

## **Town Council Meeting Minutes May 23, 2011**

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

### **Roll Call**

Councilors Chase, Breen, Armitage, Payne, Varney, and Rodden were present and answering roll call. Councilor Pierce arrived shortly after roll.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

### **Public Forum**

Mike Doyle, of Shady Lane, said he was running for School Board. He said how he has been apart of the community. He was also a blood donor. Matt Arants, of Town Landing Road, wanted to speak in favor of question 1. Stacy Smith, of Town Landing Road, said she was a supporter of the question. She liked her neighborhood and liked how question 1 would create more of that and increase intergenerational community chances. She said there was a lot of misinformation out there. Bo Bigelow, of 11 Innkeeper's Lane, said his family had recently moved to Falmouth and liked the community. He was looking forward to the new center. He wanted to say that there will be no increase in taxes. He said the library needed more space. Ebooks won't change the need for that. Rob Donovan, of Veronica Lane, said he was in favor, but was not always the case. He is part of the Library Board of Trustees and said that after many discussions, question 1 is the best solution for the library's problems. Bill Nugent, of Middle Road, said he lived across the Plummer-Motz building. He supported question 1. It was an opportunity to change Falmouth. He said one of Falmouth's problems was they didn't have a town center. Fred Leighton said he was for the project, but was not originally. He said that Falmouth had \$10 million in the undesignated fund. They wanted to use less than 15%. He compared Freeport using \$1.5 million of their \$2 million fund for athletic fields. He said the community center will be there for up to 50 years. Angela Smith, of Lower Falls Road, went over facts regarding the project. She said the facts were important, but her gut feeling was more important. She shared personal stories. Her kids were her reasons for wanting a new community center. Claudia King, of Woodville Road, was speaking on behalf of the Falmouth Long-Range Plan Advisory Committee. She said they were in the midst of updating Falmouth's comprehensive plan, which guided the Town's direction. She said public input was essential and surveys were available. Allison Bishop, of Allen Ave Extension, said she had been a Trustee of the library for five years. She said they had unanimously voted to move the library. Even if question 1 failed, they would continue to investigate options. They had explored many options and found they needed to move. Michelle Lamb, of Middle Road, spoke of Falmouth's need of heart. They needed a geographical center. Falmouth's town heritage was at the Plummer-Motz buildings. Falmouth was at the top for education and fiscal responsibility. They needed a better place for community. Martha Elbaum-Williamson, of Mason Street, wanted to speak in favor of question 1. She said the fiscal issue was the most important thing for people she canvased. She said it was fiscally responsible. She talked about where the money came from. Milita

Plavsic, of Mast Road, said she took her kids to other towns for them to do activities because Falmouth was so limited. She said the library was too crowded. Her kids needed a place to meet and be friends with other Falmouth kids. Sean Joyce, of Lincoln Farm Road, said he's currently on the Board of Trustees for the library. He felt that this was their best opportunity for the library. Jed Wright, of Kilborn Way, was in support of question 1. He was excited for a safe community place. Julie Rabinowitz, of Muirfield Road, was speaking for the elementary PTO, and wanted to say that the Farewell Festival to the schools would be on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. More information is available online. Joe O'Donnell, of Phillips Road, was in favor of question 1. Falmouth lacked a community center. It would give a feeling of being apart of a town. Marna Miller, of Phillips Road, wanted to say they had a website for yes on 1.

Councilor Rodden wanted to recognize Councilor Breen's last meeting. She wanted to thank Councilor Breen for the work she has done.

**Item 1 (a) (Consent Agenda) Order to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2011, Town Council.**

**Item 1 (b) (Consent Agenda) Order to approve the minutes of the March 30, 2011, Town Council Special Meeting.**

**Item 1 (c) (Consent Agenda) Order to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2011, Town Council Special Meeting and Workshop.**

**Item 1 (d) (Consent Agenda) Order to appoint Amy Lamontagne to serve in place of Nathan Poore as delegate to the annual GPCOG meeting.**

**Item 1 (e) (Consent Agenda) Order to authorize the Town Manager to execute a quit claim deed for Tax Map and Lot R03-002-00B.**

**Item (f) (Consent Agenda) Order to authorize the Town Manager to execute a quit claim deed for Tax Map and Lot R03-002-00C.**

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

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

Councilor Chase said Harbor Committee had met and won't meet again until September. He said they needed a pooper scooper ordinance. He said they had a problem at Town Landing and Community Park.

Councilor Breen said GPCOG was putting on the last of three lectures on sustainability.

Councilor Armitage said the Economic Development Committee had started meeting and had met with some business owners about starting a business and were gathering more information.

Councilor Pierce said the Recycling Energy Advisory Committee had met a couple of times and were discussing the silver bullet issue. She announced that Open Space had been awarded a \$25,000 grant to improve trails around town.

Councilor Varney said PACPAC did their annual tour. She said the school budget will be voting.

Councilor Rodden wanted to encourage people to do the LPAC survey online. She also wanted to say people should go to businesses and check out chairs that will be auctioned off at the Farewell Festival. It was online at the school website.

Chair Payne said the survey did take a little time, so be prepared for that.

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

Councilor Armitage said there was no report and the consent agenda dealt with the Committee already.

**Item 4                                      Resolution to recognize the 2011 ecoMaine eco-Excellence winner Claudia King.**

Councilor Rodden read the award and achievements of Claudia King. She moved the resolution; Councilor Breen seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Claudia King wanted to thank those who helped her in various ways.

**Item 5                                      Recognition of the Highland Lake Association for their leadership and achievements related to the improvement of the water quality of Highland Lake.**

Councilor Rodden recognized the HLA's work in improving the condition of the lake, which was once so polluted that it was considered impaired by the EPA. The Lake, through efforts of the HLA and others, has been rehabilitated, so it is no longer considered by the EPA.

Susan Landry accepted the award on behalf of the HLA, and read about other people who were being awarded. Ralph Johnston was the founder of the HLA. Julie Motherwell was also recognized and spoke about others and their efforts.

Councilor Chase wanted to thank everyone involved with Highland Lake. He talked about the history of Highland Lake and the shoreland zoning ordinance, which the State does not have. The State is having a hearing regarding shoreland zoning requirements, LD 219, and Councilor Chase wanted to urge people to get involved with that debate.

**Item 6                                      Introduction for a zoning amendment to exempt lots from increased nonconformities due to the acquisition of a portion of the lot for the purpose of resource protection.**

Amanda Stearns, Community Development Director, introduced the zoning amendment. Net residential area and setbacks would be mostly affected. June 20 and July 11 were the possible dates to schedule a public hearing.



Councilor Armitage moved the order; Councilor Pierce seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Councilor Breen was absent and Councilor Chase had recused himself. He thought they shouldn't sign anything until the money had been taken care of.

**Item 9                                      The Council will review a revised draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town of Falmouth and the Falmouth Memorial Library Association.**

Chair Payne said that library had made some refinements to the MOU.

Nathan Poore asked if the changes reflected what the Council wanted to see in the last meeting.

Councilor Armitage said he had not had time to review the new document thoroughly, but said the changes were what he was trying to get at. He was wondering about timing and sequence of events.

Nathan Poore explained that everything had to happen at the same time. Everything had to be lined up, except maybe the feasibility study.

Councilor Pierce said they had some dates to look at things so that everything worked.

Councilor Chase was fine with the MOU, as long as they didn't sign it before the vote. He said they needed to work together to make it work.

**Item 10                                      Order to go into Executive Session pursuant to the Laws of Maine to discuss the nomination of the annual Citizen of the Year Award, pursuant 1 M.R.S.A. § 405.**

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

**Item 11                                      Order to go into Executive Session pursuant to the Laws of Maine to discuss the legal rights and duties of the Town and Town Council, pursuant 1 M.R.S.A. § 405.6.E.**

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

**Adjourn**

Meeting went into Executive Session at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Planer

Recording secretary