

**Town of Damariscotta, Maine**  
**Board of Selectmen's Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 20, 2008, 6:30 p.m.**

Present were: Selectmen: Dick McLean, Josh Pinkham, Vicki Pinkham, Dave Wilbur, Ed Stelzer, Town Manager, Greg Zinser, Deputy Clerk, Jurate Barnes. Also present were Robert Clifford, Todd Maurer and Jim Campbell.

**I. Pledge of Allegiance**

**II. Public Hearings**

**III. Call to Order**—Chair J. Pinkham opened the board of Selectmen's meeting at 6:30 pm. Selectman Stelzer joined the meeting at 6:32 pm

**IV. Communications**

**V. Town Manager Discussion**

3. Heating Assistance—Robert Clifford and Todd Maurer representing Community Energy Fund. The Fund provides heating assistance to people in Lincoln County. All of the money raised goes to energy assistance; there is no overhead, the effort is staffed entirely by volunteers.

Clifford/Maurer: the average person is one disaster away from poverty; the fund gives priority to those who don't qualify for any other programs as well as the elderly; helps about 150-200 families annually with any type of fuel. Although the program does not start until after Labor Day, there are applicants waiting to get in line. Concern is to avoid duplication of effort with other agencies. Networking with towns, fire and police departments churches, etc. with a referral program is the best route for the Fund.

J. Pinkham: let's spread the word, work together so no duplication from other organizations.

Wilbur: where can contributions be sent?

Maurer: P.O. Box 40, Bristol ME.

Clifford: weatherization also key to winter fuel savings: plug those holes. Eighteen towns through the county are being helped.

J. Pinkham: consider petition to get money from towns

Clifford: there are people who are strong in grants; Maine Community Fund is helping to co-ordinate. Right now we are just working together. There is an EMA forum at Lincoln Academy on September 9.

Selectmen thanked Clifford and Maurer for their update and efforts.

Chair J. Pinkham recognized Damariscotta citizen, Jim Campbell

Mr. Campbell strongly conveyed to the Board his dissatisfaction with the new traffic light on Main St., the fact that traffic is routinely backed up to Yellowfront, the paint job Main St. directing traffic.

Zinser responded that the Town, on its own initiative, painted the “Keep Clear” sign and that Rep. McKane is involved with the whole traffic light issue; DOT is no longer discussing it with the Town

Campbell: about 12 parking places have been lost downtown, 10’ narrower; why is there no police officer directing traffic 9-5.

Zinser: we do have a foot patrol, but due to budget constraints cannot afford a full-time officer on Main St.

Campbell continued to stress his dissatisfaction with lack of police presence on Main St.,

Zinser: Police Chief should really be here to explain how the department operates in order to answer Mr. Campbell’s concerns; I would be happy to set up a meeting.

J. Pinkham thanked Mr. Campbell for stopping in.

1. Harbor Committee Update—Zinser: Harbor Committee had a successful meeting yesterday, moving forward, incorporating a lot of good data for the ordinance from the Coast Guard, public safety, etc.
2. Janice Hay proposal—Hay: here to inquire about using my right-of-way and acquiring road frontage in order to subdivide property.  
Zinser: have things changed since you went to Planning Board asking if the town would consider a road.  
Hay: need 100’ frontage to properly subdivide; want to hear what Board has to say about utilizing the area; need access to my site.  
Zinser: need survey data—what part of the parcel this would entail in order to obtain adequate frontage if road constructed across town land. The following need to be determined: who will pay for and maintain the road; specifics for construction of the road: if constructed with public money, then it is a public road, if Hay pays for the road, across town property, but maintained with public money, then it only serves a few lots. Town originally purchased this land as a growth area for the cemetery.  
McLain: not against continuing to look at and pursuing a possible sale, however, dozens of questions still need to be answered.  
Zinser: need to see a survey describing proposed road, just how much physical space required, get surveyor to give Board concrete measurements/dimensions of the corner.  
Hay: will get a plan  
(J. Pinkham at this point polled the Board if they agreed to the need for a survey. Board unanimously agreed)  
Zinser: what is your time frame for the subdivision/  
Hay; as soon as possible.  
Zinser: do not want to create any strain on town for funding.
3. Arron Sturgis—Preservation Timber Framing—Clock/Steeple Q&A  
Brought Board up to date on progress of restoring the steeple: currently dismantling spire; we are a preservation company that is trying to restore the steeple in a traditional manner as possible. (Sturgis described the condition of the steeple in detail and passed around photos of ongoing

repair) The level of damage is very severe and extensive; there is a lot of work ahead; level of damage in the tower box is dramatic.

Zinser: the Town has taken care of the clock, one of the concerns is the \$58,000 cost to put the clock in, that is a lot more than anticipated. What if the clock is not put back (into the steeple), does the work still have to be completed?

Sturgis: yes, the clock deck is part of the tower box is structural.

V.Pinkham: does this reduce the cost to the Town?

Sturgis: how you define your responsibility is not my business.

Zinser: what is the cost of the completed tower, without the clock put back in; need to define what it will cost. This is a big issue, we don't have that kind of cash, but don't want to hold up the work.

McLean: although the town has a history of ownership of the clock, when the town took it over, never at that time was a cost of \$58,000 anticipated.

Zinser: need to establish a cost the Town can afford, then the Board meets with the steeple committee.

Sturgis: common for town's to own clocks; the issue needs to be defined, people not giving money to the church rather to a town icon.

McLean: why \$4,800 for gold leaf numbers; always have been painted white.

Stelzer: can you provide a gut, ball park figure of how much of the whole structure can be re used.

Sturgis: about 55% original

Board thanked Mr. Sturgis for his time and information.

## **VI. Selectmen's Discussion Items**

1. Code of Ethics—Stelzer: a broader subject that should have general policy procedures for town officials

Zinser: the general idea is a broad policy for boards and committees; a component of broader policies; will get copies to you; there will be no need to recreate the wheel.

## **VII. Official Action**

1. Review and possibly approve RFP 2009-04: Shore and Harbor RFP—J. Pinkham: no further discussion necessary?  
McLain move to approve RFP 2009-04 as presented; V. Pinkham second, Motion approved 5-0
2. Act on Cemetery Deed and perpetual care agreement for David & Leah Cowan: Zinser: pending payment  
V. Pinkham: move to approve cemetery deed and perpetual care agreement pending payment for both David and Leah Cowan; Stelzer: second. Motion approved 5-0
3. Lucy Harrington Request—possible letter from Town: Zinser: an e-mail from Harrington regarding sign; directed her to state engineer. Harrington asking for letter of support from the Town.  
J. Pinkham: talking, working with the Chamber?  
Stelzer: this is joint Newcastle-Damariscotta; more broad based  
McLean: not prepared to endorse

McLean: move at this time that the Town of Damariscotta not provide a letter of support for Ms. Harrington's request. Stelzer: second  
Board members discussed that they need some sense that the business community is behind this request.

Zinser: suggest you hold off until the Chamber of Commerce meeting.

McLean: rescind the motion; table until after the Chamber meeting;

Stelzer: second

#### **VIII. Old Business**

Stelzer: pleased to see the 30kw generator installed; would be very happy if up and operating by October 1.

Zinser: electrical work just about complete

J. Pinkham: I don't like that light out there (on Main St.); is road ditching on schedule?

Zinser: behind because of rain; on schedule for September

V. Pinkham: do we have a date on the new cruiser?

Zinser: no concrete answer yet

McLean: Land Use Committee opportunity in Damariscotta Site Review Ordinance design standards; the last effort, draft #21 was worked to Board of Selectmen recommendations; recommend put to town for a vote at next opportunity.

J.Pinkham: group all the ordinances together

Zinser: need to talk a lot more about that

J.Pinkham: time-wise, it would be good

Zinser: the Fire Department building ordinance is straight forward, one more meeting should cover it; Driveway entrance—2 meetings more/workshop in October; could be special town meeting near the end of November.

V.Pinkham: no way to combine with election voting?

Zinser: too late

Zinser: set another Board workshop prior to September 17 meeting, then act on Sept. 17 to do more. (workshop set for Sept 15 @ 6:30pm) Ordinance review: FD building; large scale development; driveway entrance.

#### **IX. Consent calendar**

Regular meeting minutes of August 6, 2008: V. Pinkham move to accept/McLean second. Motion approved 5-0

1. General Fund Warrant #8: V. Pinkham move to accept/ J. Pinkham second. Motion approved 5-0.

2. Payroll Warrant #7: McLean move to approve/V. Pinkham second. Motion approved 5-0.

#### **X. Other Business**

#### **XI. Executive Session**

#### **XII. Adjournment**

On motion McLean/V. Pinkham, 5-0 meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.