

**Camden Select Board
Minutes of Meeting
October 26, 2010**

PRESENT: Chairperson Karen Grove, Vice Chairperson Deborah Dodge, John French, Jr., Morgan Laidlaw, Martin Cates, and Town Manager Roberta Smith. Also present were members of the press and public.

ABSENT: Town Attorney William Kelly

Contents

1. Public Input on non-agenda items.

- a. Janis Gilley - 29 Ragged Ridge Road - presented a brief report on the progress of the Friends of Ragged Mountain. They have over 300 signatures of people who are interested in education about possible wind power on Ragged Mountain. They sponsored a program at the Camden Public Library which featured Jonathan Carter. Their interest in the future is to hope that the windpower workgroup is a balanced group and they are concerned about anyone being on that group if they are involved in any way with a business or investment where they would make great profits from the windgroup.
- b. Board member Dodge reported the Camden Public Library has achieved a 5-star rating from the library journal. For the past two years they have been a 4-star library. There are only 258 libraries rated nationally. There are only 4 libraries that are rated in Maine and Camden is the only 5-star library. It is based on individual visits, circulation, attendance at programs, and internet use. We should be very proud of our library for achieving such a high rating.
- c. Manager Smith stated last week was the annual Pop!Tech Conference and it appeared to be another successful conference. This conference brings hundreds and hundreds of people to the community and to this building. We welcome the opportunity to host such a conference and Pop!Tech is a good investment in our region.

2. Approval of Board Minutes from September 7, September 21, and October 5, 2010.

Martin Cates made a motion to approve the Select Board Minutes of September 7, September 21, and October 5, 2010. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

3. Review of the Efficiency Maine State Energy Program Grant Agreement for improvements to Seabright Hydroelectric Facility.

Wastewater Superintendent Ross Parker reported on the Seabright Hydro Facility. He stated they did get all of the equipment reassembled and it does run and it does make power. All the ingredients are there but the bad news is that it has developed a noise that was not there before that apparently is objectionable to the neighbors. The motor has been tested and the noise is part of the operation. Since that time they have insulated the roof of the building and that has reduced the noise significantly but he still received a complaint of the noise over the weekend. His plan now is operate during the day time and shut it off at night. The next effort will be to try to build some type of enclosure around the motor to try to contain the noise at the source.

Manager Smith announced the Town has been successful in our re-application for grant funds to assist with the repairs/upgrade of the Seabright Hydro facility. In September 2009 our application for a Community Demonstration Project grant and our November 2009 application for a \$224,000 Large Energy Efficiency and Conservation Project grant were not funded, in spite of our best efforts to follow-up with the application rating process. The Town revisited its approach to making the facility operational and the Board approved roughly \$25,000 for repairs to one turbine. When the opportunity recently presented itself for another round of Community Demonstration Project grant funding, the Town, with the assistance of Energy Committee members, applied for the maximum grant amount of \$50,000, using the previously approved \$25,000 as the local project match. This application has been successful. Our application ranked 4th in the top ten applications which have been awarded funding.

Since the Energy Committee first studied the benefits of Seabright Hydroelectric Facility ownership in 2006-2007 and subsequently issued a report recommendation to the voters to acquire the facility, the Board, Town staff, and Energy Committee members have devoted a fair amount of time identifying needed repairs and improvements to the facility. This effort was due partly to the aging needs of the mechanical equipment and due partly to the continuing support town-owned hydroelectric power has received from the Energy Committee and the Board, along with the cost-benefit analysis of continued hydroelectric production. We are currently working on converting our outline of the work needed on the facility and the cost estimates to be included in the enclosed draft Efficiency Maine Trust State Energy Program Grant Agreement.

Ross Parker stated this \$50,000 grant will be used for a reconstruction/repair mode not a replacement mode. Hundreds of thousands would be needed for a replacement facility. He does not believe there should any reason why we can't get turbine 2 running with this \$50,000 grant and make a few other improvements.

Energy Committee member Rick Knowlton stated this is a community demonstration project grant and the theory behind that is that it's a renewable energy source that the public can see and understand. CMP received stimulus funds for their smart metering program and they offer a connection to the web that would allow online viewing of power duration at Seabright. It is possible to make this happen with a portion of these funds (\$800) and the provision of a phone line for anybody to log on to see what electricity the plant has generated yesterday, last week, last month, etc. and do some comparisons against prior years. When Joe Sawyer operated this plant it generated between 250,000-350,000 KW hours a year. At this point the town has roughly \$50,000 invested from the acquisition and repairs to turbine 1 and received this \$50,000 grant with those matched funds. The 100 KW capacity of Seabright hydro is the exactly the same capacity that the wind planners at the high school are trying to fund for and install for \$500,000. In his opinion what the town has invested so far has been a good investment for the town. You could argue that we could spend hundreds of thousands of dollars more and it still would be good deal relative to what other projects that are happening in the state right now.

John French made a motion to accept the Efficiency Maine Demonstration Project Grant in the amount of \$50,000, under the provisions of grant criteria as outlined in the draft Agreement,

for improvements to Seabright Hydro. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

- 4. Consideration of request for supplemental tree maintenance funds.** Town Tree Warden Bart Wood came before the Board relative to the need for additional tree maintenance funding. During the past 15 years the town was fortunate enough to fund the cost of maintaining the town's street trees with some private donated funds. Unfortunately these funds have been depleted. Over the past few years he has limited the work to eliminating safety issues and hazardous conditions. As of today he has received 51 requests from the public since June 30th and approximately 22 would be classified as a potential safety issue. He estimates that \$6000 could be sufficient to last well into Spring.

The Board discussed increasing the request to cover unexpected storms or unexpected trees that need to come down due to the health of the tree and the risk of injury to someone.

After further discussion,

Morgan Laidlaw made a motion to designate up to \$8,000.00 from Contingency towards town tree maintenance. Deborah Dodge seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

- 5. Consideration of submittal of an application for a Recreational Trails Program Grant.** John Anders from the Midcoast Maine Chapter of New England Bike Association (McNEMBA) told the Board that he has been working on a grant to create a lift to access the downhill trail at the Snow Bowl. The trail would begin in the vicinity of the terminus of the big T-Bar and will run in the general area of the Spinnaker ski trail and will be designed for beginner riders. The grant will include hiring a professional bike park design team and will include a mechanized trail building for their club (McNEMBA).

Manager Smith stated the Board needs to see the application in order to answer the question about someone else being the applicant to build something on town property. Presumably the grant application will need at the very least a letter from the town acknowledging that the town has given them permission to develop this trail.

The consensus of the Board was that they support this concept but there are questions that need to be answered regarding the paperwork. Mr. Anders will review the grant requirements and contact the Town Manager whether or not they can pursue this year or not. The deadline for the application is November 5th and the Board will not meet again before this deadline.

- 6. Consideration of appointments to the proposed Ragged Mountain Wind Workgroup.** Board member Dodge stated that at least two of the applicants said the committee should be balanced yet from reading the applications she does not sense that there is anybody that has come from the existing energy committee. It appears from the applications that most of the applicants are Friends of Ragged Mountain. We do want a good representation and want balance on the committee. That means a balance of people that also may have an open mind to discuss wind. Not just people that have already expressed serious concern against it because what is the point of having a committee that is all one sided.

Energy Committee member Knowlton said at the Rockport meeting they felt strongly that it was Camden's leadership role to take. They were presented with lots of information from the Friends of Ragged Mountain and quite apprehensive of what they heard. They are in a very cautious mode in general. In fact two of the Select Board members were vocal against the concept of wind development because it did not make any sense to them. The Energy Committee cannot answer questions without having money to do a good job. The towns have no money to provide to the process and one of the first challenges for this multi town community is to raise a substantial amount of money to provide the answers to the questions of environment, access, and feasibility. If there is no interest then it probably would not even make sense to start.

Only four of the eight applicants expressing interest in representing Camden on the work group were present. Chairperson Grove asked the four applicants to come forward and give a brief statement as to why they want to serve on the committee. All four expressed skepticism or opposition to possible wind development.

Cindy Gagnon stated she is not officially a member of Friends of Ragged Mountain. She has 10 years experience with the wind industry and we don't need to spend lot money to get your answers. There are projects online all over New England; there are track records that have been set, all kinds of studies out there that we could get access to. The thing we should be doing is educating people with both sides. The fact that the applicants applying are anti-wind may be an indication about what is going on with this project. She stated we should be asking ourselves whether or not this project is right for Camden and should it be on top of Ragged Mountain.

Jan Gilley stated she is a 9th generation family to this land on Ragged Mountain. Her purpose to be on a committee like this is to look at facts to make sure she has honest and true information and spread that information to others. We have to look at the facts and we have to be fair. We do live in a very special place. Our mountain does not look like anybody else's mountain and we don't use our mountain the way other people use it. She needs to have facts to convince her that this would truly is a grain and economically prudent plan.

Andrea Young stated she lives near the Toboggan Chute at the Snow Bowl. To be honest she thinks it is a total waste of \$50-75,000 for a feasibility study. She does not see any great benefit that would come to the mountain. She stated she will be honest and stated she will not be as open minded as others if appointed to this wind workgroup.

Sue Fleming applied because she is concerned about the environmental degradation of these turbines and also has some health issues. She got upset when she heard the town manager did not want any show stoppers on this group. She will listen but she does not think anything will change her mind about this project. In Hope she heard they had put this on hold because Jonathan Duke was told that Camden did not know what they were going to do with this group because everybody was anti-wind that had applied.

Manager Smith stated the comment regarding she did not want any show stoppers is certainly not something she would say.

Tim Woodworth – Rockport resident – wanted to mention that Dorie Klein and Dana Strout are on vacation in Mexico and are very committed to this process and hopes you will consider them as applicants to this workgroup.

Vice Chairperson Dodge read Dorie Klein's letter into the record (attached).

Chairperson Grove stated she thinks we have our four people. They cared enough to show up; they have been honest about their attitude towards how they would approach this.

Board member Dodge stated she is comfortable appointing two but she is not comfortable appointing all four tonight unless we are sure there is not anybody else who has a different point of view and is interested in serving on the committee. Without a balance it is not a fair process.

Board member Cates stated that during the town meeting process we endorse residents the opportunity to talk things through. Whether it be for or against he believes in keeping that and not trying to cut that debate off prematurely. However he does agree with Deb Dodge that he sees two members that he would be willing to appoint.

Morgan Laidlaw stated he sits in the meetings on the Harbor Committee and everyone is excited and enthusiastic about the Harbor. Is it fair to say that we need some people on the Harbor Committee that are against the Harbor to try to balance it out.

Board member French stated the discussion needs to be fair.

Margie Gross - She disagrees with the point that the Board keeps saying we have four applicants when you have eight applicants. Just because they aren't here does not mean they are not that interested they may have other commitments. If the Board is not satisfied with the eight applicants they have then she recommends that the Board extend the deadline to get more people to apply.

John French made a motion to pull the project, keep what we have for research in a file and put energies into another project and send a letter of thanks to Hope, Rockport, the Energy Committee and the applicants who applied for the workgroup for their time. Deborah Dodge seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

- 7. Report from Kathy Giurtino regarding the Governor's Challenge and the efforts of the Energy Committee.** Ms. Giurtino stated she was given minutes from the Energy Committee from when it began and her concern was that the Energy Committee was putting all their energy into wind and very little into the other things. Since she wrote the letter a lot of her questions have been answered and resolved.

One thing she inquired was whether or not a chart could be done and placed in the front window of the town office describing how the town is conserving energy and the different steps that are being taken so that everyone could see it. In all honesty the fossil fuel goes to heating and oil and transportation. Electricity is a very small percentage that comes from fossil fuels. It would be more constructive to see how the town could participate in some kind of group activity to see how we could lower fuel use at home. Now that less energy is going to be spent on wind turbines maybe more effort could be put into really concrete efforts to reduce fossil fuels.

Manager Smith replied that she has a report on the energy conservation initiatives things that have been accomplished since September 2008. It is not as if the Energy Committee is just beginning this. It was one of the first things they attacked along with the acquisition of Seabright Hydro. The town tracks all of our gasoline, diesel and heating fuel on an annual basis. We have had an anti-idling policy for town vehicles for more than five years. Some of the capital improvements we have done are for more efficient furnaces, etc.

- 8. Consideration of appointments to town committees:** The Board discussed the Committee interest forms received for vacancies on the Opera House Committee and the Cemetery Association.
- a. *Deborah Dodge made a motion to appoint Kate Bates and Robert Williams to the Opera House Committee as alternate members until June 30, 2010. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.*
 - b. *Deborah Dodge made a motion to appoint Kristine Lerner to the Cemetery Association as a regular member until June 30, 2011. Martin Cates seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.*
- 9. Consideration of the following renewal victualer and lodging license applications:** These applications have been reviewed and approved by the Codes Officer and the Fire Department have completed Life Safety inspections.
- a. *John French made a motion to approve the application of Camden Windward House at 6 High Street for a victualer and lodging license. Deborah Dodge seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.*
 - b. *John French made a motion to approve the application of High Tide Inn at 505 Belfast Road for lodging license. Deborah Dodge seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.*
- 10. Consideration of the following license agreements:**
- a. **Report on proposed agreement with Christina's Way.** Manager Smith reported that she has received the signed agreement back from Ms. Sidoti along with her \$1500 fee.
 - b. **Harbor Dogs Renewal agreement.** The Board reviewed the draft license agreement for a three year term.

John French made a motion to renew the Public Landing lease with Harbor Dogs for a term of three years at an annual cost beginning at \$1476. Martin Cates seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 4-0-1 vote. (Laidlaw abstaining)

Chairperson Grove read the rules and regulations for conducting public hearings in preparation of the public hearings to be held this evening.

11. **A Public Hearing was held regarding the adoption of Appendixes A, B, C of the General Assistance Ordinance for 2010-2011.** Manager Smith explained that some of the appendixes require annual re-approval because they contain updates based on annually revised State guidelines for food and housing. The town's general assistance program is covered with trust funds.

Chairperson Grove asked to hear from any proponents. There were none.

Chairperson Grove asked to hear from any opponents. There were none.

Chairperson Grove closed the public portion of the hearing, no Board discussion followed.

John French made a motion to adopt the 2010-2011 Appendixes A, B, and C of the General Assistance Ordinance.

12. Committee Reports

- a. **Harbor Committee:** Morgan Laidlaw reported they discussed raising the finger float rates due to lack of true usage and abuse by holders. They also discussed having a special meeting to see what is needed to improve the infrastructure at the Public Landing.
- b. **Library:** Deb Dodge reported the only meeting she had was the Library Board of Trustees and she already reported earlier in the meeting regarding the 5 star rating they received.
- c. **Parks & Recreation Committee:** Martin Cates reported at their last meeting there was a significant discussion around the use of the ball field at the Snow Bowl. They discussed if they should seek financial input from the different towns that are sending many kids to use the field.

13. Managers Report. Manager Smith reported on the following items.

- a. **Sewer Main work done on Elm Street:** An old clay pipe had not collapsed so it was still working. There are some other problems with the lateral. Also last week a leak was discovered in the sewer main that goes down from Harden Avenue across Rockbook Drive. It was not in the right of way and there was a little piece of sewer pipe that was exposed. Ross has arranged for a dye test for the force main that comes under the Harbor from Sea Street over to the Public Landing. We have hired a diver to do that and they will do an inspection of the outfall diffuser as well.
- b. **Molyneaux Bridge:** One bridge is prepped, formed and ready for concrete. The second bridge is being demoed and prepared for new rebar, then will build forms and be ready for concrete the first of next week.
- c. **Steamboat Landing:** There has been a hold up because of the depth of a water main. This contract may have to be extended a couple of days. They have been working that out with the water company, engineers, and the contractors.
- d. **Review of Assessor's Agent work schedule.** The Board reviewed the suggested reduced work schedule for the Assessor's Agent. Manager Smith stated the reduced schedule would probably save the town about \$40,000 mainly because it is part time and there would be no health insurance or retirement benefits paid. This will

also give us the opportunity to see if we can get by with reduced hours for our assessing needs.

- e. **Report on extended office hour activity for the Finance Office.** The Board reviewed the customer count log that has been conducted over the past two years for the two nights per month that the Finance Office stays open until 6pm. It was the consensus of the Select Board to reduce the late night office hours for the Finance Office. It was recommended to stay open the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays until 4:30 pm.
- f. **Overview of proposed FY 11 Knox County Budget.** Sid Lindsley Camden's representative for Knox County Budget provided copies of the explanation of the Knox County 2011 Budget prepared by County Administrator Andrew Hart.

John French made a motion to adjourn as Select Board and convene as Board of Assessors. Deborah Dodge seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

AS ASSESSORS

1. **Consideration of abatements to correct billing errors.** Assessor's Agent Wesley Robinson provided a memo to the Board with supporting materials indicating that both proposed abatements will be offset by a supplemental billing. This will correct an error in billing assessment to new owners.

Deborah Dodge made a motion to approve the abatements as listed for Tristo Emery and Mark Miller. Martin Cates seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

2. **Approval of FY11 Tax Commitment supplemental.** This supplemental will offset the tax abatement above.

Deborah Dodge made a motion to approve the supplemental commitments for a total of \$2,075.73. Martin Cates seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

Deborah Dodge made a motion to adjourn as Board of Assessors and reconvene as Select Board. John French seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

14. *At 9:45 pm Deborah Dodge made a motion to enter into Executive Session regarding a Personnel 1 MRSA Section 405(6)A. John French seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.*

The Board came out of executive session at 10:20 pm.

A motion was moved and seconded to adjourn at 10:21 pm. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice L. Esancy
Recording Secretary