

**Town of Damariscotta, Maine  
Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
Minutes  
Wednesday, January 18, 2006**

**I. Pledge of Allegiance**

**II. Call To Order**

The Board of Selectmen met at the Municipal Facility on Wednesday, January 18, 2006 to conduct town affairs. Chairman Richard McLean called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Members present were Richard McLean, Scott Gove, Walter Hilton, and Joshua Pinkham. Staff present was Town Manager William Post and Police Chief Steve Drake. Others present were School Board member James Cosgrove, School Union #74 Superintendent Bob Bouchard and Business Manager Diane Wyman, Chris Roberts, Neil Genthner, Peter Everett of Salt Bay Café, Jon Pinkham, Brent Hallowell, Karen O'Bryan (LCTV) and one representative of the media.

**III. Public Hearings**

**1. Liquor License Renewal Application of Salt Bay café, 88 Main Street.**

Chairman McLean opened the public hearing at 6:30 p.m. There were no public comments for or against the application. Peter Everett, owner of Salt Bay Café, was present. The Police Department reports no calls to the business in the previous year. McLean closed the public hearing at 6:31 p.m.

**On motion of McLean/Pinkham, the Board VOTED: To approve the Liquor License Renewal Application of Salt Bay Café as submitted (Vote: 4 – 0).**

**IV. Old Business – None**

**V. Communications – None**

**VI. Official Action**

**1. Meet with Union #74 Superintendent Bob Bouchard and School Board Representative..**

As requested, representatives from School Union #74 attended the meeting to discuss budget concerns.

Superintendent Bob Bouchard stated that the elementary budget is still in the early stages of development, so he does not have any information on that part of the education budget. As for the secondary budget, there was a substantial increase last year in the budget. At this point in the budget process, it appears that there should be a zero increase in the secondary budget, but he cautioned that the figures are still preliminary.

As for the elementary budget, the other three towns in the school union have shown an average increase of about 4% over the current year. This is mostly due to increases in wages and benefits (3.5% increase), health insurance (14% increase) and energy costs. Bouchard stated that he does not anticipate any other items with major increases and there are no additional programs to be funded. In the future, the roof at the school will be in need of a major repair, but he hopes to have it completed in stages.

Pinkham asked what is being done currently to reduce energy costs. Bouchard responded that the principal has implemented cost saving measures for electricity and heat, including turning the heat down and turning lights off.

Pinkham asked if there were any areas in the budget that can be cut. Bouchard responded that in the three other towns in the district, the increase has been about 4%, and there have been cuts made in some areas so that the increase is not larger than that.

Pinkham stated that because the Damariscotta budget consists of about 70% of school costs, he would like more communication between the Board and the school system and would like school systems representatives to keep the budget down. Bouchard responded that he understands the concern and makes every attempt to keep the budget down.

Cosgrove stated that he shares the same concern, but 82% of the school system's costs are not controlled by the School Board.

Post asked if there would be any increase in state funding through the supposed tax reform passed last year. Bouchard answered that there will be very little, if any, increase in state funding for Damariscotta. The Town is currently a 1% receiver and may gain more funding for special education if they were a 0% receiver.

Post stated that the tax reform passed by the legislature last year has actually reduced state funding to both the Town and the school system. In addition, since the Homestead Reimbursement was reduced instead of increasing, taxpayers have to pick up that cost as well. Bouchard responded that he shares the same frustration that the tax reform does not allow for any true tax savings for the taxpayers.

Gove asked if the state subsidy would be affected by the Town's recently finished revaluation. Bouchard stated that it would not have any effect, as the state calculates a valuation each year for the town.

Gove asked if the school system is saving for capital costs as the Town does by reserving funds for specific purposes. Bouchard stated that the school system has caught up with its capital costs, especially by replacing the buses. As for the roof replacement, it makes more sense for the school union to borrow from the state the funding needed at 0% interest over a period of 7 to 10 years. The funding for the replacement of copiers, floor maintenance and other capital costs is provided through the operating budget.

Wyman stated that the school's reserves are not as specific as the Town's, but the reserves can be used for most any capital expense.

McLean stated that the representatives have a standing invitation from the Board to attend any meetings and to keep the Board informed.

Pinkham stated that he would like to have the school representatives attend another meeting once the budget is more concrete.

The Board thanked the school representatives.

## **2. Act on Police Vehicle Bids.**

Post stated that the Town received several bids on the police vehicle. The results are shown below:

Bidder: Model:	Newcastle Dodge/Chrysler Dodge Charger	Augusta Ford Ford Crown Victoria	Blouin Motors Dodge Charger	Shepard Chrysler Dodge Charger
Delivery Time:	90-120 days	80 days	90-120 days	112 days
<b>Alternate 1: V-6 w/trade</b>				
Gross Price	\$21,573			
Trade-In Allowance	<u>(\$2,500)</u>			
Subtotal	\$19,073	No bid	No bid	No bid
Extended Warranty 5 Year/75,000 miles	<u>\$1,549</u>			
Net cost to Town	\$20,622			
<b>Alternate 2: V-6 No trade</b>				
Gross Price	\$21,573		\$21,663	
Trade-In Allowance	<u>\$0</u>		<u>\$0</u>	
Subtotal	\$21,573	No bid	\$21,663	No bid
Extended Warranty 5 Year/75,000 miles	<u>\$1,549</u>		<u>\$1,500</u>	
Net cost to Town	\$23,122		\$23,163	
<b>Alternate 3: V-8 w/trade</b>				
Gross Price	\$23,308	\$20,834		
Trade-In Allowance	<u>(\$2,500)</u>	<u>-\$2,080</u>		
Subtotal	\$20,808	\$18,754	No Bid	No bid
Extended Warranty 5 Year/75,000 miles	<u>\$1,549</u>	<u>\$1,090</u>		
Net cost to Town	\$22,357	\$19,844		
<b>Alternate 4: V-8 No trade</b>				
Gross Price	\$23,308	\$20,834	\$23,398	No Breakdown provided
Trade-In Allowance	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	
Subtotal	\$23,308	\$20,834	\$23,398	
Extended Warranty 5 Year/75,000 miles	<u>\$1,549</u>	<u>\$1,090</u>	<u>\$1,500</u>	
Net cost to Town	\$24,857	\$21,924	\$24,898	\$30,123

Police Chief Drake stated that he recommends purchasing the Dodge Charger from Newcastle Chrysler with the V-6 engine, extended warranty and the trade-in for a net cost to the Town of \$20,622. The Michigan State Police has tested the Charger and the gas mileage is about 19 mpg. The difference in acceleration from the Ford with the V-8 engine is negligible and there are grommets in place that allows for easier wiring of the vehicle than the Ford. In addition, the latest Ford the Town bought has had maintenance problems.

Gove asked how much the equipment would cost for the vehicle. Drake stated that a new cage will be approximately \$500, \$1,000 for lights and light accessories, and he is looking for a price on magnetic door seals instead of striping the vehicle.

Pinkham stated that he would prefer that the vehicle be decaled like the others.

Gove stated that the magnetic door decals will fall off the vehicle.

Gove asked how old the lightbar is. Drake stated that it was purchased before former Chief bracket was in office.

McLean asked what would be done with the old lightbar. Drake stated that he would keep it and maybe use it at a later time.

**On motion of Hilton/McLean, the Board VOTED: To accept the police vehicle bid from Newcastle Chrysler Dodge Jeep for \$20,622 for the Dodge Charger with a V-6 engine and extended warranty (Vote: 4 – 0).**

Gove asked if the Town could get more money from selling the old cruiser instead of accepting the trade-in amount. Post stated that he does not believe that will be possible. He previously had contacted cab companies in Boston and New York and they did not offer as much.

The Board decided to place the old cruiser out to a sealed bid sale in order to receive more than \$2,500 for it. If bids are less than that, the Town can trade the vehicle.

**3. Act on Resignation of Fire Chief Doug Clark and Appoint Neil Genthner Fire Chief.**

**On motion of Hilton/McLean, the Board VOTED: To accept Doug Clark's resignation as Fire Chief with appreciation (Vote: 3 – 0 –1, Pinkham abstained).**

**On motion of McLean/Gove, the Board VOTED: To appoint Neil Genthner Fire Chief until June 30, 2006 (Vote: 3 – 0 –1, Pinkham abstained).**

Jon Pinkham asked if the Board could change when they make their appointment so that it coincided with the election by the engine company. McLean stated that the Board makes appointments in June for the next municipal year according to the Town's Charter.

Gove asked Genthner if he anticipates a personnel problem in the department. Genthner stated that he does not expect one and he will work with the Town Manager if one arises.

Jon Pinkham asked if any of the municipal officials are discussing a municipal fire department. The Board members answered that they had not had any discussions around that topic.

**4. Act on Animal Shelter Contract.**

Post stated that by state statute the Town is required to provide shelter for animals that are lost or otherwise in need of shelter. The Town annually contracts with the Lincoln County Animal Shelter and this year the shelter is requesting a contribution of \$905. The Town has budgeted \$600 for this purpose.

**On motion of Gove/Hilton, the Board VOTED: To approve the contract with the Lincoln County Animal Shelter as submitted except providing an amount of \$600 instead of \$905 (Vote: 4 – 0).**

McLean asked if there was a formula used to determine the amount requested by the shelter for Damariscotta. Post will get more information from the shelter.

**VII. Town Manager's Discussion**

1. Speed Limit Change on Chapman Street.

Post announced that the Town's request to reduce the speed limit on Chapman Street from 30 m.p.h. to 25 m.p.h. was approved by the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT). However, MDOT did not approve the speed limit reduction on Church Street as requested.

McLean asked when the signs would be changed. Post stated that the Road Commissioner would be attending to that, but did not know if he had signs in stock.

Gove asked why the request was submitted. Drake stated that it was submitted by the Board for safety reasons.

Drake stated that he will inform the media and instruct his officers to allow a grace period, if appropriate.

2. Payoff of Fire Station Loan.

Post stated that the Fire Station loan will be paid off this month instead of in September 2006. Additional payments on principle have been made over the previous two years and this allows for the early payoff. Interest savings will amount to \$1,700.

**VIII. Consent Calendar**

**1. Regular Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2006.**

**On motion of Gove/Hilton, the Board VOTED: To approve the minutes of January 4, 2006 as submitted (Vote: 4 – 0).**

**2. Financial Reports:**

a. Payroll Warrant #33 General Fund Warrant #34.

**On motion of McLean/Hilton, the Board VOTED: To approve Payroll Warrant #33 and General Fund Warrant #34 as submitted (Vote: 4 – 0).**

b. December Expense Report.

c. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Revenue Report.

McLean noted that the Legal Services account is nearly expended. Post stated that this account will most likely be fully expended by fiscal year end, and some of contingency may be used due to the costs of attorneys around the land use petition and other regular work.

Post stated that he is very happy with the revenues in all of the accounts, but especially the excise tax and building permits accounts. Both are well ahead of projections at the 6-month period of the fiscal year.

**On motion of McLean/Hilton, the Board VOTED: To accept the December Expense Report and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Revenue Report as submitted (Vote: 4 – 0).**

**IX. Other Business**

1. Pinkham asked about the sale of 27 Church Street. Post stated that the potential buyer has until Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> to determine if he will purchase the property or not.

2. Pinkham stated that there is a drainage problem on Vine Street. Post stated that he would ask the Road Commissioner about it.

3. Hilton noticed that the clock is not keeping time. McLean stated that it may be due to the wind. Post will check on it.
4. Hilton stated that the *Portland Press Herald* made a reporting error in an article announcing the movie presented at the library. The article stated that it was sponsored by the Town of Damariscotta, which it was not. There was a retraction the next day. In addition, the Our Town group stated that the Board of Selectmen have been told that Wal-Mart would go to Newcastle or Nobleboro if not allowed in Damariscotta. This also is not true. The Board has not been told that by Wal-Mart.
5. Gove stated that he expects any civic or business organization not to discriminate against anyone by not allowing attendance at a public meeting, which happened recently with the Downtown Business Association.

**X. Executive Session – None**

**XI. Adjournment.**

**On motion of Hilton/Gove, the Board VOTED: To adjourn at 7:38 p.m. (Vote: 4 – 0).**

Respectfully Submitted:

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William S. Post, Town Manager