

COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 22, 1997

INTRODUCTIONS

Dale Witman Introduces the Board, Bob Fay and Pat Sicard. Dennis Abbott is absent. Dale welcomes the turnout of officers from Me State Police Troop A and York County Sheriff's Dept. Lt. Stephen Marchessault is introduced and asked to speak.

Lt. Marchessault introduces his officers that are present: Ted Short, Kevin Burton, Jerome Carr, John Shapiro, Dick Phillips.

Lt. Marchessault states that in the past 2 or 3 years, the majority of the calls from Troop A are from Waterboro, not to cause alarm. Channel 13 put out statistics on crimes in Maine. Maine is a safe place to live, burglaries are down according to the statistics, which conflicts with statistics for Troop A. Crimes are up 14 %, figures relative to drugs are up 42%. This causes him concern. They look at property crimes through aggressive criminal investigation. The ability to share information with York County Sheriff's Dept. is important to the success of law enforcement. They are very aggressive in their patrol efforts. To be successful it is very important for people to help the officers, to cooperate, and to get to know them. There is a high population in Waterboro with a lot of people also traveling through to get to work; these are some reasons for the increases in crime. There have been efforts in Arrowhead where groups of citizens are looking to make their environment safer, which seems to be working. We have to work together. The State Police received a couple of letters from the selectmen regarding speeding, and patrolled these areas. They didn't catch anyone but sometimes their presence is enough. The Town of Waterboro feels the biggest issue is speeding.

Lt. Marchessault opens the floor to questions.

Bob Fay asks if there is an age group causing most problems?

Steve M. says that age 15-22. Bob then asks are these house break ins happening during daytime hours when people are at work? Steve M. says yes they are mostly daytime burglaries, but there are some kids with firearms and there have been quite a few firearms stolen from homes. Steve says these groups are organized and some have communications and know where the police are. He says law enforcement has to get their act together and it will take a collaborative effort between the two agencies. It concerns him that these burglar's are carrying guns and stealing guns.

What area does Troop A cover. 17 towns who don't have their own police coverage, about 35,000-40,000 people.

Bob Fay asks are most of the break ins when people aren't home? Steve M. says yes but there is always the danger of walking in on a burglary.

Mike MacAlevey asks Steve to tell us about drug activity in the community. Steve says solving this problem lies with parent issues, and moral and ethical issues. A reason for the increase in criminal activity is that alcohol and drug use is up in kids from 6th grade through high school. Dr. Dana reports that some common threads of successfully keeping kids from using drugs is being involved in sports, jobs, having parents who know where there kids are and who talk to their kids.

Larry Jacobsen asks, what kind of cooperation do they get from SAD 57. Steve says that the Sheriff's Dept. work with the schools more than they do. Wes Phinney states that Bruce Woodsome deals with the schools more than anyone and he says that the administration is forthright and there is a good working relationship. The department is active in the DARE program with the schools.

Tony Vigue from Frontier Vision asks would the State Police be interested in a televised two way communications with the cable company and if so he would be happy to work with them on that.

Steve M. states he received a call from our Parks and Rec. Director and is interested in activities with kids and troopers (a police athletic league).

Pam L'Heureux asks what should we do if we see a crime? She did at Old Home Days last year and called the police but the kids were gone by the time they got there. Should we try to stop them? Steve says he wouldn't suggest we try to do that. Pam asks shouldn't there be a police presence at Old Home Days? Steve said that if they know when these events are they can be available and yes it would help. The first step is to involve ourselves by reporting these things to the police. A question was asked about educating the adults as well as the children, it seems children are following the examples of the adults. Steve says it is very difficult to have an impact on the adults other than through the judicial system. It is hard to impose our morals on other adults but is easier to work with kids while we can make an impact on them.

Bob Fay asks if there is any gang activity? Steve Says yes, in Lake Arrowhead there was an upstart of a gang and there has been an attempt to stomp it out, that seems to be working. Dave Dittmer asks if it is from internal or external influence. Steve says a little of both.

Jack Hewes says it seems like the police aren't as visible as they could by. He thinks if they sit and try to catch speeders, they would be more visible and possible deter crime that way. Steve says they do employ a number of tactics and that is one of them.

Dale thanks Lt. Marchessault for coming out tonight and asks all the troopers present to come up to the front. They are introduced again, and Dale presents a plaque to them.

Dale then asks Wes Phinney, Sheriff of York County, to come up front. Wes thanks the selectmen for having officers here tonight. The Sheriff's Dept. services similar area as

Troop A. It is a 3 zone coverage. There are 2 to 3 men on duty 24 hours a day. The two departments compliment each other well in York County and there is a very good history of that. Citizens can take pride that the two departments get along well.

Wes states that the York County Sheriff's Department is an organization that prioritizes criminal work. The key problem in this community is burglary and larceny with disorderly conduct and criminal mischief. Gang activity has begun, knife fights involving youths is also happening. They have to take a hard look at these things. Fortunately we have a good Rec. Department and we also have a DARE program in the schools. Officers are working with youths with group athletic programs. The department stays involved at other levels other than law enforcement.

There was a survey to get a feel for how citizens feel the department is doing. One comments on that was that the citizens felt they could do a better job of returning calls to the public. Wes would like us to realize that they are spread very thin. They cover 500 square miles. Bruce Woodsome reports that he has a copy of this survey and would be glad to send it to anyone interested in it. Wes talks more about the survey. The biggest problem the citizens define is speeding. Though there are speeders, the agency doesn't prioritize that problem. The priority calls are domestic abuse and assault, domestic violence which are the key areas of concern for them. Speeding is a serious problem but Wes would like citizens to realize there is a lot more going on than they realize. He cautions citizens to be aware, to do what is right to remain safe in their homes. He thought that getting more media attention was a great idea. The public doesn't realize everything the officers do on a daily basis, handling any major crime you can imagine.

The Sheriff's present are brought to the front and introduced.

Gary Fecteau from Waterboro, works the 4-12 shift.

Bruce Woodsome Chief Deputy from Waterboro

Lt. Libby, Detective.

Danielle Smith, Field Training

Dave Dumont Patrol Deputy from Waterboro

K. McHutchin works 12-8 shift from Waterboro

Arthur Titcomb Detective from Wells.

Dale says that he came to know more about York County Sheriff's while he served on the York County Budget Committee. Money was appropriated for additional officers and he can appreciate how much we need extra people after seeing an officer have to travel from Alfred to Lebanon to cover an accident. Wes Phinney states that Dale was one of the key catalysts for the cop fast budgeting and thanked him for that. Dale says he would like to increase everyone's awareness that there is a clear move underway for a fee for service budgeting next year.

Dale presents a plaques to the Sheriff's Department.

Dale then introduces Mike MacAlevey who retired from the Sheriff's Department and is now in his second term in the legislature. He would like to make a presentation to two

State Troopers who are present. Willis Lord says that he has sponsored sentiments before to Eagle Scouts and Mrs. Abbott who turned 100 years old but never to state troopers. It is easy to find fault but we don't usually reward troopers for outstanding work.

Mike M. states that these two troopers saved a life of a lady who found herself in the Saco River. Without the efforts and daring she wouldn't be with us today. Recognition of special award given to Jerome Carr for prompt response on April 1, 1996 on behalf of the legislature and people of the State of Maine the award was presented. Richard Phillips was also honored and presented an merit and citation award, as he was the officers who went in the river on a rope after the lady and he doesn't swim.

Mike M. states that we enjoy a degree of domestic tranquillity due to citizen involvement and volunteerism. And because of these people. He encourages us to get to know our local law officers and them to do the same.

Dale says he invited them here to allow the citizens to get to know the people behind the badge. There was a good dialogue this evening. Regardless of the amount of funding there will still be crime. We in Waterboro are fortunate to have the number of officers living in our community to assist in keeping the crime rate to a level that we can still refer to Waterboro as a great place to live. Dale thanks them again.

There is a break for refreshments compliments of Lee's Dairy Curl and Maple Manor. Ice Cream with Maple syrup topping.

Council Meeting begins.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Dale reports; on April 14, 15 Pat Sicard and Patti Berry went to a General Assistance Seminar to be provided an update on the legal requirements of the General Assistance program, and to be advised of the changes. Selectmen in the past have enjoyed John Monteith who served as GA Administrator and have appreciated his services. Since John's retirement the duties have been transferred to the selectmen's assistant and secretary.

The Selectmen have a meeting with Roger Gobeil from DOT to discuss setting speed limits in town and the posting of roads. There is work in progress on the traffic light in So. Waterboro. At no cost to the town CMP will set a new pole and at no cost to the town the Electric Light Co. will restring the light. We asked for money at town meeting and reported that we were looking into getting it fixed at no cost. The work will be completed directly.

The Selectmen met with Dennis Finn and Mike Towns from the Saco River Corridor Commission and reviewed what the commission does and responsibilities are as to enforcement. Selectmen are anxious to see a repeal of the duplication of services. The commission is getting local zoning requirements and working on a format to reduce paperwork and red tape. They are trying to get one application that will cover everything.

Bob Fay states that the surcharge on water usage for Lake Arrowhead and Cornish have been removed from the original bill from legislature. There will not be a surcharge to anyone in Waterboro.

Dale reports the selectmen have been working on the Ossipee Lake Watershed Study with DEP. The intent is to find out where run-off sediments are bringing pollution into the lake. One Saturday was a day of training, and last Saturday was the survey. The survey is complete. The teams identifying problems will make a report and send it to Augusta DEP.

Bob Fay reports the selectmen will be meeting with the Fire Department and MMA to prepare a warrant article for special town meeting, before the next couple of months we will be bringing the Fire Department under the town's umbrella.

SELECTMEN'S ASSISTANT REPORT

Pat Sicard reports that Bill Simmons from Adult Ed. at Massabesic presented a workshop on computers last Friday. The next workshop will be May 16 on marketing.

When Pat attended the GA training it became clear that more and more of the responsibilities of towns for welfare recipients. It will be taking much more time.

We are in the process of upgrading and revising our personnel policy and our safety program. At our monthly staff meeting we invited Triple A fire extinguishers to train employees. Bob Fay says that the personnel policy is not a final draft. The selectmen will be asked for comments after our attorney has reviewed it. This draft was made by Dwayne Morin. Bob says it will be done by the time he leaves office. Dale states that our personnel policy begs our attention. It is outdated and badly in need of being revised. It is receiving that scrutiny and being updated. Need a Policy that will service our needs.

Bob brings up RWS and the "blistering article" in Casco Bay Weekly. RW executive director responded with a letter to Millard. Millard has arranged for a meeting here with the surrounding towns. Millard called RWS today to have Chuck Foshay here also. Hollis, Ogunquit, Lyman, and Limington selectmen will be invited also. Bob Fay says he doesn't know what is true or not true and this would be a chance to talk directly with them. There are violations with the State and there are fines ongoing. Nothing has been done with the Gorham site. Millard says it concerns him that tipping fees will be kept at \$98 for the next 5 years, over the next 15 years they could go up as much as \$170, and the 15th year they will drop to \$50. Bob Fay says there will be a meeting, there may be a request for an audit. This will effect our local taxes.

PLANNING BOARD

Larry Jacobsen reports he missed the last meeting, it has been quiet. Dwayne Woodsome reports that they have the Milkroom so they can get gas. There have been a couple of subdivisions.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Dave Kruegar reports there are no cases pending. They had a workshop last week and will have the next one in June. They are working on getting the application process finalized. Bill Griffin asks what is the definition of a permanent structure, particularly swimming pools. Bob Fay says this is an area that needs to be addressed in our zoning. Dale says that our zoning is very strict in nature and believes the planning board will be taking a look at that issue.

TOWN CLERK, TAX COLLECTOR, MOTOR VEHICLE AGENT, TREASURER

No report.

ROAD COMMISSIONER

Fred Fay reports he has been working on a water drainage problem in So. Waterboro, and working on Thyng's Mills Road wash out. Willis Lord reports to Fred that the hill is washing out by Warren Libby's house, and thinks the ditch needs cleaning out. Bob Fay asks how much water damage from the rain last weekend. Fred says none. Bob Fay says that Fred has requested the selectmen to meet with Alfred selectmen on a stretch of New Road that belongs to Alfred but we maintain. Fred has also requested the selectmen to meet with North Shapliegh about the road into the conservancy. We may be able to get them to fix it.

ROAD REVIEW COMMITTEE

Fred Fay reports that they have had no meetings.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Molly MacDaniel reports that the Finance Committee hasn't met since Town Meeting.

SAD 57 DIRECTORS

Millard reports the Board approved the proposed budget, which will be voted on May 6. There will be a public informational hearing on April 30 at 7 p.m. at Massabesic High School on the proposed budget, so when you vote on the budget May 6 you'll know what your voting on. The proposed teacher's raise is 2.8% . Willis Lord says the salaries of SAD 57 employees should be published in the report like it used to be. Millard says, as a member of the Finance committee he can request that information. The reason they omitted salaries out of the report to cut the size of the report to save money. Dale says that to trim the report is restricting information to tax payers, he would think there's a better ways of saving money than that. With a 17 million dollar budget he would encourage a budget broken down into line items, there is a lot of information that could be handed out that isn't. Willis Lord says that isn't the fault of the School board, blame it on

the state board of education. They've grouped a lot of things together to shorten the amount of articles. Brenda Charland says she is concerned about the fact that they anticipate to roll back \$570,000 and the budget is going up \$600,000 this year. There is always several hundred thousand dollars turned back and the budget still raises. There is a 3.9% increase not considering the roll over. Millard says the state allows a 3% carryover of budget, anything more than that goes to Augusta. Dale Witman says he hopes on April 30 at 7 everyone turns out and addresses the whole school board on these issues. We are talking about 80% of our tax dollars.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER/ CONSTABLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

No Report.

PARKS AND REC DIRECTOR

Dave Dittmer reports last Friday they had a soccer clinic with about 25 kids showing. Tomorrow there is a work project being done by Massabesic ROTC program cleaning up Friendship Park. ROTC has been very active in community services. Summer Rec. is ready to start rolling. Jean Roberts will be coming back to work for summer rec. again this year. There will be more stuff for adults this summer.

LAKE ARROWHEAD ASSOCIATION

No Report

EMA DIRECTOR

Pam L'Heureux reports she is going to meet with the sheriff's dept. and the state police to go over the EMA plan. She will be going to a week long class in Washington teaching kids public safety in schools.

E911

Pam L'Heureux reports the maps are in Augusta, to be picked up in 2 ½ weeks. Every location will have to be revisited to make sure the maps are correct. Within the next two months the street signs will be up. The completed map will be back in a month after that. Pat Sicard adds that once our program is completed this information goes to the post office to address, they have 3 months to complete. They will send notification out to everyone about their address. Bill Griffin asks is there any plans to publish the new maps?

Dale Witman says he is sure they will be down scaled and distributed through out town. He has gone through a nightmare in Lyman with new addresses and he hopes Waterboro does a better job of organizing. Citizens will be responsible to label our houses. Bob Fay asks Pam if there is any money in the account for maps to be reproduced. He doesn't want people to think we will be distributing maps for free, there may be a charge for them.

RWS

Millard reports we already covered this earlier.

CABLE TV

Dick Bateman reports that since the town has expressed an interest in more access, he brought Tony Vigue from Frontier Vision with him and introduces him. His purpose is to update where we are at with franchise renewal with Frontier Vision. The Federal Government deregulated cable t.v. so we cannot negotiate rates with the cable co. We can make it clear that we have needs and wants for next 10 years. Can tell the cable co. we're not happy with rates comparing them to surrounding towns. Towns have very clear rights in the law. We can ask the cable co. for camcorder and they have to provide the means and equipment for us to publicize on one channel. That is state law. Willis Lord asks can we negotiate for expansion of coverage? Tony V. says yes we can. Bob Fay says we have asked for public access channel. Tony says right now there are two channels available. Channel 9 is BETV. Channel 3 is for all 6 towns to use. For many years Standish was the only town using it, now Buxton is using it along with Waterboro. We could request our own but first we must document the need. Bob F. asks does the existing channel have room for all towns. Tony V. says they have been able to accommodate the three towns using it so far. Bob asks why doesn't SAD 57 have their own channel. Tony said the original cable franchise, Saco River Cable worked with them to develop the channel. In the next ten years \$20 million will go to cable co. and we have a right to expect something back. Use the franchise to our full advantage, that is Tony's job and is willing to work with us. TV channel 3 is full. It would be tough to get another town on it. Town government can't be in a position to decide what will be put on the channel. There are reasons to keep municipal and school events separate. There is a questionnaire at town hall, please fill it out. That is the information that will be used to bargain with. Dale Witman says this might be a good issue to have a public meeting on, and that it is very important to get the questionnaires in.

FAIR HEARING

ASSESSING BOARD OF REVIEW

No Report

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Elias Smith reports that there have been 63 fire calls and 138 rescue calls. On April 26 there will be a benefit for the fire department at the Jr. High gym for the fire department. The cost will be \$8, \$15 per couple.

SACO RIVER CORRIDOR COMMISSION

No Report

OSSIPEE LAKE ASSOCIATION

Pam L'Heureux reports that the lake association donated a scholarship to local high school students. They will be meeting the 2nd Sat. in May to discuss this. There will be a boat parade at 11 on the 4th of July.

LIBRARY

Molly MacDaniel reports that Pat Sicard will be doing a story hour on Saturday mornings starting in May. The Library has an Internet site available for everyone to use.

**WATER DISTRICT
CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE
OLD HOME DAYS
TAYLOR HOUSE**
No Report

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ginny Hewes reports that the house next to the Town Hall has been painted. They will be meeting the first Thursday at 7:30, weekly starting in May through October. There will be a yard sale on May 24th. Al and Edie Hutchins have taken over restoring old abandoned cemeteries and she is sure they would appreciate any help. They are working on the little cemeteries that have been abandoned over the years.

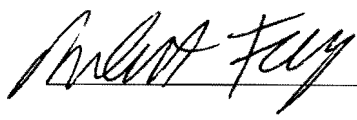
RECYCLING

Dale Witman reports that this committee has just received new life and is just getting formed. Pat Sicard reports that we've been trying to expand this committee for obvious reasons; problems with RWS make this committee increasingly important. We will put out more recycling containers as the need arises.

ADJOURNMENT

Council meeting adjourns at 9:30.

APPROVED Date: 4/29/97

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