



**Town of Camden
Minutes of the Select Board Meeting
December 16, 2014
6:30pm**

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

Absent: James Heard

1. Call to Order

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

2. Public Hearing

Martin Cates opened a public hearing to address a proposed bond issue not to exceed \$550,000 for a Capital Improvement Project consisting of upgrades to the sewer treatment plant, Sea Street pump station and Mt. Battie pump station. Pat Finnigan explained that this bond would allow the Town to continue with its capital improvement plan for the wastewater treatment facility built in 1969. She noted that the improvements were important to meet federal and state environmental standards and to prevent a “by-pass” event when storm water overruns the pump stations.

Anita Broscius-Scott spoke on the issue, saying that she opposed the measure. Geoff Scott asked a procedural question which the Town Manager clarified. John Scholz and Steve Gold each spoke in favor of the bond issue.

Chairperson Cates closed the public hearing.

Special Town Meeting

Town Clerk Katrina Oakes opened the Special Town Meeting. (See Town Meeting Minutes)

Board of Assessors

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

A. Appointment of Kerry Leichtman as Camden Assessors Agent

Don White made a motion to appoint Kerry Leichtman as Camden Assessors Agent. John French seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

John French made a motion to adjourn as Board of Assessors and open as Select Board. Don White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Select Board Meeting resumed

3. Communications, Presentations, and Recognitions

Report of the MSAD #28 School Board regarding the proposed Middle School Building project

Matt Dailey, Chair of the MSAD #28 School Board, spoke to the Board about the proposal for a new Middle School. He described the process and reasoning behind the proposal and introduced Rob Tillotson, president of Oak Point Associates, who’d been hired as a consultant for the project. Tillotson outlined the facility evaluation and showed the concept designs.

Board members asked about the plans for reducing the footprint of the current facility. Don White commented on spending \$4 million to renovate the Mary E. Taylor building for administrative offices. There was some discussion on this.

Superintendent of Schools Elaine Nutter addressed the timing of the February vote in context of when construction would need to take place so as to prove least disruptive to students. She said the district couldn't continue to defer capital improvements due to codes and safety matters. She also noted that pushing the timing out for another year could mean losing the current window of low interest rates for bonds.

Lynda Chilton, Chair of the Communications Committee, outlined measures for disseminating information to the public about the proposal.

Leonard Lookner asked about using funds for public information purposes. John French asked whether it would make sense to wait until some other bonds had been paid off before taking out a new one.

Anita Brosius-Scott asked a question about state funding which was answered by the Superintendent.

Ragged Mountain Redevelopment Update

Parks and Recreation Director Landon Fake updated the Board on progress with the Snow Bowl redevelopment. He described factors that were influencing the opening date including temperature and lift construction.

The following residents spoke about concerns regarding Hosmer Pond: Judy Goodman, Lee Schneller Sligh, Dorie Klein, Dana Strout, Meg Barclay and Ron Hawkins.

Rick Knowlton, Co-Chair of the Redevelopment Committee, talked to the group about the challenging conditions the redevelopment team has faced, citing that 2014 will end up as the 5th or 6th wettest year in the past 100 years. He noted that the construction difficulties are short-lived and that in the grand scheme of things, the changes at the Snow Bowl are very positive. Knowlton expressed that it is important to support the project and continue the course now that it is 90% complete.

John French noted that the mountain would re-stabilize, that Mother Nature will make repairs like when previous trail work had been done.

Peter Gross asked the group to bear in mind that our community has undertaken a construction site as big as a mountain, and added that the DEP inspector had been complimentary to the Town regarding steps that had been taken. Gross said he remembered many summers as a youth swimming in brown water in Hosmer Pond. He noted that erosion measures had worked and that it's important for everyone to listen to each other.

Oscar Verest echoed the fact that we are all interested in the same goal, environmental health.

Select Board members commented as follows:

Cates told the group that the plan was to continue to work in a positive direction.

Lookner said the best thing to do will be to cooperate because the project must be seen through in order to create stability.

White asked that everyone stand as one. He thanked the Snow Bowl staff and management team for their efforts.

French stated that the pond is important to the whole community.

A break was taken at 9:30 and the meeting was reopened at 9:35pm.

4. Citizen Comments

Randy Stearns spoke on behalf of the Knox County Budget Committee, saying that the budget that would be presented to Camden will show an increase of about 5.8%. He noted that the courthouse is in need of repairs that were not included in this budget.

Stearns also told the Board about a fundraising campaign that has been launched for the Mount Battie Tower.

5. Approval of Select Board Minutes

Don White made a motion to approve the minutes of the Select Board meeting dated December 2 and December 8, 2014. John French seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

John French made a motion to modify the agenda and address New Business at this time. Don White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

6. New Business

1. Consideration of the 2015 Harbor Fees recommended by the Harbor Committee (Harbor Ordinance Article IV Section 1)

John French made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Harbor Fees as recommended by the Harbor Committee. Don White seconded the motion.

Lookner asked a question about the rates which the Town Manager clarified.

The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Consideration of the 2015 Commercial Fishermen's Float Permit Applications (Harbor Ordinance Article V Section 2)

John French moved to accept the 2015 Float Permit Applications as submitted. Don White seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Consideration of the 2015 Daysailer Licenses (Harbor Ordinance Article V Section 3)

John French moved to accept the 2015 Daysailer License Applications as submitted. Don White seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Adjourn

Don White made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John French seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously and the Board adjourned at 9:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Brace
Recording Secretary