



Town of Camden
Minutes of the Select Board Meeting
June 4, 2013
6:30pm

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

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm.

B. Communications, Presentations, and Recognitions

1. Comprehensive Plan Update – Lowrie Sargent

Lowrie Sargent updated the Board on progress with the Comprehensive Plan. He said that the committee had had good response from other Town committees and groups, and he thanked Jean Freedman-White for her work in coordinating the effort. He also thanked Steve Wilson who is helping to liaise with the State.

Sargent said that two major changes are being reviewed with CEDAC: (1) Adding a chapter on government, to include an historic perspective on how Camden has been governed dating back to the 1700s, and including how things are currently run; (2) switching to a more narrative form for the chapters and including the necessary graphs, charts and maps as appendices.

Sargent was thanked by the Select Board for his work on the Comprehensive Plan.

- 2.** *John French made a motion to take the item on the Harbor Ordinance out of order. James Heard seconded this motion and it was unanimously approved.*

Consideration of amendment to the Administrative Procedures to the Harbor & Waterways Ordinance Appendix C Inner Harbor Float Specifications and Procedure as recommended by the Harbor Committee

Gene McKeever, Chair of the Harbor Committee, spoke to the Board about proposed changes to the Harbor ordinance with regard to the inner harbor floats. He described the proposed changes to Appendix C in the ordinance and told the Board that the Harbor Committee had unanimously supported these changes.

Leonard Lookner made a motion to accept the recommendation from the Harbor Committee to allow shackles on bottom chains on the inner harbor floats, provided they are safety-wired and made in the U.S., and to amend "Appendix C, Inner Harbor Float Specifications and Procedures, #7". Donald White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

3. Presentation of the EMS Review Team Recommendation

Martin Cates gave a Powerpoint presentation to detail the results of the work of the EMS review team. He said that this team, comprised of members from each of the four towns, had been tasked with looking at cost factors of EMS services, budget implications, and impact on taxpayers, while also studying ways to maintain quality of care. Cates reviewed the history of this process since the fall of 2012 and outlined the steps that had been taken over subsequent months since the process had begun.

During the report, Cates discussed the criteria and qualifications of the companies that had been interviewed: Camden First Aid Association, North East Mobile Health Services, Delta Ambulance, and Sterling (only interviewed by Hope). He said that the review team's recommendations were based on the proposals that the companies had provided, along with financial factors, long-term stability for the communities served, the companies' business models as well as their management structures. Cates reported that the business models of North East Health Services and Delta had scored higher than that of Camden First Aid Association. He also reported that the bid from North East Health was the lowest, at \$28,000 total for serving the four towns, \$10,000 of which would be Camden's share.

Cates said that, after weighing all of these factors carefully and conducting the necessary research, the team is recommending that the towns contract with North East Mobile Health Services.

At this point, the Chair opened a Question and Answer period. During the Q & A, Cates emphasized that any final results from the EMS review process would depend on decisions of four communities.

The Board addressed questions from Meg Sideris, Steve Burleson, John Scholz, Karen Grove, Bob Davee, Lisa Ettinger, Meg Barclay, Barbara Spaulding, Fran Wheeler, and Richard Householder. The majority of the questions centered around how North East Mobile Health Services was able to provide the same services to the four towns at such a much lower price than the current emergency medical services provider.

Town Manager Finnigan described how the larger companies are able to cover their overhead more easily than the smaller, independent providers such as CFAA. She noted that approximately 2,000 billable calls per year are required to sustain one ambulance available 24/7, staffed with a paramedic. CFAA's annual billable calls have averaged less than 1,500 over recent years. Finnigan also explained that through time, as the team looked ahead at projections for future years, they could not see that the costs for CFAA were likely to come down from their current level. John French, who sat on the review team with Cates and Finnigan, also helped explain the situation. In addition, consultant Rick Petrie was on hand to provide information and to help answer questions.

During the comments portion, comments were made by Bridget Qualey, Lisa Ettinger, Meg Sideris, Deb Dodge, Karen Grove, T. C. Bland, Brian Allen, Julia Libby, and Dennis Simmons. The audience gave Julia Libby, Director of CFAA, a warm applause following her comments.

Simmons, Manager of the local North East Mobile Health offices, remarked that CFAA staff would be offered positions with their company if a change were to occur.

Town Manager Finnigan spoke about the lengthy and excellent service that CFAA has given to the residents of Camden and its neighboring communities for many years. She said this had been an extremely difficult situation for the group of people that had been charged with coming up with a recommendation. Finnigan also emphasized that this recommendation in no way reflected on the quality of the service that any of the EMS providers have demonstrated.

C. Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

The Chair opened the floor to comments from the Board.

Donald White reminded the group that the Mid Coast Transit Committee would be holding two public information sessions to share results of the recently-conducted Transit Study. The first public information session is to be held on June 24 at 6:30pm at Rockland City Hall, and the second will be held at the Washington Street conference room in Camden on June 25 at 6:30.

D. Approval of Select Board Minutes dated May 21, 2013

Donald White made a motion to approve the minutes of the Select Board meeting dated May 21, 2013. John French seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

E. Select Board Member Reports

Donald White reported that the Opera House Committee had received a grant to refurbish its Steinway piano. White said that the Committee is also working on a proposed plan for using TIF funds to improve lighting and signage at the Opera House which would be presented to the Downtown Network Board.

James Heard said that the Ragged Mountain Recreation Redevelopment Committee is working toward the vote in November and has about \$700,000 left to raise toward their total goal of \$4.5 million.

F. Town Manager Report

Town Manager Finnigan reminded everyone that Tuesday was voting day, and Wednesday evening would be the Town Meeting. She noted that we had hoped to know by now what the state legislature would do regarding revenue sharing, but that those figures were not known yet.

G. New Business

1. Construction Permit – Road Overlimit Permit for the MDOT Megunticook erosion project (Washington Street) to allow the contractor to haul overlimit loads on municipal roads

Town Manager Finnigan explained that an upcoming project along Washington Street in

the area of Ames Terrace will require heavy machinery to be transported over municipal roads. Since the machinery exceeds the road's weight limit, a permit must be obtained.

Donald White made a motion to approve a construction overlimit permit for the Megunticook River erosion project at Washington Ave and Gould St/Ames Terrace. John French seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

2. Knox County Tax Assessment and Communications Center Fees

There was a request by the Town Manager to table this item until the first meeting in July.

John French made a motion to table this item until the first meeting in July. James Heard seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

H. Public Hearings: Malt, Spirituous, and Vinous Liquor Licenses; Special Amusement Permit

Chairperson Cates opened a Public Hearing.

1. Susie Laidlaw, d/b/a Chichi Chef for Class I off-premise catering liquor license for malt, spirituous and vinous beverages

John French made a motion to approve the Class I off-premise catering liquor license for Susie Laidlaw d/b/a ChiChi Chef. Leonard Lookner seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

I. Tabled Business

Consideration of bid award for 2013 Sand and Salt Bids

John French made a motion to accept the Knox County sand bid awarded to Hartland, Inc. in the amount of \$8.25/ton and the salt bid awarded to International Salt in the amount of \$53.49/ton. Donald White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

J. Select Board Closing Comments

John French encouraged the public to vote so that participation would be high both on voting day and at the Town Meeting on Wednesday.

Adjourn as Select Board

John French made a motion to adjourn the Select Board meeting and convene as Board of Assessors. Donald White seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting of the Board of Assessors

1. Abatement Request for 17 Powder Mill

The Town Manager explained that this abatement was necessary because a duplicate tax bill had been sent out.

Donald White made a motion to grant an abatement the property at 17 Powder Mill due to an error for the entire amount of the taxes \$247.61. John French seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

2. Approval of Ratio Declaration and Reimbursement

John French made a motion to declare a certified ratio of assessed values of 100%. Donald White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Adjourn as Board of Assessors

Donald White made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Assessors. James Heard seconded this motion. It was unanimously approved.

Executive Session

John French made a motion to go into executive session to discuss labor negotiations in accordance with (Title 1 M.R.S.A. section 405 6.D). Donald White seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously and the Board went into Executive Session at 8:52.

The Board came out of Executive Session.

___ made a motion to adjourn the Select Board meeting. D___ seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Brace
Recording Secretary