

**Town Council Meeting  
Minutes  
March 28, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

**Roll Call**

All Councilors were present and answering roll call.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Payne led those present in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

**Public Forum**

Mike Doyle of Shady Lane corrected a statement he made a month ago during a meeting with the elected officials.

Erin Cadigan of Woods Road is the president of the Falmouth Elementary PTO. She spoke about a community wide event to celebrate the closing of the Plummer/Motz and Lunt schools and the opening of the new elementary schools. The event will be held on June 3 and 4 at the campus on Lunt Road. More information is available on the Falmouth Schools website.

**Item 1 (a)                      Order to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2011, Town Council  
(Consent Agenda)        Special Meeting and Workshop.**

**Item 1 (b)                      Order to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2011, Town Council  
(Consent Agenda)        Meeting.**

**Item 1 (c)                      Order to authorize the Town Manager to execute an easement to permit  
(Consent Agenda)        access over a sewer easement and the construction of exterior stairs at  
   property identified on Falmouth Tax Map U16-087.**

**Item 1 (d)                      Order to accept a proposal from Runyon Kersteen and Ouellette to perform  
(Consent Agenda)        the annual financial audit.**

**Item 1 (e)                      Order to authorize the Town Manager to execute a quit claim deed for Tax  
(Consent Agenda)        Map and Lot R03-027.**

Councilor Armitage moved to approve the consent agenda; Councilor Pierce seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

**Item 2                              Report from Council Committees and liaisons regarding updates on  
   assignments.**

Councilor Breen said the GPCOG Steering committee met last week. They are trying to draft a MOU with Cumberland County regarding which organization is responsible for what task.

Councilor Pierce said the Finance Committee has met; the public meeting with the School Board is scheduled for this Wednesday, March 30 at 7pm at the Falmouth High School Auditorium. The Energy committee is trying to schedule their first meeting.

Chair Payne clarified that the public budget meeting will not be broadcast live; it will be taped for rebroadcast. Public comment will be taken.

Councilor Varney announced that PACPAC now has a full slate of members. They recently discussed a fun run to sponsor camp scholarships, as well as the community event on June 3-4.

Councilor Rodden said the CDC is working on the Route 1 ordinance.

**Item 3 Report from the Appointments Committee and order relative to filling various vacancies on Boards and Committees.**

Councilor Armitage said the Committee recommended that Theo Holtwijk be appointed to the Greater Portland Economic Development Committee. Councilor Pierce moved to appoint Mr. Holtwijk to GPEDC; Councilor Varney seconded. The motion carried 7-0.

**Item 4 Resolution to support the School Department's submission of a Maine Forest Service grant application seeking up to \$500,000 to support design and construction of a Falmouth Middle School wood-chip boiler facility and to support and assist the School department in seeking additional funding for the difference between the total cost of the project and the grant proceeds received.**

Analiene Larson, of the school board, explained that the steam boilers in place are over fifty years old and it is a priority to replace them. Larson outlined the effects of putting the wood boiler into place. Councilor Rodden moved to pass the resolution; Councilor Breen seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

**Item 5 Public Hearing regarding the proposed June 2011 Referendum Question and Order regarding the renovation of the Plummer-Motz and Lunt School complex into a community recreation center, town library, and leasable space.**

During the Public Hearing, sixteen citizens spoke. Thirteen were for the question and three were not. Jeff Gramlich, of West Circle, is in favor because it will increase the value of town and real estate. Judith Currier, of Hardy Road, is in favor because more classes can be offered for children and seniors at the proposed community center. Cathy Potter, of Blackstrap Road, is in favor of expansion of the library and having a community center. Fred Leighton has a vision for the community center and likes the cost neutrality of the project. Janet Andrews, of Woods Road, is against it because of risk on prices. She fears that in the current market the townspeople will end up paying. Rowan Morse, of Foreside Road, is against it because she believes the Council has not been honest about costs, and that there are too many variables which will result in tax increases. Gunnar Hubbard, of McKinley Road, is in favor because the center will be a great place for families and the community. Chris Orestis, of Winn Road, is in favor because he knows that the town will be successful at implementing these changes, and it will add to a great community. Michael Doyle, of Shady Lane, is against the plan because of multiple variables. He believes that the numbers have little credibility. He also wants a question on the ballot to sell the property. Martha Elbaum-Williamson, of Mason Street, is in favor because she feels that Falmouth is missing a community center. Peter Goffin, of Lincoln Farm Road, is in favor because the library needs to move in order to expand and Lunt would be the best option for this. Marsha Clark, of Lincoln Farm Road, is also in favor for similar reasons. Erica Linen, of Wisteria Lane, is in favor because she wants to stay in Falmouth, but the Town needs a community center. Glen Brand, of Johnson Road, is in favor of keeping the history of the building, and the library needs to be bigger. Marna Miller, of Phillips Road, is in favor of keeping Plummer because of its historical value. Keeping it will also preserve options for the Town's usage. Beth

Stouder, of Middle Road, is in favor because she feels the Town needs it and is happy to be a neighbor of the proposed community center.

**Item 6                      Discussion and Vote on a proposed June 2011 Referendum Question and Order regarding the renovation of the Plummer-Motz and Lunt School complex into a community recreation center, town library, and leasable space.**

Councilor Breen moved to adopt question 1 as a referendum question to appear on the June 14<sup>th</sup> ballot. She read the order into the record. Councilor Pierce seconded. Councilor Breen amended her motion to exclude the recommendation for passage.

Councilor Chase said that he is opposed to it because the State has no money and because the Town can build a new library for the same price.

Councilor Armitage voiced his concern that money from the undesignated funds will be used but there are no plans to put money back into that later.

Councilor Pierce said she wants the Town to be able to vote on this issue because the best proposal possible has been developed.

Councilor Varney believes that the question should go to the public but does not like the proposal.

Councilor Rodden thinks that Falmouth is in need of a community center to reflect the quality of the Town. A community center is central for Falmouth's need as a town.

Chair Payne said that the best question is on the ballot and likes how there is no impact on taxes. Councilor Armitage moved to amend line E in the article which would read, "Up to \$1,500,000 from the Town's available undesignated fund balances as referenced above with the intent to replenish the fund with the same amount." Councilor Breen seconded. The vote passed 6 to 1. Councilor Rodden dissented.

Councilor Armitage moved the question. The amended order carried 7-0.

Councilor Breen moved to recommend passage of question 1; Councilor Pierce seconded.

Councilor Breen implored her colleagues to recommend its approval because she really wants to put the question in the hands of the voters.

Councilor Chase will not vote for it because he feels the Councilors should not influence the voters.

Councilor Armitage feels comfortable with the money situation and feels the buildings are important.

Councilor Pierce thanked those that were against it because it forced the designers of the proposal to look deeper and improve the proposal, developing it into a well-thought out plan.

Councilor Varney will not vote for something she believes is wrong.

Councilor Rodden supports passage.

Chair Payne will be voting against its passage because of future renovations to the middle school, as well as extensive costs for roads.

Councilor Rodden called the question. The motion carried 4-3. Councilors Chase, Varney, and Payne dissented.

**Item 7                      Review of a staff memo regarding the preparation of a Route One South  
Infrastructure Improvement Plan.**

Theo Holtwijk explained to the Council details of the memo. The Council gave the go-ahead for Holtwijk and Town Manager Poore to do more work on the plans.

**Adjourn**

Councilor Breen moved to adjourn; Councilor Pierce seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Tryon

Jon Planer

Recording Secretaries