

**Town Council  
Meeting Minutes  
December 12, 2011**

**Roll Call**

Councilors Chase, Rodden, Varney, Pierce, Orestis and Armitage were present and answering roll call.

Councilor Payne arrived late.

**Item 1                      Order to go into Executive Session pursuant to the Laws of Maine to discuss the possible disposition of publicly held property, pursuant 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C).**

Councilor Armitage moved to enter executive session; Councilor Varney seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

The Council returned from executive session at 7:15 pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Pierce led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Forum**

Mike Doyle of Shady Lane spoke about credit card statements that he received from the Town as part of a FOAA request.

**Item 2 (a)                      Order to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2011, Town  
(Consent Agenda)          Council Meeting.**

**Item 2 (b)                      Order to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2011, Town  
(Consent Agenda)          Council Special Meeting and Workshop.**

**Item 2 (c)                      Order to authorize staff to sell the Town's 1995 Central States  
(Consent Agenda)          Pumper truck.**

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

**Item 3                            Report from Council Committees and liaisons regarding updates on  
assignments.**

There were no reports.

**Item 4                                    Report from the Appointments Committee and order relative to filling various vacancies on Boards and Committees.**

Councilor Orestis said the committee is recommending approval of a slate of reappointments.

**Reappointments -3 Year Terms: January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2014**

**Board of Assessment Review and Sewer Appeals:** Richard Olson, Tim O'Donovan

**Board of Zoning Appeals:** Willie Audet, Jonathan Berry

**Conservation Commission:** Jerry Goodall

**Falmouth Economic Improvement Committee (FEIC):** William Lunt, Anne Theriault

**Harbor & Waterfront Committee:** Paul Dobbins, Richie Garrett, Peter Thornton

**Human Services Committee:** Jane Sudds

**Long Range Planning Advisory Committee:** Paul Bergkamp, Kurt Klebe, Jim Thibodeau

**Open Space Committee:** Ellen Klain

**Parks and Community Programs Advisory Committee (PACPAC):** Marylou Murphy, Dominic Scette-Ducati, Janet Lane Dye

**Planning Board:** Bernard Pender

**Shellfish Conservation Committee:** Donna Cheney

Councilor Armitage moved to appoint the slate of nominations; Councilor Rodden seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilor Orestis said the Committee recommends Rudy Israel to be appointed as an alternate member to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Councilor Varney moved to appoint Rudy Israel as recommended; Councilor Armitage seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

**Item 5                                    Request from the Falmouth Economic Improvement Committee (FEIC) for Council authorization to develop, with Town staff assistance, temporary signage options for the Council's consideration.**

Chair Pierce explained that the chair of the committee asked to postpone this item to the January meeting, as he was unable to attend tonight.

**Item 6**                                    **Order to adopt a zoning ordinance amendment to standardize restrictions for keeping poultry in residential districts.**

Councilor Rodden moved to adopt the order; Councilor Chase seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

**Item 7**                                    **Public Hearing on a new ordinance for residency restrictions for sexual offenders.**

Chair Pierce opened the public hearing; there was no public comment.

An order will be scheduled for January 9, 2012.

Councilor Payne asked if this ordinance changes anything that currently exists.

Police Chief Ed Tolan said that they are not aware of any sex offenders that currently live in areas that would be governed by this ordinance. This gives them the authority to prevent people convicted of sexual offenses from moving into these areas. The 750 feet radius is set by the State statute. People who are convicted of these crimes know these laws exist.

**Item 8**                                    **Public Hearing on amendments to the Code of Ordinances in regard to mooring assignments and waiting lists.**

Chair Pierce opened the public hearing; there was no public comment.

An order will be scheduled for January 9, 2012.

**Item 9**                                    **Report from the Assessor regarding current market conditions and assessment levels.**

Assessor Anne Gregory made a presentation explaining the relation between sale price, appraisal value and assessed value of a home, and why she was not planning to do a revaluation at this time. She pointed out that when the purchase price of a home is greater than the assessed value, she doesn't raise the assessment. If she unilaterally lowered the assessed value for the Town, it would simply raise the tax rate and a property owner would pay the same amount anyway. The State law states that the assessment ratio must be greater than 70% and less than 110%. Currently the Town is at 103%.

**Item 10**                                   **Order to appoint two members to serve on the Falmouth Library Transition Committee.**

Chair Pierce explained that Lyn Sudlow, the director of the Library, is leaving after 16 years. The Library is forming a Transition Committee to evaluate their needs moving forward.

Councilor Rodden nominated Councilors Varney and Pierce to serve on the Library Transition Committee; Councilor Payne seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Chair Pierce thanked Director Lyn Sudlow for her many years of service to the community.

