delivering packages of food to those households that cannot get to the cupboard. The Partnership food Pantry will operate its mobile service on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month and will maintain their regular pantry hours from Noon until 2:00 pm on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. The board expressed appreciation for their continued interest in and assistance to the citizens of Guilford and surrounding towns.

9. A hearing was held for the renewal of a junkyard permit for R&K Towing. It was moved by Lander and seconded by Burdin to approve, subject to the Code Enforcement Officers’ inspection, recommendation, and approval. Unanimous.

10. The board was reminded that the SAD #4 school budget meeting is scheduled for June 5th at GMS at 7:00 pm.

11. The School budget validation referendum warrant was presented and signed. The specimen ballot was posted in the usual places earlier today.

12. A license for the renewal of the Conner-Trafton Legion Post’s Beano activities was signed following a motion from Lander with a second from Dexter. Unanimous.

13. Manager informed the board that Mike Cranmer and Tracy Dula had donated a bench to be placed at the tennis court. Burdin moved to accept the gift and send a note of appreciation; seconded by Dexter and unanimously agreed.

14. Manager reported that the sign-up sheets were handed out at school for the summer recreation program, and announced that the town would continue with the YMCA swim program at the same rate as last year.

15. Under assessors’ issues, Vicki Stupakewicz raised some points on her abatement denial and lack of written notice. After discussion, it was agreed by the board that an investigation would be made to determine if a better classification existed and an answer would be given no
later than June 16th. Further action saw a motion from Burdin with a Lander second pass unanimously to reduce the residential values by three percent as a result of sales ratio study indications.

16. It was decided to have a July Selectmen’s meeting on the first of the month, in hopes that a mil rate could be approved at that time.

17. Dexter moved the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Lander, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:35 PM.
TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

July 1, 2008

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:22 PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, Rick Lander, and Peter Martell. Guests present were Al Hunt, Laurel Hunt, Danielle Gioia, Dodie Curtis, Linda Packard, Joni Slamm, Carrie Fellows, Virginia Anderson, Roberta Thomas, Brian Woodworth, Seifert Schultz and Madeline Shultz.

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


4. Manager stated that notice had been served to appear in Superior Court regarding the abatement request by W.D. Ebbeling and the subsequent denials. Both the County and the Town received notice and a response has been filed by attorney Erik Stumpfel requesting a motion to stay.

5. The manager announced that the mil rate for 2008 has been set at .01280, or $12.80 per thousand of property valuation, and that the taxes have been committed.

6. Danille Gioia of the Guilford Memorial Library detailed some repair and maintenance issues needing attention, specifically, painting and gutter replacement along the west side. She stated that they had the paint, just needed to find the labor part. Linda Packard added that a recent energy audit showed some areas that needed attention and could provide some savings during the heating season. Burdin moved that the town undertake the project as the building is one of the town’s responsibilities, and get the work completed. Lander seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.
7. Dodie Curtis introduced the Pink Tulip Project that the garden club is working on; a fundraiser and awareness effort for women’s cancer research. They plan to add special plantings to the existing gardens and create a display at the Guilford Medical building. The Library asked if they could support this with plant sale funds and it was agreed that would be within their discretion. Bulbs will also be available for personal purchase and use, and contributions can be made at the library or at [www.pinktulipproject.org](http://www.pinktulipproject.org), and clicking on Guilford Community Garden.

8. Under assessors’ issues, it was voted to grant homestead exemptions to two overlooked accounts, to abate the personal property tax on the Black Forest Restaurant that had closed and sold its chattels prior to April first, and to supplement a new lot that had been created from a partial lot sale.

9. Under Other Business, Virginia Anderson asked what a selectman or selectwoman did as part of their duties; Seifert Shultz thanked those present for “getting back the Historical Society” and recounted the spirit of cooperation that achieved the War Memorial display; and Linda Packard thanked the Town of Guilford for its assistance with the financial administration for the Town of Willimantic. It was decided to have a August Selectmen’s meeting on the 19th the month to increase attendance.

10. Burdin moved the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Lander, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:09 PM.
TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

August 19, 2008

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:22 PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, Rick Lander, and Peter Martell. Guests present were Al Hunt, Laurel Hunt, Linda Packard, Seifert Schultz, David Inglehart of Tim’s Cove Property Owners’ Association, and Jackie Estrella.

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


4. Manager gave brief update of Piscataquis River Festival held on July 26th. It was well attended, blessed by sunny weather, included another excellent parade, and generated $1200.00 from the Duck Race for the skate park program.

5. The manager provided an update on the school consolidation progress involving S.A.D. #4, and #41, Harmony and Willimantic. The required public hearing was held on August 4th and the planning committee had voted to send the plan to the school boards for their approval. A final vote on the matter will be held at the time of the November election, to determine if all towns included wish to proceed with the new School Administrative Unit prescribed by law. It was also noted that the petition to repeal said law was still generating interest.

6. Manager detailed road work that had been accomplished in recent weeks; namely the ditching of in-town streets and culvert replacements and the extensive ditching and repair work on the Sebec Shores Road in compliance with FEMA grant fund requirements.

7. Manager announced that an oil contract had been agreed upon with McKusick petroleum to
supply heating oil for the 2008-2009 heating season at $3.639 per gallon.

Linda Packard was called upon and she requested that Guilford Memorial Library be allowed to donate $250.00 of funds raised from their recent book sale to the Swan’s Island Library that had just lost all their books. On a motion from Burdin with a second from Lander, it was agreed to approve the request. Linda stated that they had raised $464.72 at the sale, more than their usual intake.

Dave Inglehart was asked to present his request and he stated that he was exploring the possibility of working through the Town of Guilford to contract work on the Sebec Shores Road that the association wanted done, if they made a contribution to the town equal to the cost of the work requested. After discussion, it was decided to try to work with them for the benefit of all involved since it would be done at no additional costs to the town other than the road commissioner’s time and participation.

8. Al Hunt spoke on Guilford Historical Society’s plans for a Harvest Fair planned for the first Saturday in October. He stated that in the past, it had been a fundraiser for the society, but this year, they wished to hold the fair at their expense as a gift to the town. He invited anyone interested to attend the upcoming meeting on August 22nd at 6:00 pm and offer their ideas. They are planning a show-and-tell session and hoping to have an antique road show event as part of the Silver Anniversary of the Guilford Historical Society celebration.

9. Manager announced an invitation from the County for officials to attend a workshop on Freedom of Access training to be held sometime in September at the court house, cost to be borne by the County.

10. A letter from the Silver Star Families of America was read requesting the town to make a resolution declaring May 1st “Silver Star Banner Day” in honor of the sacrifices made by the men and women of our community wounded in military action. It was unanimously agreed to make the resolve following a motion by Dexter, seconded by Burdin.

11. By various motions, it was unanimously agreed to grant the following monetary requests to the respective non-profit organizations: Pine Tree Hospice, $600.00; American Red Cross, $1513.00; Womancare, $1500.00; Eastern Agency on Aging, $1500.00; Community Health and
Counseling Services, $1200.00; and Piscataquis YMCA, $1500.00.

12. Manager explained some cemetery issues involving confusion over where bodies were buried, and expressed the need to update maps. A request for replacement of a marker damaged by mowing was denied following a motion from Lander and seconded by Dexter. It was discussed that a precedent should not be established that would assume unknown liabilities and that items placed in a cemetery are done so at the risk of the owners. However, manager was directed to investigate any possible insurance coverage before final determination.

13. An assessors’ meeting was held to discuss tree growth penalties, abatement requests, and the Voluntary Farm Support Program.

14. Burdin moved the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Lander, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 9:42 PM.
TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN’S MEETING

September 2, 2008

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:02 PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, Rick Lander, and Peter Martell and guest Carrie Fellows.

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


4. Manager announced that the County funded Freedom of Access training would be held on September 9th at the Superior Court House at 7:00 pm.

5. Thank you notes to the town for recent donations made to Pine Tree Hospice and Eastern Agency on Aging were read.

6. Manager gave update on an employee that may miss some time for an injury.

7. Manager detailed recent work by Barry Carleton at the medical building and comments were received on the great appearance following the paint job.

8. Carrie Fellows provided an update on Guilford Historical Society’s upcoming Harvest Fair scheduled for October 4th. Plans include free hot dogs, a free spaghetti dinner, an ice cream social and the burying of a time capsule among other events. This celebration of their silver anniversary and all the events will be published beforehand so all will know they are invited.
9. The Annual Leaf Peeper Tour for Guilford’s senior citizens has been scheduled for October 9th. The group will be making a trip to Pittston Farms via town sponsored chartered bus and attendees will be responsible for only the cost of their lunch at the farm. They will have a tour of the logging museum, the historic barn and the grounds.

10. Manager announced that a letter had been sent by the code enforcement officer to the property owner of a burned house that is becoming a health hazard stating that it must be cleaned up; 30 days were allowed for a response from the owner.

11. Manager spoke of plans for thirteen mailbox posts to be installed on the new sidewalk along the south side of Elm Street and mentioned that it would make it impossible to maintain the sidewalk during the winter months due to space limitations. He agreed to seek alternatives following approval from the board of selectmen.

12. On a motion from Martell, seconded by Dexter, it was unanimously voted to approve and sign an application for a subsurface waste system.

13. Manager detailed an additionally available insurance coverage for contamination by road salt to private wells and it was voted to take no action, following a motion by Lander with a Burdin second.

14. Under assessor’s business, it was voted to grant Marc Guay an abatement of $4600.00 on a shed and to grant Edward Snide a homestead exemption after a motion was made by Burdin and seconded by Dexter. It was also agreed to remove a parcel belonging to Anne Rojas from tree growth status by rule as the lot was non conforming, at no penalty to the owner.

15. Under other business, Carrie Fellows announced that the Kiwanis Club would not be spearheading the River Festival next year, but a group of volunteers wished to continue the event. A committee is already in place and they would require some seed money and hopefully, raise some funds as in the past for a town project. Kiwanis would still be involved as would the Guilford Historical Society and possibly other groups. The board appreciated the efforts, both past and future of the Kiwanis and the new committee and was glad to see this event continue. The board also discussed attendance issues on the planning board.
16. Burdin moved the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Lander, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:47 PM.
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 Robert Peachey, Josh Hansen, Maged Shahin, Stephanie Gray, and Niki Fortier.

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

3. Balance sheets distributed and correspondence read.

4. Manager noted that most of the plantings and paving have been completed on Elm Street, the lights are scheduled to be placed on Thursday the 9th, and the project should be completed this week.

5. The Guilford Historical Society’s Silver Anniversary Harvest fair was a success by all accounts in spite of a very chilly day. A day long offering of food, games, vendor tables, band music, and a cemetery tour was well attended and enjoyed by all.

6. Manager regretfully informed the board that Interface, now True Textiles, has reneged on the former promise of Water Street land donation and that the Samuel’s have withdrawn from the project. Thanks to broken promises, the town loses out on a generous offer to build a million dollar community center. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Burdin, to make the Edes building safe, and advised getting bids for its demolition.

7. Manager announced a renewal of the winter parking ban on all streets and roads in Guilford. The ban is from November 1st through May 1st of 2009 and applies from 10:00 at night until 6:00 am.
8. Manager has requested pricing for tile replacement in the carpeted portion of the medical building and will have some electrical issues attended to.

9. The public hearing to consider adoption of the General Assistance Ordinance Appendices was held as posted which changes the maximums for food, shelter and other necessities on an annually adjusted basis. It was moved by Lander and seconded by Dexter to accept the DHHS recommendations and adopt as written. Unanimous.

10. An application from The Covered Bridge Restaurant for an Entertainment Permit to allow for Open Mic Night was read. It was moved and seconded by Lander and Dexter respectively to approve. So voted; unanimous

11. The Town’s ton truck is getting old and tired. Manager detailed some pricing and options on a replacement vehicle and was directed to spec and bid a ton truck with dump body and plow.

12. Under assessor’s issues, it was voted to deny William D Ebbeling's abatement requests on both properties as submitted. Manager directed to explain that requester may reapply on the garage, as properties are now combined into one lot. Board agreed to set a date to visit the Bearce property before deciding on her abatement request. Manager asked to discuss Corey Littlefield’s request, as issue may already be resolved with no action necessary. Niles McBrierty abatement agreed to as equipment has been excised. Supplements for Neil Turner and Adam Bussell tabled for further information.

13. Under other business, Thompson stated that the P.C.H.S. Key Club would like to hold a Homeless Sleep-over at the athletic field on the 18th of October. Issues discussed included need for a burn permit, insurance, and bathroom facilities. Thompson will clear all of the above with the school club advisor. Also under other business, manager directed to order and install a Jake Brake sign on South Main Street. Guests as noted above were asked to express their concerns. They had come to voice complaints about lack of response and action regarding animal noise, loud partying into morning hours, swearing and screaming, squealing tires, trash all over the yards, riding lawnmowers on public roads, and other nuisance and hazard issues. Manager directed to contact Animal Control Officer, Code Enforcement Officer and Piscataquis Sheriff’s Office to request they step up patrol and control.
14. Burdin moved the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Lander, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 9:02 PM.
TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN’S MEETING

November 4, 2008

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, Laurel Hunt, Madeline Schultz, Sieferd Shultz, and Brian Woodworth.

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

3. Balance sheets discussed and correspondence read.

4. Manager noted that the plantings and paving have been completed on Elm Street, the lamps are operational, and the completed project has been drawing many favorable comments. As a final touch, 200 bulbs had been planted in the new greenspace.

5. It was noted that the Partnership for Self Reliance Food Pantry had reached its first anniversary. Chairman Thompson invited Al Hunt to offer a few comments, and Al stated that they serve 25 to 35 families each week and have given out over $40,000.00 in free food this past year, about 75 percent of that to Guilford residents. He thanked the board for their support and was thanked in return for the great job done. Manager also noted that the Methodist Church food cupboard had been operational for over 17 years and was also to be commended.

6. Manager informed the board that prices were obtained from five dealerships and the town was purchasing a 2008 GMC ton truck with a dump body and plow from Hartley’s GMC in Newport.

7. The new storage building at the municipal garage lot is coming along nicely; the walls are up and being sheathed and the rafters are scheduled to arrive this week. It should be secure
before winter sets in.

8. It was noted that the State valuation for Guilford had been increased to $138,550,000.00, an increase of about 18 million dollars, wherein the County had increased overall by 160 million.

9. The board was informed that the town was changing its web presence to a more detailed, yet easier to use format, and the results will be online before the end of the year. The new site will accommodate archived files so that meeting minutes will remain available for much longer than the current three months. Additional links and more information should make the improved site an attractive, useful destination.

10. On a motion from Burdin with a Martell second, it was voted unanimously to support the grant application of the Four Winds Snowmobile Club for snow sled trail construction and maintenance.

11. A letter of resignation from Rachael Davis from the Economic Development Board was read and accepted with regret following a motion by Martell and seconded by Dexter. Manager directed to write a note of thanks for her past services and commitment. Patti Davis was then appointed to fill the vacancy, on a Martell motion with a Dexter second.

12. Snow removal contracts were approved between the Town and Haley Construction reflecting an approximate seven percent increase with no escalator clause for fuel price increases, following a motion by Lander, seconded by Martell. Manager noted that this amount was within the budget projected last February.

13. Under assessor’s issues, it was noted that the County Commissioners had voted to deny the abatement request of William Ebbeling; manager was given direction in the disposition of tax acquired property that became the town’s on November 3rd; and manager was requested to schedule discussions with competing assessor’s agents candidates to determine what service level would be required and the cost of same.

14. Under other business, no concerns were brought to the table.
15. Burdin moved the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Dexter, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:07 PM.
TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

December 2, 2008

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:03 PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, Rick Lander, and Peter Martell, and guests Danielle Gioia from the Town Library, and Josh Salm from the Piscataquis Observer.

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

3. Balance sheets discussed and correspondence read.

4. Manager stated that the bid notice to sell the 97 Ford ton truck had gone to the local papers and interest was already being shown in this vehicle.

5. Manager also stated that bid notices had gone out for the demolition and removal of the Edes Building and there was a great deal of interest from contractors in this work. Martell suggested that interior photos be taken to record the extent of the deterioration.

6. Linda Gilbert, treasurer of Guilford Development Corporation, the governing body of Riverbend Homes, informed the board through a letter that the directors had agreed to send a P.I.L.O.T. to the town of $20,000.00 for 2008 and 2009 and, beginning with 2010, to contribute an amount that would equal 75% of the rate they would otherwise be assessed.

7. Manager detailed some issues created on Elm Street by wrong directional parking, but stated most of the other problems had been resolved. Some signage may be added to remind drivers to park correctly, facing with the flow of traffic. It was also brought up following the recent snow event, that some of the staff at the medical building are parking in a manner that hinders snow removal. Manager directed to discuss this with tenant.
8. A request from the Maine Tourism Association for membership and dues was set aside with no action taken at this time.

9. Danielle Gioia from the Library Trustee board presented a proposed budget for 2009 for the library. Manager agreed to get together with her and the board to address further issues.

10. Chris Reardon of SAVE Virtues and the John Adams Institute requested funds to go toward the purchase of a vehicle to assist the local food pantries. A pledge of $1500.00 had already been received. It was noted that Partnership Food Pantry distributed 40,000 pounds of food in Guilford last year, but now their present transportation has worn out. It was moved by Lander and seconded by Burdin to contribute $1000.00 toward repairs or replacement, at the manager’s discretion following communication with Mr. Reardon, funds to be taken from Program Requests. Unanimous.

11. Manager explained that the proposed 2009 Piscataquis County Budget projected an assessment for Guilford of $159,988.20, a decrease from last year.

12. A proposal from the Economic Development Board to establish a Lilac Project wherein lilac trees would be planted at various town locations as well as plantings being encouraged among the private sector was discussed. This would be an aspect of community branding and lilacs would become part of a unifying image within the town. More details to follow. Dexter spoke in support of the project and the board concurred.

13. Dexter moved that the annual budget meeting be set for February 9, 2009, at P.C.H.S. at 7:00 in the evening, storm date to be February 11th, and the committee notified as in the past. Unanimously voted following a second from Lander.

14. First notice given by manager to board to bring in warrant articles for the March annual Town meeting. Lander inquired as to whether or not a warrant article would be required to change the composition of the planning board, and it was determined that the manager would investigate and report back later.
15. Under assessor’s issues, three abatements were granted regarding personal property that was no longer taxable.

16. Under other business, Martell asked if there were funds in the recreation account to purchase T-shirts for Pirate Rec. Manager stated there were, and following a Burdin motion with a Dexter second, it was unanimously agreed to do so. Manager was directed to develop a policy regarding the practice of fir-tipping on town property, and to include among its provisions that no tipping would be allowed wherein boughs were sold to commercial enterprises.

17. Burdin moved that the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Lander, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:58 PM.