



Town of Camden
Select Board Meeting
January 19, 2016
Minutes

Present: Select Board Chair John French and Select Board Members, Don White, Leonard Lookner, Martin Cates, James Heard, and Town Manager, Pat Finnigan.

Select Board Chair John French called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

1. Communications, Presentations, and Recognitions

A. Report of the School Superintendent, Maria Libby. School Superintendent Maria Libby told the Select Board that the School Board was gearing up to establish a building Committee to consider options for the Middle School. She said she and the School Board recognized that they needed to do a much better job communicating with the public. She said they would be embarking on a “listening tour” to hear citizens’ views about the Middle School and the last referendum in February 2015. The Superintendent asked the Select Board to designate one of its members to serve on the Building Committee. Chair French said he would discuss this with the Board and let her know who would be designated. Select Board members thanked Ms. Libby. Members also asked the Building Committee to consider the option of renovating the Middle School, and asked that meetings be held at a time of day when people can attend the meetings.

B. Winterfest and Toboggan Nationals Update. Community Development Director Karen Brace reported on the Winterfest which has grown from a one day event to a week-long festival starting with ice sculpting and other activities at the Library Amphitheater, the snow sculpture competitions at the Village Green, family activities throughout the week, and the grand finale of the U.S. National Toboggan Championships the following weekend at the Snow Bowl.

Holly Edwards, Chair of the Toboggan Championships Committee told the Select Board about new activities during Toboggan race weekend including an inflatable obstacle course on the pond and the Camden Select Board-Rockport Select Board toboggan race challenge to commemorate the 125 years since Rockport broke off from Camden and formed its own town. Holly gave the Select Board their official t-shirts for the event. The Select Board thanked Karen, Holly and the many volunteers for all their hard work which makes Winterfest and the Toboggan races possible.

Karen asked the Select Board to authorize the closure of Atlantic Avenue on January 30 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. for the Winterfest activities and on Friday February 5 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for fireworks.

Don White made a motion to close Atlantic Avenue on January 30 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. for Winterfest activities and on Friday February 5 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for fireworks. Martin Cates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Citizen Comments (for items *not* on the agenda). No members of the public wished to make any comments.

Don White commended the Police Department for its community programs that focus on senior citizens. He noted that the latest program was "Sand for seniors" which is intended to help keep people from falling on snow and ice. Senior citizens can request a bucket of sand and the Police Department will deliver it to them. He also congratulated the Camden Harbor Inn for being name one of the top 20 inns in the world.

Leonard Lookner expressed sadness and extended sympathies to the family of Sandy McGaw who died in a motorcycle accident while vacationing in Florida. Leonard also asked that the Energy Committee look into opportunities to use solar storage batteries. Jim Heard, Liaison the Energy Committee said he would bring that suggestion to the Energy Committee.

3. Approval of Select Board Minutes of January 5, 2016. Don White made a motion to approve the Minutes. Jim Heard seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 to 0.

4. Select Board Member Reports

Don White reported that Dan Cheever had been elected Chair of the Board of Library Trustees. He also reported that the Planning Board is working on a survey regarding Air B&B lodgings, that the Tannery Work Group had met and was meeting more frequently as they begin planning for community meetings, and that as part of celebrating Camden's 225th and Rockport's 125 birthday he and Select Board member Tracy Murphy were organizing a food drive challenge in the spring.

John French reported on the recent Mid-Coast Solid Waste Corporation's Board meeting when the Board heard from solid waste engineers regarding current and future solid waste disposal options. The contract with the Penobscot Energy Recovery Corporation (PERC) expires in 2018, and he said Camden and the other Towns would need to decide how and where they want to dispose of the communities' solid waste.

Martin Cates reported that the 4-town Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Committee held its first meeting of the year with North East Mobile Health Services (NEMHS). He said that NEMHS felt the business was doing well and the call volume was tracking projections. He also reported that NEMHS had purchase a building for their permanent location on Rte. 1 in Rockport, not far from their existing location. He also reported that NEMHS has started working with the hospital and doctors to provide community para-medicine services. The first issue they were concentrating on helping senior citizens prevent falls in their home, since falls are a leading cause of losing their independence and ability to live at home.

5. Town Manager Report. The Town Manager said that previous speakers had covered the topics and she had nothing to add.

6. New Business

A. Award of the bid for the inner harbor float project. Town Manager Finnigan reported that the Town had requested bids to replace the inner harbor floats and the Town had received bids from 3 companies: Custom Float Services of South Portland, Prock Marine Company of Rockland, and Shed City of Warren. They were asked to quote prices for composite decking and pressure treated lumber. The Board decided to go with the composite decking due to the length of time it would last. Both Harbor Master Steve Pixley and Harbor Committee Chair Gene McKeever spoke in support.

Leonard Lookner made a motion to award the bid for the inner harbor floats to Customer Float Services for the composite decking at a price of \$103,749. Jim Heard seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 to 0.

B. Committee Resignation. Timothy Wooster submitted his resignation from the Conservation Commission explaining that since he had been appointed he had become a new father and his work responsibilities had changed, making it difficult for him to attend meetings.

Don White made a motion to accept the resignation of Timothy Wooster with thanks for his service. Jim Heard seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 to 0.

C. Victualers Licenses. The Select Board considered the application for victualers license renewals for the Owl & Turtle Bookshop/Café at 33 Bay View Street and the Maine Stay Inn at 22 High Street.

Jim Heard made a motion to approve the victualers license renewals. Martin Cates seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 to 0.

D. Liquor Licenses. The Select Board considered the applications for liquor license renewals for the Waterfront Restaurant, the Lord Camden Inn, and the Inns at Blackberry Inn. Chair French opened the public hearing. No members of the public wished to comment. Chair French noted that James & Cynthia Ostrowski of the Blackberry Inn were present.

After closing the public hearing, Jim heard made a motion to approve the liquor license renewal applications. The motion was seconded by Don White. The motion passed 5 to 0.

Adjournment. Don White made a motion to adjourn as the Select Board and convene as the Board of Assessors. Martin Cates seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 to 0.

Convene as the Board of Assessors

The Board of Assessors considered an abatement of personal property taxes for account 604 for the year 2015-2016 in the amount of \$12.10. The Town Manager reported that the Assessing staff continues to review records to ensure the assessments are accurate. This abatement was due to a business (a Wells Fargo office formerly located at 27 Washington St) had closed. If approved, this would bring the total amount of abatements granted to \$12,878.67 out of the original overlay amount of \$39,866.

Don White made a motion to approve the abatement for personal property account 604 in the amount of \$12.10. The motion was seconded by Jim Heard. The motion passed 5 to 0.

Don White made a motion to adjourn and go into a Select Board workshop to discuss the Town's local access channels on cable television. The motion was seconded by Jim Heard. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora E. McGrath, Recording Secretary