

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**  
**Minutes of 02-16-10**  
**5:30 p.m.**

*Selectmen:* *Peter F. Brothers, Chairman*  
*Miller C. Lovett, Vice Chairman*  
*Robert C. Flanders*  
*Charles G. Palm*  
*Colette Worsman*

*Town Manager:* *Philip L. Warren*

*Recording Clerk:* *Karin Landry*

Call to Order: Chairman Peter Brothers called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He introduced the Board and Town Manager.

**ACCEPTANCE AND/OR CORRECTION OF MINUTES**

**W 10-04**      **Minutes of the January 4 Workshop and Regular Meeting, January 11 and 12 Workshops, and January 19 Workshop and Regular Meeting.**

*Selectman Palm motioned to accept the minutes of the January 4 Workshop and Regular Meeting, January 11 and 12 Workshops, and January 19 Workshop and Regular Meeting. Seconded by Selectman Worsman.*

The minutes of the January 11 Workshop, page 4 of 6, will be amended to include a summary of the dialogue that took place regarding budget questions posed by the Board via email, as opposed to attaching the document created by the Town Manager setting forth the questions and the Town Manager's response.

*Selectman Palm withdrew his motion to accept the minutes of the January 11 Workshop minutes pending said change. Seconded by Selectman Lovett.*

*(Remaining Minutes) 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.*

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

None

**VISITOR'S AND RESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

None

**SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS OR REPORTS**

Selectman Palm has received positive comments on the Pond Hockey Association event that took place on Meredith Bay. The event had a relatively low impact on the area, and gave a boost to local businesses. Parking and pedestrian crossing issues should be addressed for next year.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**OLD BUSINESS****W 10-11 Abatements**

Assessor Jim Commerford presented two settlement agreements for 2008 that have been appealed to the Board of Tax and Land Appeals.

Leopards Leap. 15% of the property lies within the Town of Meredith, with the remainder in Moultonborough. Mr. Commerford recommended an \$8,700 reduction in the assessed value from \$199,300 to \$190,600, for an abatement of \$99.70 in taxes. The proposed settlement has been discussed with the owners.

Great House at Meredith Bay Village. Chair Brothers is employed by the current owner of the Great House and recused himself from the discussion. This condominium was assessed at \$241,500 in 2008. As a result of bank foreclosures, the units are now selling in the \$140,000 - \$150,000 range. Although distressed sales, such as foreclosure activity, are typically not considered, there are factors such as repairs to the roof system, condominium association organization that will have an impact on the value of the units for some time going forward. Mr. Commerford met with the owner of the appealed unit and negotiated an assessment of \$170,000 to settle the case. This amounts to a reduction in value for 2008 of \$71,500, for an abatement of \$819.39 in taxes.

Both abatements will be acted on at the March 1 Board meeting.

**W 10-12 Fourth of July Fireworks**

The Town has received notification from the Greater Meredith Program (GMP) that they are willing to sponsor the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks display over Meredith Bay. The Town Manager provided the Board with information regarding how the event is handled in surrounding communities. If GMP sponsors the event, they will obtain a special event liability policy in the approximate amount of \$600. In addition, a barge must be rented for the display.

Selectman Flanders extended a large thank you to GMP for offering to sponsor the event.

Selectman Worsman very much appreciates the fact that GMP is willing to sponsor the event, and believes that it is an event worthy of the Board's support, but would ideally like to see the costs related to the event covered by the \$15,000 the Town already gives to GMP.

The Chair pointed out that the event is a patriotic celebration and community event that directly results in economic stimulus. In the past, the Town has contributed \$6,000 to the Chamber of Commerce towards the event. In addition, the cost of the barge is approximately \$1,000, and there are expenses incurred for event control. GMP Executive Director Bonnie Ireland told the Board that the organization agreed to take on the event with the understanding that the Town would allocate funds to cover the costs associated with doing so other than the liability policy. She will bring the matter before the GMP Board at their next meeting, as well as inquire whether they are interested in sponsoring the event in upcoming years.

The Board expressed their appreciation for the organization's willingness to step forward. Selectman Flanders praised the organization for its efforts to serve the community over the years, and made it clear that he does not agree with Selectman Worsman's position.

The GMP will come back before the Board once their organization has met. The Selectboard would like to be able to act on the matter soon enough to allow for good planning.

Selectmen Lovett suggested obtaining a bid from the fireworks company.

#### **W 10-10 Local Energy Committee Appointments**

The Town Manager told the Board that various volunteers have stepped forward to serve on the Local Energy Committee, including Bill Bayard on behalf of the Planning Board, and Phil McCormack on behalf of the School Department. Two volunteers have stepped forward on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce. The Town Manager inquired if the Board would agree to expand the number of people serving on the Committee. There are many tasks to be performed, and from past experience he believes it would be beneficial to have more members than is called for in the Committee's Charge. He recommended that the Board consider all who ask to be appointed, whether members of the public or business community, and that interviews before the Board are scheduled.

Although the Chair expressed concerns with the efficiency of a large committee, there was general agreement among the Board that all those who are interested in serving on the Committee should be considered regardless of what is set forth in the Charge. Additional members will bring a broader range of experience to the Committee, and will aid in the formation of subcommittees. The Town Manager does not support the appointment of alternate members to the Committee. There is nothing to preclude the Board from appointing additional members to the Committee in the future. There are nine applicants at this time.

Selectman Worsman suggested that the word “facilitate” be changed to “encourage” in the second sentence of the Charge so that it reads “The goal of the Committee is to promote and encourage energy conservation”. There was general agreement among the Board to accept the change in wording. Dialogue ensued regarding the appointment of a Chairperson and Board of Selectmen representative. The Board representative will be appointed once the upcoming elections have been held and the Board is reorganized. The Committee will be staffed primarily by the Community Development Department, with additional support as directed by the Town Manager. The Board agreed that it is important to get the Committee organized as quickly as is possible in order to take advantage of various grant opportunities. The Board will act on the appointment of the Committee at the March 1 meeting. The Committee may begin their work prior to the appointment of the Board of Selectmen representative.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Selectman Worsman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Flanders. 5-0. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Phillip L. Warren, Town Manager

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Peter F. Brothers, Chairman

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Karin Landry, Recording Clerk

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Miller C. Lovett, Vice Chairman

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Robert C. Flanders

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Charles G. Palm

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Colette Worsman