2009

Board of Selectmen Minutes 2009

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TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN’S MEETING

January 6, 2009

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 Diana Bowley from Bangor Daily News, Fire Chief Allen Emerson, John Crosby of Crosby Construction and Mark Freemen of Freeman Construction.

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

3. Balance sheets discussed and correspondence read. A letter from School Superintendent Paul Stearns told of a public hearing to be held on January 14th at the P.C.M.S. cafeteria at 6:30pm to discuss the upcoming referendum on school consolidation. A letter was read from the County Commissioners outlining plans for a meeting on January 15th at 6:30pm at the Superior Court house to discuss animal control and shelter issues. A letter was read from True Textiles detailing their progress in achieving various goals of reducing greenhouse gases, reducing the use of a toxic chemical known as Sara 313, and collaborating with the Town of Guilford to construct a 3000 square foot green space to ameliorate storm water runoff at the corner of Oak and South Main Streets.

4. Manager stated nine bids were received on the 97 Ford ton truck, and it has since been sold to the high bidder for $7,000.00.

5. Bids for removal of the Edes Building were opened and their respective contract prices read aloud. There were thirteen bids received and they ranged in price from $13,190.00 to $64,500.00. Selectmen did not award a bid as the details of each proposal required further study to ascertain that all objectives were addressed and to determine which proposal was most advantageous to the town.

6. Manager gave an update on the disposition of tax acquired properties which are being
The first property on the list is likely to be restored to its prior owner as long as agreements are honored and a second would be going to advertised bid in the near future.

7. Burdin moved that the board of selectmen voice their support for an application to the CDBG program by the economic development board’s housing committee for a 2009 Housing Assistance Grant and the plan to hold a public hearing on February 3rd. Following a second from Martell and a brief discussion of the huge successes from the past housing grant, the motion passed unanimously.

8. A letter from Moosehead Cable Company was read detailing the rate increase effective February 1st to $26.00 per month for basic cable. Pole attachment fees and channel subscription costs were cited as reasons for the increase.

9. Fire Chief Allen Emerson presented the Fire Department’s annual budget request, noting no increase from the prior year. He also noted that a request had been received from Cambridge to enter into a mutual aid agreement and it would be presented in writing a later date. Comments were favorable to this point as Cambridge Fire Department has been very willing to stand by for Guilford, and Guilford’s presence was very decisive in the recent structure fire in Cambridge. The chief also noted that the department would be writing specifications for a fire truck to replace the 1975 pumper in hopes of going to bid in 2010.

10. A proposed slate of officers for the Fire Department was received following their recent elections, for final ratification by the selectmen. On a motion from Burdin, seconded by Lander, it was unanimously voted to accept the slate as presented, being the same slate as last year.

11. On a motion from Burdin with a second by Dexter, Michelle Nichols was appointed Registrar of Voters.

12. Burdin moved to go into executive session as per MSRA ss 405 (6)(A)(D) to discuss town employee wages. After a second from Martell and a unanimous vote, the board went into session at 8:08 pm. Following a motion from Burdin with a Martell second, the board came out of executive session at 8:26 pm. Following a motion from Burdin, seconded by Lander, it was voted to give the town employees a raise of 50 cents per hour and an annual salary increase to the manager of $2,000.00.
13. Fire contract renewals with Abbot and Parkman were approved at the same rate as last year, $12,000.00 annually for a one year renewal, on a motion from Lander with a second from Burdin.

14. Second notice to the board for warrant article requests was given by manager. Lander would like to see an article to change the composition of the planning board to “all voting members” as opposed to regular and alternate members.

15. Under assessor’s issues, an abatement request was received and the board agreed to visit the property within the next week before making a decision.

16. Under other business, Martell mentioned he had received a complaint about the icy conditions at the medical building parking lot. Manager agreed to review this with the town crew and to visit the issue of plowing slush following warm days with Haley Construction. Another item brought to light was the hazard created by snowmobiles on the sidewalks, such usage rendering them impassable and nearly impossible to clear. It was suggested that enforcement be stepped up to curtail this activity. On a motion from Lander, seconded by Burdin, it was agreed to close an inactive savings account at Key Bank.

17. Burdin moved that the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Dexter, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:29 PM.
TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN’S MEETING

February 3, 2009

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:35 PM. Present were selectmen Michael Dexter, Rick Lander, and Peter Martell, and guests Josh Salm of the Piscataquis Observer, Ben Dever of Mayo Regional Hospital, and Carrie fellows of the Economic Development Board.

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

3. Balance sheets discussed and correspondence read. A letter from School Superintendent Paul Stearns told of the next step regarding school consolidation and budgeting issues. A letter was read from the Charlotte White Center on a memorial brick project and a letter was read from Sieferd Schultz requesting funding for the Historical Society. No action taken and the funding request will be deferred until the usual appropriation schedule in August.

4. A review was given of the SAD#4 school consolidation vote: 30 “for”; 592 “against.” The state now will impose a penalty of roughly $133,000.00 on our school, which they will in turn pass along to other schools that already spend much more than us, but voted the way they were told to.

5. Reminder given that the annual budget committee meeting was scheduled for February 9th at P.C.H.S. at 7:00 pm.

6. Brief report given on the public hearing held earlier in the evening regarding the application for a housing assistance grant through the C DBG Program. There were 32 in attendance. Thompson said a fine job was done in getting the word out.
7. Following a motion from Dexter with a Martell second, it was unanimously voted to renew our septage contract with Patterson Brothers at the same price as last year.

8. A letter from the Greater New England Youth Football League was read at the request of Calvin Ames, requesting support and use of a field for this new organization. No action taken as more information such as funding, supervision, qualifications of instructors and coaches, and liability issues was needed.

9. On a motion from Dexter, seconded by Lander, it was agreed to set the delinquent tax interest rate at 9% and the return rate at 5%; within the guidelines of the State Treasurer.

10. Final notice for warrant articles; none addressed.

11. Manager presented annual budget to the board for their review and input prior to annual committee meeting next week. Consensus reached on all accounts.

12. Under assessor’s issues, abatement requests were read and assessors agreed to review two of three and discuss at next meeting. The third was approved pending verification of acreage.

13. Under other business, Edes Building demolition bids and award were reviewed with Gordon Davis of Parkman being named the successful bidder.

14. Lander moved that the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Martell the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:59 PM.
TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN’S MEETING

March 3, 2009

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 Josh Salm of the Piscataquis Observer, and Carrie Fellows and Patti Davis of the Economic Development Board.

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

3. Balance sheets distributed and accepted.

4. Manager read resolution declaring Guilford the Lilac Capital of Maine and the Chickadee Capital of Maine, prepared by the Economic Development Board. Dexter moved to so resolve, was seconded by Martell, and the vote was unanimous. Guilford now officially holds said distinctions.

5. On a Burdin motion with a Dexter second, the Piscataquis County Warrant was accepted. Unanimous. The return was signed and committed to the tax collector for payment of $158,860.00.

6. The lease on the medical building is up for renewal March 31st. Lander moved to renew it at same terms as expiring, specifying that it be pointed out that yard maintenance duties fall to lessee.

7. Following a motion from Burdin with a Martell second, it was unanimously voted to sell a tax acquired property back to the former owner and taxpayer of record via municipal quitclaim deed providing all agreements are adhered to. If terms are not met, property will be put up for bid.
8. A renewal request was received for the liquor license at Piscataquis Country Club. Lander moved to approve, had his motion seconded by Dexter, and the subsequent vote was unanimous to approve.

9. A pole permit application was received and reviewed for installing 10 poles on the Sebec Shores Road. Martell so moved, Dexter seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

10. Manager detailed the fax and copy fee policy changes to take place effective March 1st. Insurance identification cards faxed in will be one dollar; requests for faxes out for tax information shall be charged at two dollars plus the usual copy charge. Entities utilizing this service frequently may be billed periodically at manager’s discretion. Other charges remain the same.

11. Warrant for March 16th annual meeting presented for review. No action required.

12. Resignation of Keith Kendall from S.A.D. #4 Board read and accepted with a thank you for services rendered. Motion by Burdin; seconded by Dexter; unanimous.

13. Manager noted a vacancy had opened up on the Board of Appeals. To wit: Mrs. Barbara M. Troy who had served many years in that position has passed away. She also served on the school board, town budget committee, and as a ballot clerk and election official in the past, giving many years of service to Guilford. We will certainly miss Barbara, the superintendent of South Main Street. The selectmen will fill the position following the town meeting.

14. Under assessor’s issues, assessment routes and manuals were distributed.

15. Under other business, the manager was directed to determine the current status and boundaries of the Burgess Road.

16. Burdin moved that the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Lander the meeting was
adjourned unanimously at 8:26 PM.
TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

March 16, 2009

1. Meeting called to order by Kent Burdin at 8:42 PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, Rick Lander, and William Thompson. Also Town Clerk, Michelle Nichols attended.

2. Kent Burdin Called the first order of business to be election of board chair. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Dexter, to appoint Bill Thompson chairman of the Board of selectmen. Unanimous.

3. Motion made by Dexter, seconded by Burdin, to appoint Matt Holland and Richard Panciera to the Planning Board. Unanimous.

4. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Burdin, to appoint Richard Thomas to the Board of appeals. Unanimous.

5. Motion made by Dexter, seconded by Burdin, to appoint Carrie Fellows and Patti Davis to the Economic Development Board for the term of three years. Unanimous.

6. Motion made by Burdin, seconded by Martell, 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.

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

8. Motion made by Dexter, 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.

9. Motion made by Lander, seconded by Martell, to appoint the following:

A. Charles Martell ................................................................. Forest Fire Warden
B. H. Kent Burdin ......................................................... Surveyor; wood, bark and logs
C. Timothy Briggs ......................................................... Sealer of weights and measures
D. Alan Landry ........................................................................ Sexton
E. Frank Ruksznis ............................................................. Plumbing Inspector
F. David Cotta........................................................................ Constant
G. David Smiley ....................................................................... Constant
H. Allen Emerson .................................................................. Constant
I. Joseph Guyotte................................................................. Animal Control Officer

The vote was unanimous.


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

12. Motion by Burdin, seconded by Lander to adjourn. Adjourned at 8:47 PM.
TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN’S MEETING

April 7, 2009

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 Josh Salm of the Piscataquis Observer, and Carrie Fellows of the Economic Development Board.

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

3. Balance sheets distributed and accepted; correspondence read.

4. Manager detailed Code Enforcement Officer’s findings on potential dangerous or nuisance building. The process to mitigate this situation will require a hearing to be held once notice is given to the parties of interest, and after such hearing, the board may declare as they see fit and outline a cure. It was moved by Lander and seconded by Burdin to proceed with notice and schedule the hearing at the next selectmen’s meeting.

5. The lease of the Medical Building to Mayo Regional Administrative Services for another term was discussed and signed by the board to be taken to Mayo for signatures.

6. Manager advised that the Richard Ruksznis heirs property, formerly tax acquired, had been redeemed by the prior owner as agreed and they signed a quit claim deed to same. Manager also stated that the rightful owner of the mystery lot on Gray Valley Road had been determined and once the actual acreage had been clarified, a deed would be presented on the parcel to correctly identify ownership.

7. It was discussed that a consistent policy be developed and followed regarding delinquent personal property taxes. Manager stated that small claims court was one established remedy
and that he would bring suggestions and methods favored by the Maine Municipal Association to the next meeting.

8. On a motion from Burdin, seconded by Dexter, it was agreed to move the May Selectmen’s meeting to the 12th to accommodate a planned public hearing.

9. Manager reported that the State valuation for Guilford for 2010 was adjusted to $133,150,000.00, a decrease of 3.9 percent.

10. Burdin moved that the Declared Ratio be set at 100 percent. This figure and its comparison to the sales ratio study determines the amount of reimbursement the town receives on homestead exemptions.

11. The General Assistance Ordinance was amended to accept the new dollar values on food allowances following a Burdin motion, seconded by Dexter, and unanimously voted.

12. A junkyard permit was renewed for R & K Towing on the Wharff Road. Motion by Lander; seconded by Dexter; unanimous.

13. The CLC group from school had requested that the town partner with them in a grant application for after school programs. Burdin so moved, Dexter seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

14. The Guilford Sangerville Water District nominated Kevin Speed to be appointed as a director for another term. Lander moved to appoint him, Burdin seconded, and he was unanimously approved for appointment.

15. On a motion from Burdin with a second from Dexter, William Rizzitello was appointed to the Board of Appeals.
16. Under assessor’s issues, the following abatement requests were heard and voted upon: Janice Drinkwater was granted a partial abatement, Matthew Storer was granted a partial abatement, and Avis Whitten was granted the exemption for the blind as per statute.

17. Under other business, the manager reported that Burgess Road had been discontinued beyond the present Burgess homestead. Lander asked that the manager revisit the status of the fire department as it relates to being a department of the town and its oversight.

18. Burdin moved that 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, and guests Code Enforcement Officer Keith Doore, Brian Reynolds, Jeff Libby, Wayne Hoar, Tony Davis, and Josh Salm of the Piscataquis Observer.

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

3. Balance sheets distributed and accepted; correspondence read, and condolences expressed to the family of Dan Burdin for their recent loss.

4. A hearing was then opened on to discuss the possible declaration of a dangerous building on Oak Street, its owner having been duly served, and after a lengthy discussion and debate, it was moved by Lander, seconded by Dexter, to dispose of the matter in the following manner; no construction to continue, property corner posts to be determined, clean-up to continue and building permit to be completed, filed, and approved before the next selectmen’s meeting on June 2nd. If these conditions not met, decision may very likely be to declare unpermitted construction as dangerous as defined by statute.

5. Manager advised that bid notices had gone out regarding two tax acquired properties, with responses required by June 2nd.

6. Manager reported that the CDBG Housing Assistance grant application was not selected for funding during the current round.

7. Manager outlined the plans for the Pink Tulip Project celebration on May 13th beginning at
the Medical Building site at 6:30, continuing at 7:00 at the Library, and finishing up with a candlelight service at Cummings Park, all planting sites.

8. Proposed school budget figures were read and it was noted that the assessment to Guilford may be decreased for the ’09-’10 school year.

9. A municipal warrant was signed to request the Animal Control Officer to take action against the list of unlicensed dog owners in town, following a motion from Burdin, seconded by Dexter, with a unanimous vote.

10. Captain Jeff Libby of the Guilford Fire Department spoke on the progress to date in obtaining a replacement pumper fire truck. A selection has been recommended by the firemen for a May, 2010 delivery.

11. Manager discussed the repair to the water lines at Elmwood Cemetery and the scheduling of new plots on the west end. Jeff Libby proposed to repair several of the broken stones and was given authority to do so.

12. A request from the Abaris Club for a donation toward the purchase and construction of signage for the four cemeteries was tabled until the August meeting, following a unanimous vote on a Lander motion and Burdin second.

13. The Abaris Club also requested a donation for one month’s rental fee of a port-o-potty at the athletic fields. Burdin so moved, Dexter seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

14. Manager briefly spoke of his attendance at the annual National League of Cities Risk Management Seminar held in Louisville, Kentucky this past week.

15. Under assessor’s issues, two abatement requests were denied, two veteran exemptions were granted, and the board was updated on the continued efforts of William Ebbeling to obtain an abatement through Maine Superior Court. An assessor’s meeting was set for May 19th at 7:00 pm.
16. Under other business, the manager reported that the summer recreation program would not include swimming at the YMCA as the cost had tripled from last year. On a motion from Burdin with a Dexter second, the board unanimously agreed to sign a resolve supporting LD-285, an act to delay penalties to school districts not complying with the unconstitutional state mandate to consolidate.

17. Lander moved that the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Burdin the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 9:08 PM.
TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

June 2, 2009

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 Harold and Brenda Quiet, and Josh Salm of the Piscataquis Observer.

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

3. Balance sheets distributed and accepted.

4. Thank you note read from Abaris Club for support of their port-a-potty project.

5. Manager advised read latest assessment figures from SAD#4 budget, projecting a decrease of 8.7% from last year bringing Guilford’s share of the 2009-2010 school-year total to $938,056.57.

6. Bids were then opened on two separate tax acquired parcels. The first parcel described as Map 18-Lot 5 and being 2.35 acres, received four bids ranging from $750.00 to $1151.00. Martell moved that all bids be rejected and that the property go back out to bid at a later date with a minimum starting point, explaining that he felt the property had a much higher value than any amount offered. Burdin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. All bidders will be notified by mail of the decision. The second parcel, described as Map 18-Lot 52 and being .18 acres, received three bids ranging from $700.00 to $1625.00. On a motion from Dexter with a Martell second, the high bid of $1625.00 was accepted unanimously.

7. Manager updated the 24 Oak Street situation concerning a decision on a possible dangerous building, stating that the required permit was denied by the planning board and had gone to
appeal. Lander moved that the item be tabled pending said appeal. Burdin seconded the motion and it carried with a unanimous vote.

8. Manager reported that a 2009 E-One International Pumper had been ordered for the Fire Department to replace a 33 year old truck at a cost of $226,700.00, and was due to arrive in March of 2010.

9. The July meeting of the selectmen would be held on the first Tuesday, July 7th, and not be skipped this year as had been the custom in the past.

10. A reminder was given that the School Budget Validation Referendum, a totally unnecessary pursuit dictated by Augusta at no small cost to the local, already strapped taxpayers, would be held at the polls on June 9th to vote a second time on what was already passed at the school district budget meeting.

11. Manager noted that excise tax collections were about $15,000.00 behind schedule for the first third of the fiscal year, a decrease of 19 percent.

12. Under assessor’s issues, one abatement request was denied and tree growth renewal applications were signed.

13. No other business was brought forth.

14. Dexter moved that the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Burdin the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 7:40 PM.
TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN’S MEETING

July 7, 2009

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 CEO Keith Doore and Josh Salm of the Piscataquis Observer.

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

3. Balance sheets not distributed as incomplete this month due to processing delays.

4. Read e-mail from library requesting to use fundraiser proceeds for a library bag sales project and the purchase of insulated window treatments. Lander moved to allow both projects, and Burdin seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

5. Code enforcement officer Keith Doore reported on the Board of Appeals hearing regarding the property at 24 Oak Street and stated that the appeal for a variance had been denied by the board. Brian Reynolds, the appellant, did not attend as he said he was unavailable. Keith discussed the options that were open to Mr. Reynolds as well as those before the board. In view of the fact that work could not progress without a building permit and the current structure was half completed and open, it was moved by Burdin to declare the building dangerous as per state statute. The motion was seconded by Martell and carried unanimously.

6. Manager announced for the record that the 2009 mil rate was set at .0218 or $12.18 per $1000.00 of property value, a decrease of .62 from last year. This good news was blunted by the discovery that a large amount of business personal property had not received the appropriate depreciation, a condition that would take a large bite out of the overlay.
7. In response to a request from Guilford Grizzlies to use the Water Street baseball diamond for a softball tournament, it was decided that the field was built according to baseball dimensions rather than softball guidelines and they did not want any damage done by rearranging the base paths. Motion made by Burdin, seconded by Dexter, carried with unanimous vote.

8. Manager read notice from State Department of Education informing the town that although the local residents had voted against forming an RSU, the state had shoved one down our throats and we are officially known as RSU 89, d/b/a SAD#4.

9. The tax acquired property at Blaine Avenue which was not sold at prior bid is to go out to bid once again with a minimum bid requirement. Burdin moved and Dexter seconded the motion that the minimum bid be $5000.00 and advised manager to re-advertise and start the process again.

10. Manager gave an overview of the successful grant application by several partners from town in which they were awarded a grant of up to $7500.00 to build an establish an historical website depicting the resources and heritage of the town. The Maine Community Heritage Project had selected Guilford’s application as one of eight towns invited into the year long process to preserve and promote the history of Guilford. Partners are the Guilford Historical Society, the Guilford Memorial Library, the Economic Development Board, SAD#4, (or RSU 80), and the Town Office. The progress can be followed at www.mainememory.net/mchp.

11. Manager informed the board that he would be attending the Maine Town and City Managers Institute this August for training.

12. Under assessor’s issues, one abatement request was granted and another was scheduled for a visit. A tree growth penalty was assessed, a homestead exemption was granted while another was denied, and a veteran’s widow’s exemption was granted.

13. Under other business Martell reported that the fire department was purchasing a new ventilation saw with donated funds from the Don Moore account.

14. Lander moved that the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Burdin the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:25 PM.
TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

August 4, 2009

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 Nathalie Marsh, Carrie Fellows, Katie and Bill Palmer, and Diane White.

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


4. Read letter from Superintendent of Schools detailing plan to close Guilford Primary School and the time line for the various steps in the process. If the district votes to return it to Guilford, the town must then vote to accept it, so no changes will occur prior to March of 2010.

5. Manager read articles from the Portland Press Herald and the Bangor Daily News which reported that Board Chair William Thompson was one of the three finalists for Maine Teacher of the Year.

6. Receiving no bids for the tax acquired property, manager was directed to re-advertise with different publications and to begin the process again.

7. Nathalie Marsh, representing the Abaris Club, presented a club project via photos and poster of their plans for cemetery signage. They propose to raise funds and to place granite signs at each of four town owned cemeteries. Two have been ordered and will be placed at Elmwood and Lawn cemeteries this fall.

8. Carrie Fellows and the manager related details of the two day seminar they attended along
with members of Guilford Historical Society and P.C.M.S. in Portland with MCHP, the recent grant driven program that will allow Guilford to develop an historical web presence highlighting five exhibits on-line and providing internet access to hundreds of Guilford's historical photos and documents. The progress can be followed at [www.mainememory.net/mchp](http://www.mainememory.net/mchp).

9. From the River festival report given by Fellows, the board was informed that the attendance was up by quite a bit and more vendors and more activities were involved this year, but sponsorship dollars were down some. Nevertheless, the festival made a profit and plans are already under way for next year. A pledge of $1000.00 has been secured from Maine Highlands Federal Credit Union to provide funding for additional live music. Manager reported that the River Festival account was increased by $1200.00 and the W.G. Blake sponsored duck race netted an additional $1100.00 for the skate park project.

10. In a continuation of the River Festival report, manager told of the presentation made as part of the Miss Lilac Pageant, a legislative sentiment expressed by the 124th Maine Legislature regarding Guilford being the Lilac and Chickadee Capital of Maine. The presentation was made by Representatives Pete Johnson and Paul T. Davis, Sr. and the document now is displayed at the town office.

11. A liquor license application was reviewed as per the published notice for a public hearing for Katie’s Bar and Grill on Elm Street. Lander moved and Dexter seconded a motion to approve and the vote was unanimous. Their scheduled opening date is at the end of August.

12. The MMA ballot was presented and Lander moved that no vote be proffered, deferring to the nominating committee’s choices. Burdin seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

13. Manager reported that the Bureau of Labor made an inspection of all premises and detailed several areas where changes were required from providing an exit sign over the town office door to establishing better training records in the Fire Department. Fines were levied but manager has requested they be waived as all hazards will be mitigated by the due date of September 30th. The Department will review the request after that date. All inspection results are posted, as required, in the respective buildings.
14. Chairman Thompson requested that motions be made for appropriations to the various non-profit organizations that have requested funding, as per the August meeting tradition. Dexter moved and Burdin seconded a motion that Penquis not be granted funding this year as they had received stimulus dollars. Dexter moved and Martell seconded that Pine Tree Hospice be granted $600.00. Martell moved and Burdin seconded that Womencare be granted $1000.00. Dexter moved and Martell seconded that Eastern Area Agency on Aging be granted $1500.00. Martell moved and Dexter seconded that the Community Health and Counseling be granted $1000.00. Dexter moved and Martell seconded that Red Cross be granted $1514.00. Lander moved and Burdin seconded that Guilford Historical Society be granted $1500.00. Dexter moved and Lander seconded that the Abaris Club be pledged $1275.00 toward their cemetery signage project as per item #7 above. All votes were unanimous and a total of $8389.00 was granted or pledged.

15. Under assessor’s issues, four abatement requests were granted and one supplement was issued. Two homestead exemptions were granted.

16. Under other business Martell requested that the town provide a financial assist to Pirate Rec of $1500.00 to go toward their $4500.00 expenses for the season, with Pirate Rec raising a third and the Town of Sangerville agreeing to contribute a third of the bill. Burdin moved to pay this sum from the recreation budget, Dexter seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

17. Lander moved that the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Burdin the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:25 PM.
TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN'S MEETING

September 8, 2009

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:01PM. Present were selectmen Kent Burdin, Michael Dexter, Rick Lander, and Peter Martell, and guest, Jeff Libby.

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

3. Thank You notes read from Eastern Area on Aging and Pine Tree Hospice for donations made to their groups by the town.

4. Voting credentials for the Maine Municipal Association’s annual meeting were presented. Burdin moved that Tom Goulette serve as Guilford’s delegate. Motion was seconded by Martell and unanimously approved.

5. A letter from MMA’s Risk Management Division was read, explaining a $2727.00 dividend the town received on its insurance program.

6. Manager read a letter from the Municipal Review Committee warning that as tons of trash delivered to PERC decrease, assessments could be made to charter communities to make up the loss of revenue.

7. Read letter from Superintendent of Schools updating the plan to close Guilford Primary School. The Board has so voted and it will now go to the voters of the entire district in November. Again, if the district votes to return it to Guilford, the town must then vote to accept
it, so no changes will occur prior to March of 2010.

8. Bids for the tax acquired property were opened and read. Three bids were received, one in the incorrect form. The apparent high bid was $6033.00 from Lisa Martell. It was moved by Lander and seconded by Dexter to accept said bid; the vote was 4 in favor with one abstention.

9. Jeff Libby presented several photos of the stone repair and resetting of 43 grave stones in Elmwood Cemetery. The effort was very impressive to date and a very pleased board expressed their gratitude.

10. The 2008-2009 annual audit was presented and some questions raised regarding timing and content. Manager to look into resolving the delivery date issue next year.

11. The Villages of Piscataquis County group that has put together an audio driving tour of the area directing the listener to sites of interest, wishes to place signs at King Cummings Park to denote the history of the textile and wood products industries in town. Burdin moved and Martell seconded the motion to allow the sign or signs to be placed.

12. Manager reported on discussions with the Piscataquis County manager regarding Guilford police coverage and some of their suggestions. It was recommended that the town not contract with the County in this and to keep things the way they are now with whatever adjustments may be necessary to clarify insurance issues.

13. Guilford Historical Society is planning a Harvest Fair for Saturday, October 3rd which will include a cooking contest, lunch at the Methodist Church, GHS building tours, children’s games, pumpkin decorating, temporary tattoos, free space for flea market tables, and a walking twilight cemetery tour. It was agreed to permit them to use the Braeburn and Edes lots for the festivities.

14. In response to a request from a local business to permit entertainment at their establishment, manager dredged up a 1979 ordinance requiring a hearing. A public hearing may be held as soon as a permit is received. Live entertainment requires a municipal permit, dancing would require state approval.
15. Manager reported that the Medical Building had been broken into, but that the alleged perpetrator had been apprehended. It was also noted that several street and road signs had been stolen.

16. Under assessor’s issues, one abatement request was postponed until a comparison study could be completed.

17. Burdin moved that the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Lander, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:29 PM.
TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN’S MEETING

October 6, 2009

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 Josh Salm from the Observer and Katie Palmer from Katie’s Bar and Grill.

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


4. Thank You notes read from Pine Tree Chapter of American Red Cross, Community Health and Counseling Services, and the Guilford Historical Society for donations made to their groups by the town.

5. Letter from Linda Dexter read detailing the work done on her home through the 2007 Housing Grant and requesting follow-up on one item that was not to her satisfaction. Manager agreed to determine the process necessary to proceed.

6. Manager reported on County Commissioner’s Meeting this morning regarding Guilford’s police coverage. No changes coming at this time and manager is to prepare an outline of our current procedures.

7. Manager read Summer Recreation Report from Joe Gallant on another successful season along with his ideas for improvements in the future.
8. Manager proposed a renewal of the winter parking ban for town streets to begin November 1st 2009 and continue through May 1st of 2010 whereby no parking is allowed between 10:00 pm and 6:00 am except that if an establishment is open for business between those hours, a patron may be so parked. It was agreed that the ban continue and be advertised accordingly.

9. A Public Hearing was held to discuss Special Amusement Permit for Katie’s Bar and Grill at 7 Elm Street. Katie Palmer was only person speaking in favor and explained that her plans were for occasional signing artists and karaoke events. Lander moved for approval Dexter seconded the motion and the permit was granted unanimously.

10. A Public Hearing to discuss the new proposed General Assistance Appendices governing the limits of eligibility was held and on a motion from Burdin, seconded by Martell, the new pages were adopted unanimously.

11. An application from the snowmobile club for grant money to assist in trail maintenance was unanimously approved following motion from Martell which was seconded by Burdin. This money comes from the State as long as the towns agree to sponsor the application.

12. A reminder was given that a public hearing is scheduled for 6:30 pm on October 21st at the Piscataquis Community Middle School to discuss the upcoming referendum on school closings and repairs.

13. A further reminder was given that the above questions and several other important issues will be voted on November 3rd.

14. Under assessor’s issues, one abatement request was denied and a hearing was scheduled for the appellant.

15. Martell moved that the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Burdin, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 7:37 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 Animal Control Officers, Joe Guyotte and Gary Sudsbury.

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


4. Letter from County Manager read, inviting our attendance on November 17th to the County Commissioner’s meeting at which time they will once again discuss the abatement request from Field Road. A second letter hand delivered as the meeting started provided a draft copy of the proposed county budget and an invitation to the Draft Hearing on November 16th.

5. A letter from Encore Leadership Corps was read explaining that they were seeking nominations of 50 year old and older volunteers for a two-day program in April to help train them in leadership skills and increase their knowledge of smart growth concepts to enhance the volunteer experience. Thompson indicated that it should be shared with other boards and volunteer groups in town; manager agreed to do so.

6. Manager reported that Partnership food Pantry is celebrating its 2nd anniversary. They serve on average 50 families in Guilford each month and have now expanded to Greenville where they reach an additional 30 families. They have just qualified to receive USDA food which will be a huge boost to their effort and they have a fundraising drive with several components including the internet at www.2525hunger.com. With 2-300 volunteer hours each month, they distribute about 8,000 pound of food worth approximately $16,000.00, a tremendous benefit to
the people of our community.

7. Manager distributed copies of narrative describing Guilford’s Police Patrol which had been requested by and sent to commissioner’s office.

8. Current Animal Control Officer, Joe Guyotte, addressed the statutory requirements for animal shelter contracts stating that enforcement would begin in April. He encouraged the board to consider a contract with Bangor Humane Society and offered some numbers to work with in calculating the next budget cycle. Thompson noted that animal control costs could equal police coverage costs soon. The board agreed to take the matter under advisement.

9. Manager gave update on four new tax acquired properties, one of which is in bankruptcy, and stated that their disposition would be discussed at the December meeting pending legal review and any redemption attempts.

10. Under assessor’s issues, several personal property abatements were granted to correct a processing error and nine supplements were approved with one supplement being tabled for further review.

11. Under Other Business, Chairman Thompson requested a change in the December meeting. Lander moved to change it to December 8th and following a Burdin second, the change was approved.

12. Lander moved that the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Burdin, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:25 PM.
TOWN OF GUILFORD SELECTMEN’S MEETING

December 8, 2009

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Thompson at 7:00 PM. Present were selectmen Michael Dexter, and Peter Martell, and guests Shawn Bridgman.

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


4. Letter from Superintendent Stearns read, regarding current and future cuts and slashes to the education budget by the State. Coupled with a district-wide increase in the property valuations, Guilford will face a double hit in the next school budget, and maybe a triple threat when a penalty is added for not consolidating as were ordered by the 38% Solution and his commissioner.

5. A letter from Maine Municipal Review, Inc. was read regarding their proposed resolution to plan ahead for the 2018 contract renewal and possible changes to the per-ton target rate for trash disposal.

6. Manager reported on tax acquired properties stating that an arrangement had been worked out for one of the owners due to medical issues, and a second case was in bankruptcy. Another owner who had forfeited property was in attendance and requested that the board consider reinstating the property to him as he had overcome past financial problems and could now catch up on past balances. On a motion from Martell, seconded by Dexter, it was agreed to delay the decision until the January meeting when a full board would be present.
7. Manager presented a signed agreement between the town and Maine Community Foundation under the terms of which they would manage the trust funds in various investments on behalf of the town. There will be a Linnell Trust and a General Trust added to the existing Guilford Memorial Library Trust, making three separate funds to be administered by MCF.

8. Snowplowing contracts between the town and Haley Construction were presented for signatures. The contracts are identical to last years’ but manager warned an increase would be coming at the next renewal. It was mentioned that a fine job had always been done by this contractor in the past.

9. Due to a grant the town is to receive an AED, (automatic external defibrillator,) at a presentation at Mayo Hospital on December 21st at 11 o’clock.

10. Manager gave a report on the Chamber Partners Christmas programming for the area, stating that is was considered a success by all involved. From the decorating of the bridge by Lisa King of Heart’s Desire, assisted by Michelle and Chelsea Nichols, to the Story Reading at the library, the Christmas Tree Lighting with Santa at the gazebo, and even the slow-burning bonfire, capped off by hot chocolate, cider and cookies at the Historical Society, it was a well-attended day locally.

11. The date was set for the annual budget committee meeting; it will be held February 8th, 2010 at P.C.H.S. at 7:00 pm.

12. Manager gave board First Notice for warrant articles. None presented at this time.

13. Under assessor’s issues, a letter was read from the County Commissioners wherein they reversed their prior position and granted William and Eileen Ebbeling an abatement on their Field Road property.

14. Under Other Business, Martell inquired as to the disposition of the property at 24 Oak Street, formerly declared dangerous. Manager stated the prior owners had just received the title back to their names and were planning to sell it. It was decided to sit tight and see what happened in the next few months before taking further action.

Martell moved that the meeting be adjourned. After a second by Dexter, the meeting was
adjourned unanimously at 8:09 PM.