

TOWN OF BELGRADE
BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS MEETING

Tuesday / April 20, 2010/ 6:30 p.m./ Town Office

Executive Session Convened 6:30 p.m. / Entered in to Selectpersons Meeting at 6:42 p.m./ Adjourned 9:15 p.m.

Officials in Attendance:

Daniel Newman	Selectperson, Chair	Marcia Haigh	Librarian
Bruce Plourd	Selectperson, V. Chair	Jack Sutton	Budget Comm.
Melanie Jewell	Selectperson	Rebecca Seel	School Comm.
Ernest Rice	Selectperson	Glen Davis	School Comm.
Penelope Morrell	Selectman	Clarence Burnham	Transfer St. Sup.

Others in Attendance: JoAnna Mason, Tina Frappier, Laverne Pelletier and Wayne Pelletier.

Executive Session – Request for Poverty Abatement

Chairman, Daniel Newman declared a quorum and asked for a motion to enter into executive session. Penelope Morrell made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a request for poverty abatement on property taxes, pursuant to Maine State Statue 36, M.R.S.A. 841 (3). Bruce Plourd seconded the motion.

CLOSED 5/0

Melanie Jewell made a motion to close the executive session at 6:40 p.m. Bruce Plourd seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0** Melanie Jewell made a motion to enter into the Board Meeting at 6:42 p.m. Bruce Plourd seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0**

Bruce Plourd made a motion to abate the tax years of 2005, 2006 and 2007 for Case #16. Ernest Rice seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0**

There was some discussion concerning the newly approve Senior Citizen Ordinance and if the applicant would be eligible for this program. This program is not supported by a budget, it will be implemented into the upcoming 2011 budget year. The applicant will be eligible for help through this program.

Order of Business:

1. The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of the April 6, 2010 meeting. Melanie Jewell made a motion to approve of the minutes as amended. Bruce Plourd seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0**

Unfinished Business:

1. There has been no response from DEP on the proposed consent agreement.
2. The Board requested the discussion of the Town Meeting Results discussion be taken up at their May 18th board meeting.

New Business:

1. RSU #18 members Glen Davis and Rebecca Seel were present for the discussion of the upcoming proposed school budget and its impact to Belgrade.

Glen provided an overview of the preliminary budget approved by the school board. There is a slight reduction in the current proposed school budget from 33.8 million to 33.38 million.

Glen stated he has been pleased with the new superintendant, Gary Smith. He feels that he has worked hard on fiscal responsibility and the long term view for the current financial crisis.

Glen feels there is responsible budgeting taking place. Some of these examples are:

- *payments being made on capital projects

- *staffing changes that will be beneficial over long term

- * consolidation of the Oakland Schools and the moving of Belgrade and Sidney fifth grade to the Oakland MMS, which will ease the need for expansion at the Sidney facilities.

- *the combining of the Atwood and Williams School which will require some building to house the Pre K and Kindergarten classes. This is expected to cost a little over two million and will provide a net savings of \$240,000 with a debt service of \$170,000 for twenty (20) years.

- * Consolidation of the China bus runs and food service changes.

- * Administrative restructuring is taking place at the High School.

Glen further stated he felt the RSU School Committee and the Superintendent's office are working to provide a budget that is fiscally responsible without compromising education.

The increase to Belgrade is less than \$7,000. China will see a reduction of \$6,000, Sidney an increase of \$35,000 and Oakland will see an increase of \$95,000.

The Town Manager reported that there will be a change in the school formula for Belgrade which will be reviewed by 2013. The valuation will be changed to a 75% assessed valuation and a 25% population.

Melanie Jewell thought that Belgrade's recommendation was to study moving the fifth grade to the middle school. She and others have concerns about there not being any Title One services available at the middle school. She asked whether or not the current fifth grade teachers would be following their students or if they will lose their jobs with this move.

Rebecca Seel stated that as far as she is concerned, personally, she has not made a decision on the moving of the fifth grade to the middle school. There was an opportunity to tour the middle school and look at the facilities. There may be two positions lost, but the moving is not a done deal.

Melanie suggested that the school district administration may want to get something out to the parent of the elementary schools letting them know this information. While she is not adverse to the move happening, she still feels that it needs further studying.

Penelope Morrell asked about the consolidation savings and then the expenditure of adding on an addition.

Glen replied that the savings in closing the Atwood School would save \$410,000, while the debt service on the addition will cost \$170,000 this will save approximately \$240,000.

Penelope asked about teacher salaries and negotiations.

Glen stated that the School Boards direction to the teachers has been a zero increase, and if there isn't then there will be staff losing positions.

2. The Board reviewed the applications of Laverne and Wayne Pelletier to the Transfer Station Committee. Melanie Jewell made a motion to accept both applications of Laverne and Wayne Pelletier to the Transfer Station Committee for a three year term to expire 2013. Bruce Plourd seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0**

3. The Board reviewed the current Bottle Box Policy. This box is located at the Transfer Station. The Town Manager explained that the policy was established because a number of people had come in and asked to place boxes at the Transfer Station. The space at the Transfer Station is limited and this policy allows for three boxes as well as outlines the guidelines on the size and maintenance of the boxes. He would work with the redemption center at the All Around Fence in making sure the bottles are taken care of.

Ernest Rice suggested a box be placed at the Transfer Station to help lend assistance to needy residents that are unable to pay their taxes. He commented that he would work with All Around Fence company to maintain the bottle box.

Penelope Morrell expressed concerns having to regulate bottle boxes and people's freedom. She feels there should be smaller government.

The Manager replied that due to space constraints and boxes not being maintained there needed to be some guidelines provided to manage the problem.

Melanie Jewell made a motion to approve of the current Bottle Box Policy at the Transfer Station and Recycling Center. Bruce Plourd seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 AGAINST (PENELOPE MORRELL)**

JoAnna Mason and Tina Frappier were both present from Class of 2011. The class would like to take over the bottle box at the Transfer Station in June after the 2010 Class is done with their project graduation fundraising.

The Transfer Station Supervisor, Clarence Burnham, commented that the box made need to be rebuilt or replaced and that the parents need to be responsible to remove the bottles from the box on a regular basis. There are some redemption centers that will pick up the bottles on a regular basis, but they do charge a fee.

Bruce Plourd made a motion to approve of the Class of 2011 taking over the bottle box at the Transfer Station in June. Melanie Jewell seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0**

4. The Town Manager opened the conversation on the Saturday Office hours. He informed the Board he had requested this be placed on the agenda for the board to reconsider.
A discussion ensued about the Saturday hours and the weekly lunch hour's closure period.

Ernest Rice made a motion to table the discussion of the Saturday office hours until the Board can see what the details of the transactions consist of. Melanie Jewell seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0**

5. The Town Manager reviewed the first quarter financial with the board.
(Please see the attached budget worksheets)
Bruce Plourd questioned as to why the estimate on the garage expenses were higher than they were estimated higher than it was when it started. He expressed that he felt the contractor providing the electrical should have a better handle on this as they provide the estimates on a regular basis.

Penelope Morrell expressed concerns about the town having a truck available and now there is a garage. She said that residents have expressed concerns and there have been questions.

The Manager replied that the truck provides flexibility in getting work done when we need it. Initially a spreadsheet was done on the projected savings, it needs to be updated. The manager will provide the Board with the information as soon as the update has been completed. A discussion ensued on the truck and the garage. The manager informed new board members that he will provide a spreadsheet on the cost savings.

6. The Manager reported he had sent the Employee Policy Committee information off to the budget committee for review. He has asked Gayle Finkbeiner to join a short term committee to review the town employee

policies to see if the town is in the right ballpark and is equitable in being able to attract quality employees. This is just a review nothing relevant to pay.

Melanie Jewell said that a couple of years ago this was done and we tweaked some of the information at that time.

Melanie Jewell made a motion to approve of the draft charter and approve of the current list of committee members. Bruce Plourd seconded the motion.

CLOSED 5/0

7. The Town Manager informed the Board that the AYC Contract review committee was not ready yet, but they would be providing a review of both positive and negative.

Melanie Jewell may possibly be interested in joining this committee. Bruce Plourd made a motion to table this agenda item until the information is completed. Ernest Rice seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0**

8. The Town Manager reported that the current Commercial Development Review Ordinance has some regulations on Adult Businesses. This has been looked at and has been brought to the attention of the Planning Board. They have been asked to review it and to bring forth any recommendations they may have to strengthen the town's Commercial Development Review Ordinance.

The Town Manager will follow up with Planning Board Chair, Peter Rushton, on when they may expect this to come forward.

9. The Board reviewed the Belgrade Center for All Seasons Storm Closing Policy. Bruce Plourd made a motion to approve of the Storm Closing Policy for the Center for All Seasons with the minor changes made. Melanie Jewell seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0**

The Board reviewed the Belgrade Center for All Seasons Fee Structure and Recreational Policies. There needs to be some changes made and the Board requested revision dates. This was tabled by the Board until the necessary changes were made.

The Board reviewed the Boston Post Cane Policy. Bruce Plourd made a motion to approve of the Boston Post Cane Policy. Melanie Jewell seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0**

10. The Board reviewed the June referendum question on the leasing of land for the purpose of a cell phone tower. Melanie Jewell made a motion to approve of the referendum question below to go on to the Town June referendum.
"Shall the town of Belgrade authorize the Select Board to enter into discussions with Florida tower Partners, LLC, a Delaware limited company, 401 N. Cattlemen Road? Ste. 305, Sarasota, FL, 34232, or any other company interested in leasing town-owned land for the placement of a cellular tower with the proceeds of the lease to go to the General Fund to offset property taxes?"

11. The Board reviewed the annual Food Pantry Agreement. Melanie Jewell made a motion to approve of the renewal of the Food Pantry Agreement. Bruce Plourd seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0**
12. The Board reviewed the contract with Turner Publishing and the printing of the Town Newsletter in their newspaper. This will provide a cost savings. Melanie Jewell made a motion to approve of the agreement with Turner Publishing for the printing of the town's quarterly newsletter. Bruce Plourd seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0**
13. The Board reviewed **Municipal Warrant #16** in the amount of **\$68,864.16**. Melanie Jewell made a motion to approve of **Municipal Warrant #16** for the in the amount of **\$68,864.16**. Bruce Plourd seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0**
14. The Board reviewed **Manual Warrant #2439** in the amount of **\$1073.38**. Daniel Newman made a motion to approve of **Manual Warrant #2439** in the amount of **\$1,73.38**. Melanie Jewell seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0**
The Board reviewed **Manual Warrant #2441** in the amount of **\$4,642.65**. Daniel Newman made a motion to approve of **Manual Warrant #2441** in the amount **\$4,642.65**. Melanie Jewell seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0**
15. The Board reviewed the information on the resignation of Robert Martin to the Appeals Board. The Town Manager informed the Board that Bob had been placed in a nursing home.

Melanie Jewell made a motion to accept the resignation of Robert Martin with regret and to award him with a plaque for his service. Bruce Plourd seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0**

Add On Agenda Items:

1. The Board reviewed the renewal application of Michial Heino to the Cemetery Committee. Melanie Jewell made a motion to approve of the reappointment of Michial Heino to the Cemetery Committee for a three year period. Bruce Plourd seconded the motion.
2. The Board reviewed the renewal contract with Somerset county PSAP to Waterville Police Department and/or Central Maine Regional Communication Center for the Town of Belgrade. The Town Manager reported that there is a \$.25 cent increase bringing the per capita to \$2.00. Bruce Plourd made a motion to approve of the renewal of the Somerset County PSAP contract with the Town of Belgrade. Melanie Jewell seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0**

Updates & Announcements:

- There is a session on May 19th for a USDA Grant Development Project. The Manager will be meeting with a number of groups that will be eligible for applying for the grant. The Docks to Doorways Committee will be meeting; the Union Church is considering putting in an application for a food pantry and emergency shelter. The Manager will send out the information to Board members. These are low interest loan opportunities.
- A preliminary State valuation has come into the office. Developed property values have gone down so we can go from 82% to 83% percentile of valuation.
- The Manager requested the office be allowed to close on Thursday afternoon at 5:00 p.m. due to a staff shortage. The Board agreed.
- The Medical Marijuana – There are eight facilities currently in the State. The Town manager will track information through the Town Manager's group. The DHS will be developing rules in 120 days. The Board may want to consider putting together an ordinance.

Melanie Jewell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.. Bruce Plourd seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0**

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary J. Vogel
Executive Secretary to the Board of Selectpersons