

**Town of West Bath  
Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
June 23, 2014**

Town of West Bath Board of Selectmen  
Mrs. Paula Nelson, Chair  
Mr. David Bourget  
Mr. Peter Oceretko

Town Administrator Jonathan Davis  
Town Clerk Robert Morris

Attending: David Hennessey; Deputy Fire Chief Jon Beane

A regular meeting of the West Bath Board of Selectmen was held on **Monday, June 23rd, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.** in the meeting room of the West Bath Town Hall, 219 Fosters Point Road, West Bath, ME.

- I. Called to Order by Chair Nelson at 5:30 pm
- II. Attendance and Establishment of Quorum
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. CONSENT AGENDA
  1. Approval of Minutes for June 9th 2014
  2. Approval of Warrant
  3. Upcoming Meeting(s):
    - a.) The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, July 14th, 2014 at the West Bath Town Hall.

**Motion** made by Selectman Oceretko to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Selectman Bourget. **Unanimously Approved.**

- V. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None.
- VI. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS – None.
- VII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT/WORK GROUP REPORTS
  1. Fire Dept: Deputy Fire Chief Beane was present reporting that he and Chief Payson conducted their exam process and interviews yesterday for their promotion process, had four applicants who did very well, and they are recommending Rob Drouin be promoted to Fire Lieutenant. They will offer the promotion to Mr. Drouin this week will confirm. The Board thanked Deputy Chief Beane for the good job and effort they put into this process.

2. Withdrawal Committee: Peter Oceretko briefed the Board that he attended a talk on Common Core and will attend a more in-depth session on June 24<sup>th</sup>. The Committee met with the Town of Topsham school department and Superintendent Brad Smith and had a successful initial meeting and will meet again. The Committee will be meeting with the Brunswick School Superintendent and staff this Wednesday at their meeting for a second meeting for an Executive Session.

Peter passed that the DOE has changed the number of persons needed to vote for the withdrawal approve after 1 January 2015 to remain as it is now, which is half of the number of voters (in West Bath) who voted in the last gubernatorial election (which will be Nov 2014) instead of 2/3rds. The Town Administrator added that not only did DOE not inform anybody about this change, both sides of our process or other communities, they still have the “old” rule posted on their web site and the M.R.S.A. on line still shows the 2/3rds formula. They had apparently made this change in March and had not informed anyone. Peter also passed that in order to get under their wire now for the November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 election, all of the Withdrawal Committee’s work has to be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>, essentially giving us only 2 weeks notice of this deadline... we received DOE’s email about this only last Thursday. Peter added that to us it’s a stumbling block but not a deal-killer. There are right now eight or nine RSU systems in Maine that encompass almost 30 towns that are in the withdrawal process and it will be a deal-killer with a lot of money and time wasted.

Peter passed that it has been brought up in conversation informally that RSU1 may possibly suggest that West Bath swap off the on-going lawsuit for debt. If they do, our RSU1 Withdrawal Committee will take the stand that they do not have the authority to use the lawsuit as a bargaining chip, and if they want to talk about that they’ll have to address it with the Board of Selectmen.

Finally, at the Board’s next meeting he’d like to have an executive session to speak with the Withdrawal Committee’s attorney regarding the RSU debt. Peter provided Selectmen Nelson and Bourget with handout of consolidated list of all RSU1 debt and asked that they familiarize themselves with the information for a future discussion. All of this data was extracted from audits, bond documents and budgets, put together in this one document.

## VIII. BUSINESS ITEMS

### **1. General Assistance Contract**

**Motion** made by Selectman Bourget to approve and have the Town Administrator sign the contract, seconded by Selectman Oceretko. **Unanimously Approved.**

### **2. Ambulance Contract**

**Motion** made by Selectman Bourget to approve and have the Town Administrator sign contract, seconded by Selectman Oceretko. **Unanimously Approved.**

### **3. Tax Commitment Date Policy Change**

The Town Administrator provided the Board with the suggested recommendation from the Tax Collector to fix the date for taxes to be due on the same date each year. It is felt that the moving of the due date each year, though usually only by a few days, it causes tax payers confusion. We've been establishing the due date based on 60 days after the Commitment date (the day the Board votes to go to Commitment). Chair Nelson made the point that each year the due date for taxes is printed on the tax bills. The Board agreed that this topic will be reviewed again and possibly place on our Town Meeting Warrant for next June for the voters to decide at town meeting.

### **4. Appointment Letters**

**Motion** made by Selectman Bourget to accept appointment letters of Town Staff and Committee/Board members effective July 1, 2014 as provided by Town Clerk, with the exception of the appointment of James Whorff as Road Commissioner because he has resigned. Seconded by Selectman Oceretko. **Unanimously Approved.**

### **5. Auditor Engagement Letter**

**Motion** made by Selectman Bourget to sign the engagement letter for William H. Brewer to begin our audit. Seconded by Selectman Oceretko. **Unanimously Approved.**

### **6. Fuel Oil Services**

The Town Administrator provided the Board with several quotes for fuel oil for the coming year.

**Motion** made by Selectman Bourget to contract with M.W. Sewall for fuel oil services. Seconded by Selectman Oceretko. **Unanimously Approved.**

### **7. Other**

Chair Nelson stated that Road Commissioner James Whorff informed the Town Administrator that he will resign as the Road Commissioner. Mr. Whorff advised the Town Administrator that he is willing to stay to assist with the transition. Selectman Bourget offered the suggestion to the other Board members that he take on the job for six months. He felt that candidates for the position are likely to be some of the same people who currently bid on jobs or may also hold contracts in town, and he doesn't want any appearance of favoritism. Selectman Oceretko and Chair Nelson supported that idea and the Board agreed that we will check with our legal council first and place this topic on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

**8. Town Administrator's Report** – Available at the Town Office upon request.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION(S) – None.

X. SELECTMEN COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS – None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT- **Motion** made by Selectman Bourget, seconded by Selectman Oceretko to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:17 pm by **unanimous acclamation**.

Attested to be a true copy.

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Robert K. Morris, Town Clerk