

Town of Waldoboro, Maine
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Municipal Building - 1600 Atlantic Highway
Tuesday, January 12, 2010 – 6:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order** - This meeting was called to order by Chairman Collamore with a quorum present. Present were Ted Wooster, Robert Butler, Becky Maxwell, and Chairman Clint Collamore.

- **Staff:** Town Manager William S. Post, General Assistance Administrator Darryl McKenney, Public Works Director John R. Daigle, Public Works Equipment Operator Gifford Campbell, Public Works Drivers Robert Reed, Al McKay, Sr., Mark Gifford, Greg Peabody, Blain E. Searle, and Shawn S. Smith; and Transfer Station Operator Richard D. Moran.
- **Public:** Sara Hotchkiss and Annie Elliott.
- **Media:** Andrew Benore representing the *Village Soup*.

2. **Workshop**

2.1 **Meet with Public Works Department** - The Public Works Department is concerned about Butler's comments at the last regular meeting in regards to having those employees who currently do not contribute to the health plan, start contributing. Daigle noted these employees are already going 'above and beyond', and now there is talk about cutting benefits. He added his crew is well below the pay schedule used by the Town. 'Step' raises have not been given regularly.

One of the things the crew does extra is they are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from November to April, sometimes working up to 50 hours straight with no relief or questions asked. Other departments get paid to be on call. During this 6 month period no one takes any sick time so they don't leave the rest of the crew 'out in the cold'. There have been several times where a driver has had to have an operation, from ankle surgery to gall bladder removal, and they still drove the truck in the winter. One employee needed back surgery and waited until the winter season was over so there wouldn't be a shortage of plow trucks. Last summer the workload was double and the crew completed it all with no extra pay.

Wooster asked if there was something the Board could do to help keep the crew healthy, like access to physical therapy. Daigle responded they would never use it while working the hours they do. Gifford stated the fact they always got a 3% COLA even when the actual cost of living was 4-5% or more. Daigle said, "We're just trying to make a living... and there was never a complaint, but now we've got issues".

The crew makes due with less. They repair, rebuild, reuse, and even make their own special tools. Whatever it takes, they do, in an effort to keep the budget to a bare minimum. They work on their own vehicles, as well as assets from four other departments.

Winter maintenance costs the Waldoboro taxpayers \$2,500 per mile including the capital equipment budget. Other local towns are paying \$7,800 per mile. State DOT is \$5,500 per mile. Most towns are averaging \$4,000 not including their capital budget. Daigle says they are running about as efficient as they can. The Town Manager affirmed they did double the work this past summer as well as the extra steps the crew performs as they go about their daily work in an effort to do things right. This is one of the reasons he didn't feel it was appropriate to mandate employee contributions to the health plan if they don't already contribute, for the small amount of savings in comparison to all the extra work that they do. He added that when they accepted their positions, this was a benefit they were going to realize. Wooster mentioned the Town is doing much better having this discussion face to face, rather than if we had a union in place.

Butler noted it is his responsibility to 'push', and appreciates them 'pushing' back. He feels we should all be responsible for part of our health insurance costs, and every little savings counts.

3. **Citizens Comments** (For items not on the agenda) - None.
4. **Approve Consent Calendar** - On the motion of Maxwell / Butler, the Board voted 4-0 to approve the consent calendar as follows:
 - 4.1 **Meeting Minutes:**
 - 4.1.1 Regular Meeting Minutes – November 24, 2009
 - 4.1.2 Regular Meeting Minutes – December 8, 2009
 - 4.2 **Warrants & Financial Reports:**
 - 4.2.1 General Fund Warrants 24, 25, 26, 27 & 28.
 - 4.2.2 Payroll Warrants 24, 25, 26, 27 & 28.
 - 4.2.3 Water Department Operating Warrant #11-09 & #12-09.
 - 4.2.4 Financial Report for November 2009.
 - 4.3 **Correspondence**
 - 4.3.1 MSAD #40 Superintendent re: December 10, 2009 meeting.
5. **Action Items:**
 - 5.1. **Act on Septic Waste Disposal Facility Agreement** - On the motion of Wooster / Maxwell, the Board voted 4-0 to approve the septic waste disposal facility agreement by and between the Town of Waldoboro and Interstate Septic Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$2,300 for the period February 1, 2010 to January 31, 2011.
 - 5.2. **Act on Approval of 2011 Budget Calendar** - On the motion of Maxwell / Wooster, the Board voted 4-0 to approve the 2011 Budget Calendar as presented.

6. Discussion Items:

- 6.1. Discuss ConnectME Grant Application to Expand Broadband Internet Access -** There are Federal stimulus funds designed to expand broadband internet access through a 50% funded grant facilitated by the State of Maine ConnectME Authority (<http://www.maine.gov/connectme/>). An internet service provider would be responsible for the 50% match for the grant. The Town Manager is looking for a general intent from the Board to continue the pursuit of this grant, with a Letter of Intent to follow up at their next regular meeting.

On the motion of Wooster / Butler, the Board voted 4-0 to authorize the Town Manager to continue with the ConnectME Grant Application to Expand Broadband Internet Access.

- 6.2. Discuss Governor's Proposed Budget and Affect on Waldoboro -** In order to bridge a \$400 million gap in the State's budget, the Governor proposed reducing the school subsidy by \$73.2 million, revenue sharing by \$27 million, General Assistance by \$1.88 million, and tree growth reimbursement \$531,000. He is also looking at pushing part of the Homestead Reimbursement to next fiscal year.

These cuts affect this fiscal year, which leaves about 5 ½ months to cut around \$80,000 from the municipal budget. As of now, there is a spending freeze unless the Town Manager approves the expenditure. For example, there is a list of equipment the Board and the Town have approved for the Fire Department, but has not been purchased. The Town Manager noted the Department Heads are normally frugal with their budgets.

- 7. Executive Session -** On the motion of Butler / Wooster, the Board voted 4-0 to convene in Executive Session at 7:07 p.m. pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(F) as Philbrook Fund Trustees for application #10-11.

On the motion of Butler / Maxwell, the Board voted 4-0 to reconvene in regular session at 7:16 p.m.

On the motion of Butler / Wooster, the Board voted 4-0 to deny Philbrook Fund request #10-11.

- 8. Adjourn -** On the motion of Butler / Maxwell, the Board voted 4-0 to adjourn as Selectmen and convene as the Board of Assessors at 7:17 p.m.

Board of Selectmen:
Waldoboro, Maine

Clinton E. Collamore, Sr., Chair

Rebecca B. Maxwell, Co-chair

Theodore M. Wooster

Excused Absence _____
John T. Blamey

Respectfully submitted,

Michael C. Ducharme
Administrative Assistant

Robert L. Butler