

TOWN OF TREMONT  
REGULAR SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TREMONT TOWN OFFICE  
MEETING ROOM  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2007  
6 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Scott Grierson called the Selectmen's meeting of Monday, December 17, 2007 to order at 6:01 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Chairman Scott Grierson, Selectmen Heath Higgins, Kathi Thurston, Chris Eaton, Town Manager Millard Billings, Recording Secretary Heidi Farley.

Members of the public present were: Sheriff William Clark, Mark Good from the Mount Desert Islander and Laurie Schrieber from the Bar Harbor Times.

3. ADJUSTMENTS/ADOPTION OF AGENDA

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION** by Selectman Heath Higgins to accept minutes of December 3, 2007 as written, seconded by Selectman Chris Eaton. Motion passed 3-0-1. Selectman Kathi Thurston abstained because she was not at that meeting.

5. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

#70	\$ 5,582.82
#71	10,665.26
#72	46,735.76
#73	64,755.14
#74	1,424.21

**MOTION** by Selectman Heath Higgins to accept warrants 70-74, seconded by Selectman Chris Eaton. Motion passed 4-0.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. SHERIFF'S OFFICE POLICE PROTECTION

Chairman Scott Grierson told Sheriff Clark that the Town is very happy with the coverage we have been receiving. Sheriff Clark told the Board that good communication with Town Manager Millard Billings is extremely helpful. Sheriff Clark discussed with the Board different options available to them for coverage and asked them to be creative in their thinking. Selectman Kathi Thurston said that she would like to explore 40-45 hrs a week and more night and weekend hours. Selectman Thurston would like to give the voters the option at Town Meeting. Selectman Chris Eaton agreed. Selectman Grierson said that he thinks things are going smooth and doesn't want to stir it up. Sheriff Clark said that he will have a meeting with the ambulance service to clear up any confusion about the mutual aid contract. Sheriff Clark also mentioned the Drug Task Force that the Town helped fund and that it is doing wonderfully. The State is now funding most of it. Town Manager Millard Billings said that maybe the Town tax money would be better spent supporting the Drug Task Force rather than more police. Selectmen thanked Sheriff Clark for coming. Sheriff Clark said to just let him know what the Town wanted and he would try to accommodate.

**B. MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT**

Town Manager Millard Billings told the Selectmen that the League of Towns has drafted a Governmental Mutual Aid agreement between the Towns. The purpose is to ensure the continuity of the delivery of essential local government services in the event of a declared disaster that may prevent delivery of services by one or more Towns. General Assistance Administration, Tax Collection & Treasury functions and public works management functions must continue in times of disaster. This proposed agreement has been deployed by the local Town Managers through the League of Towns as an emergency back up plan. Southwest Harbor and Mt. Desert have signed it all ready.

**MOTION** by Selectman Chris Eaton to adopt Mutual Aid agreement, seconded by Selectman Kathi Thurston. Motion passed 4-0.

**MOTION** by Selectman Heath Higgins to authorize Town Manager Millard Billings to sign agreement, seconded by Selectman Chris Eaton. Motion passed 4-0.

**C. UPDATE ONGOING PROJECTS**

**1. NEW TOWN OFFICE**

Nothing new

**2. SALT/SAND BUILDING**

Town Manager Millard Billings reported that David Trask & Sons has worked on the Salt/sand shed building for seven days; their portion of the project is complete except for the overhead door. Bid packets for wiring, exhaust fan, interior and exterior lighting are ready.

3. SEAL COVE RAMP

Town Manager Millard Billings told the Selectmen that he had received a letter from Town Attorney Chad Smith saying that the Town could be liable for a mechanics lien. Lien has to be filed within 90 days. Mr. Smith suggested that no more money be paid until time frame lapses.

4. PLOWING AND SANDING

Town Manager Millard Billings showed the Selectmen a copy of the Traffic Control Ordinance section 6 that states that it is unlawful to deposit snow within the limits of any Town or State-aid roads in the Town of Tremont. Commercial and private snow plowers need to clean up after themselves by not leaving snow in the road, there were complaints after the last storm because what they left behind froze and created a problem.

Town Manager Millard Billings asked the Selectmen for authorization to purchase a box screen. He explained that while the salt/sand pile is being moved it would be to our benefit to screen the big chunks out of it. It would also be very useful with the three piles of loom we have.

**MOTION** by Selectman Chris Eaton to authorize Town Manager Millard Billings to purchase a box screen, seconded by Selectman Kathi Thurston. Motion passed 4-0.

5. SEAL COVE FISHWAY

Attached is the report that Mr. Dupree has received from the State Officials. He needs to have an engineer do a survey; possibly next summer and then a public hearing could be held.

D. APPOINTMENTS

**MOTION** by Selectman Heath Higgins to appoint Steve Jaeger to the Internet Access Committee for one year, seconded by Selectman Chris Eaton. Motion passed 4-0.

E. MDOT HEAD-OF-ISLAND ROAD CONSTRUCTION

MDOT has asked for local input from Select Boards concerning the reconstruction of the intersection at the head of the island. Mt Desert and Southwest Harbor Select Boards have voted to support the construction project but asked MDOT to also look at other possibilities.

**MOTION** by Selectman Heath Higgins to support the construction project but would like MDOT to look at other possibilities, seconded by Selectman Chris Eaton.

Motion passed 3-1, Chairman Scott Grierson voted against. Chairman Scott Grierson stated that he would not vote to support construction until Tremont's roads were on the list to be fixed so as to protect children, bikers and people walking.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY

Town Manager Millard Billings gave the Selectmen a copy of a proposal from Marty and Beth Lyons (see attached). A copy of an e-mail from Michele Marks, Chairman of the Library Board (see attached) was presented by Chairman Scott Grierson.

Chairman Scott Grierson said that the Hinton estate has been settled and that this was a proposal to change the terms. Selectman Heath Higgins said that the Town has no control over the estate and that the finances involved with the Hinton Estate are not our burden. If the Lyons don't want their life tenancy they should give it up. The Select Board and the Library Board have made their decisions. Chairman Scott Grierson said if the Library as a whole wants to do something different they should let us know. Selectman Kathi Thurston said that this proposal is a step backwards.

**MOTION** by Chairman Scott Grierson to authorize Town Manager Millard Billings to have a discussion with the Chairman of the Library Board concerning duties and responsibilities, seconded by Selectman Chris Eaton. Motion passed 4-0.

B. ACCESS ROAD

Selectman Heath Higgins said that he will find out if all three of Mr. & Mrs. Fudge's properties are for sale.

C. CABLE/INTERNET ACCESS

Town Manager Millard Billings reported that the Internet Access Committee met on Thursday, December 13. They did not elect Officers but each have assignments and will report to the Town when they have something.

8. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. The Wharf House is vacant, tenant is gone, door is locked and the key is inside on the counter. It needs a good cleaning.
2. Employee Christmas Bonus's, the Town has been giving a bonus of \$100.00 per employee.

**MOTION** by Selectman Heath Higgins to give each of the Town employees a \$100.00 bonus for Christmas, seconded by Selectman Chris Eaton. Motion passed 4-0.

3. The Personnel Policy gives employees Christmas Day and the day after Christmas off as Holidays. This year Christmas falls on Tuesday. After discussion with the staff the feeling is that for this one year reversing and taking Monday the day before would give everyone a long Holiday weekend.

Select Board agreed.

4. Thank you celebration for Boards and Committees was held on Monday, December 10 and enjoyed by all.

9. SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING

None

10. OTHER

Town Manager Millard Billings told the Selectmen that the third party budget requests have been sent out and are the same as last year.

A.C. Parsons planted a new apple tree at the Algerine Coast in Seal Cove and donated it in memory of Alfred Butler.

The Town has received a letter of resignation from Beth Lawson from the Recreation Board.

**MOTION** by Selectman Heath Higgins to accept resignation from Beth Lawson from the Recreation Board, seconded by Selectman Chris Eaton. Motion passed 4-0.

Chairman Scott Grierson said that he would like to see a process developed for using the Town Office as an emergency shelter. Selectman Heath Higgins said that the Hancock County Emergency Response System is in place. Town Manager Millard Billings said that there is a plan and our emergency director is Keith Higgins but not sure if new Town Office emergency shelter has been integrated into emergency plan.

11. SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

January 7, 2007

12. ADJOURN

**MOTION** by Selectman Chris Eaton to adjourn meeting at 7:46 pm, seconded by Selectman Heath Higgins. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted  
Heidi Farley

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Scott Grierson

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Heath Higgins

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Kathi Thurston

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Chris Eaton

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Lester Closson