



Town of Camden Select Board Meeting February 16, 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.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

2. Communications, Presentations, and Recognitions

John French commented that February 17, 2016 marked Camden's 225th year as a Town. State Senator Dave Miramant attended the meeting to present the State Legislature's formal congratulations to the Town's on its 225th anniversary which he and State Representative Joan Welsh presented at the State Legislature.

Chairman French then led the reading of a Proclamation recognizing the Town's *Quasquibicentennial*, and declaring February 17 "Camden Day." The Select Board invited citizens to reflect upon what the Town of Camden means to them and what we can do to continue to progress and create a legacy for future generations.

State Senator Dave Miramant then gave an update regarding issues the State Legislature is considering this session. He said legislation he introduced to improve safety within the State Ferry Services had passed. He said the law would be beneficial to island residents and others who rely on the ferry service to travel between the mainland and islands.

Citizen Comments (for items *not* on the agenda)

No citizens had any comments to present.

Don White noted that this weekend is the annual Camden Conference. The topic was "The New Africa." He said the weather is changing and urged people to be careful. He congratulated the Snow Bowl staff and volunteers on the recent Toboggan Nationals.

John French thanked the Rockport Select Board for participating in the Toboggan National race on Feb. 6, and he congratulated them on their win. He said Camden would present the trophy to the Rockport Select Board on February 25 at Rockport's celebration of its 125th anniversary as a town. He also thanked the volunteers and employees who made this year's U.S. Toboggan National Championships a great success despite the weather which required the race to move from the chute to the mountain.

3. Approval of Select Board Minutes of February 2, 2016

Jim Heard made a motion to accept the minutes. Don White seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

4. Select Board Member Reports

Leonard Lookner reported on the Harbor Committee meeting. He said the Harbor Committee would be revisiting the Harbor Ordinance.

Don White reported that there will be a Planning Board Meeting on Feb. 18 which would include a pre-hearing regarding the apartments on Mechanic Street in the Knox Mill building. He also said that the Tannery Work Group has mostly been working on gathering information, but now the group was moving into developing the content of the community meetings.

5. Town Manager Report

Pat Finnigan spoke about Camden's 225th year as a Town and the importance of hearing from the citizens of Camden to prepare for the future, as well as celebrate the Town's history. She reminded everyone that the Select Board and all citizens were invited to attend Rockport's celebration of its 125th birthday on the February 25. She commended the staff and volunteers who worked on the Toboggan Nationals for all of their hard work, resilience, and the ability to take a difficult situation and make it work. Pat spoke about the upcoming Camden Conference and its focus on Africa, and welcomed all who will be attending. She extended congratulations to Camden's Police Department for being featured in this month's Maine *Townsmen* magazine for their "Good Morning, Camden" program. She also reported that RedZone Wireless was now offering free (up to 2 hours) Wi-Fi in Downtown Camden, and thanked them for selecting Camden to establish this first-of-its-kind service in Camden. Finally, Pat congratulated Camden resident Sandy Cox for receiving the Penobscot Bay Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year" award.

6. New Business

- A. The Select Board held a Public Hearing on the application of Fresh Restaurant for a renewal Class I Restaurant Malt, Spirituous, and Vinous Liquor License. Chairman French reported that the restaurant had submitted completed application, had been inspected, and met the required standards. There were no comments from the public. The public hearing was closed.

Leonard Lookner made a motion to approve the renewal of the Class I Restaurant Malt, Spirituous, and Vinous Liquor License for Fresh Restaurant. Martin Cates seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

- B. The Select Board considered the applications to renew victualers licenses for Fresh Restaurant at 1 Bay View Landing and 40 Paper at 40 Washington Street. Chairman French reported that the restaurants had submitted completed applications, had been inspected, and met the required standards.

Martin Cates made a motion to approve the renewal of victualers licenses for Fresh and 40 Paper, and Don White seconded this. The motion carried 5-0.

Adjournment

Don White made a motion to adjourn as Select Board and to convene as the Board of Assessors. Leonard Lookner seconded this motion and the motion passed 5-0.

Board of Assessors

Chairman French called the Board of Assessors to order.

The Board considered three abatements recommended by Assessors Agent Kerry Leichtman: 17 Cobb Hill Road (Account RE 842) in the amount of \$1, 237.63; 3 High Street (Account RE 1790) in the amount of \$3,370.21; and 11 Blake Street (Account RE 743) in the amount of \$541.65.

The Assessors Agent recommended the three abatements requests because the information about the properties in the Assessing office was inconsistent with the condition of the properties and the Assessors Agent determined each property was over assessed. After discussion, Leonard Lookner made a motion to table the abatements so he could get a more complete understanding of the reasons for the Assessors Agent's recommendation. James Heard seconded the motion. The motion failed 3 to 2.

Don White made a motion to approve abatements for 17 Cobb Hill Road in the amount of \$1, 237.63, 3 High Street in the amount of \$3,370.21, and 11 Blake Street in the amount of \$541.65 for a total amount of \$5,149.49. Martin Cates seconded this motion. The motion passed 3-2.

After the vote, the Town manager asked what additional information the select Board would like in the future. It was decided to hold a workshop with the Assessors Agent.

Adjournment

Don White made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Assessors. Martin Cates seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0. The Chair noted that the Select Board would meet in workshop to discuss the FY17 budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora E. McGrath, Recording Secretary