



Town of Camden  
Minutes of the Select Board Meeting  
**January 20, 2015**  
**6:30pm**

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Martin Cates, John French, Jr., James Heard, Leonard Lookner, Don White, and Town Manager Finnigan. Also present were members of the press and public.

**Convene as Board of Assessment Review**

*John French made a motion to open as Board of Assessment Review. Don White seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.*

1. Consideration of Property Tax Abatements totaling \$2,043.29

Assessors Agent Kerry Leichtman presented recommendations for several abatements and described reasons for the proposed abatements, which were all due to corrected information. The Select Board unanimously approved the abatements individually as follows:

*An abatement for 16 Ames Terrace in the amount of \$144.30 (Motion by John French; second by Don White).*

*An abatement for 32 Mountain St. in the amount of \$163.06 (French/White).*

*An abatement for 454 Washington St. in the amount of \$1340.55 (French/White).*

*An abatement for 26 Wiltshire Place in the amount of \$125.54 (French/White).*

*An abatement for 24 Wiltshire Place in the amount of \$164.50 (French/Lookner).*

*An abatement to Fiber Optic Cable Co in the amount of \$105.34 (French/White).*

2. Consideration of assessing Supplemental Property Taxes totaling \$405.24

*A supplemental assessment for Maine Fiber Company in the amount of \$385.04 (French/Cates).*

*A supplemental assessment for Muzak, LLC in the amount of \$20.20 (French/White).*

*All motions were unanimously approved.*

**Convene as Select Board**

*Don White made a motion to adjourn as Board of Assessment Review and reconvene as Select Board. John French seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.*

A. **Call to Order**

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

B. **Communications, Presentations, and Recognitions**

1. "Good Morning Camden" – Chief Randy Gagne

Police Chief Randy Gagne described the new "Good Morning Camden" program which was suggested by Administrative Assistance Jeff Sukeforth. The program encourages any elderly person, or a concerned loved one, to register with the Police Department. Each day a member of the Police department will call elderly residents each morning to check on their wellbeing. The program has been well received so far, he said.

## 2. **Ragged Mountain Redevelopment Update**

Martin Cates read a statement on behalf of the Town apologizing for the delay in opening the triple chairlift.

Camden Snow Bowl General Manager Landon Fake updated the Board on the Ragged Mountain Redevelopment. He said that all 161 chairs had been installed on the lift, and that there were two last steps to complete before the inspections. The first was to finish construction of the unloading ramp. The second was completing the wiring for the lift, which several electricians were currently working on, he reported.

Fake said the Snow Bowl had received a tremendous amount of support from other Maine ski areas that had offered discounts to Snow Bowl pass holders. Fake made two recommendations for the Select Board to consider. The first was a request that staff be allowed to delay completion of the double chair lift until after the season was over. Doing that work at this time of year and when the Snow Bowl is open to the public would be challenging. Echoing Select Board Chair's comments that he knew people were disappointed that the Snow Bowl was not open and was opening later in the season than usual, he recommended that the Select Board approve offering full refunds to season pass holders who requested them. Landon said that he hoped people would wait to ski at the Snow Bowl before requesting the refund, but we had let people down and offering a full refund was a way to make it right for season pass holders.

*John French made a motion to postpone the completion of the double chairlift as recommended by the Snow Bowl General Manager. Don White seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.*

*Don White made a motion to allow season pass holders to receive a refund from Jan. 29 through February 5 if requested. John French seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

Pat Finnigan thanked the citizens of Camden for their support as the final details of the lift were completed, adding that the staff wants to extend the Snow Bowl season as long as possible into the spring in order to make up for the delay in opening. She noted that they were grateful for the strong partnerships formed with other ski areas around the state. Lastly she said that the Snow Bowl staff had weathered adverse conditions on a number of occasions and had shown great determination to reach this point.

John French commended the Snow Bowl staff for their efforts in completing the new lift and for their work on the many other improvements during the last 9 months. The Board discussed setting a date for a workshop involving the Foundation, the staff and the Board.

## C. **Citizen Comments**

T.C. Bland of Camden spoke about next steps for the Snow Bowl lodge.

The Chair opened the floor to comments from the Board.

Don White spoke about the events to be held during the upcoming Camden Winterfest. He noted that Jack Williams was featured on the cover of the Ski Museum of Maine's newsletter and that Williams would be honored at a dinner showcasing the changes at the Snow Bowl during Winterfest week. He said that the Ski Museum of Maine was inviting skiers and members from around the state to the dinner. White also commented that the Chamber's 2015 area guide was now available.

**D. Approval of Select Board Minutes dated January 6, 2015**

*John French made a motion to approve the minutes of the Select Board meeting dated Jan. 6, 2015. Don White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

**E. Select Board Member Reports**

Don White reported on meetings of the Camden Public Library Board of Trustees and the Planning Board. He said that the Planning Board had heard from the Conservation Commission about the forestry plan and had considered the site plan that included lighting, the parking lot and the lodge.

Leonard Lookner commented on the upcoming school vote for CRMS, saying tours of the facility are available for anyone interested.

John French spoke briefly about the intent of the forestry plan.

**F. Town Manager Report**

The Town Manager also spoke about the forest management plan, saying that it was an important resource that had been completed by a certified forester who had been recommended by the Coastal Mountain Land Trust. She also clarified that the purpose of the forest management plan was so ensure the Town is a good steward of its natural resources. She said contrary to what some people were saying, the purpose was not to assess a market price on the trees and to remove the ones that would generate the most money. She said that all the tree removal that was necessary for the Redevelopment Project had been completed and there are no plans to cut trees for at least a year. She said that tree removal due to storm damage or similar events would be done as necessary.

**G. New Business**

**1. Authorization for a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) in an amount not to exceed \$2,550,000 for the Ragged Mountain Redevelopment Project (\$2 million) and Wastewater Facility Projects (Sea Street pump station and the Mt. Battie St. pump station)**

The Town Manager outlined the background for the BAN and rationale behind combining the projects into one note.

*John French made a motion to authorize a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) in an amount not to exceed \$2,550,000 for the Ragged Mountain Redevelopment Project (\$2 million) and Wastewater Facility Projects (the Sea Street pump station and the Mt. Battie St. pump station). Don White seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.*

**2. Authorize the Town Manager to extend the contract for the Public Landing and Hoist Project improvements until December 31, 2015**

Pat Finnigan spoke about timing for these projects, saying that the installation of the hoist was planned for late spring and that the Boardwalk was planned to be constructed after Columbus Day.

*John French made a motion to extend the contract for the Public Landing and Hoist Project improvements until December 31, 2015. Don White seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

**H. Select Board Closing Comments**

There were no closing comments.

**Adjourn**

*Don White made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Leonard Lookner seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Karen Brace  
Recording Secretary