

A vehicle collision occurred at a busy section of West Broadway in front of Dunkin last Thursday morning. One vehicle was leaving the premises and entering the roadway while the other was heading towards downtown. (Photo by Delores Dill)

New Passadumkeag board generates excitement, treasurer intends resignation

By Ben Melklejohn
PASSADUMKEAG -- A buzz of anticipation and a touch of chaos dominated the tenor of the April 2 meeting of the Passadumkeag Selectboard -- the first board meeting held after the March 30 annual town meeting.

In his first meeting after being elected, Third Selectperson Chandler "Frank" Seavey facilitated a selectboard meeting that contained a palpable excitement in the air, but also transpired in a free-for-all manner that felt like an annual town meeting without a moderator.

Nearly 20 residents attended the meeting -- almost as many as showed up to the annual town meeting just days before.

"Please bear with me, I'm brand new to this," Seavey said. "I'm learning."

Second Selectperson Bernie Trombley reported that the old firehouse, being converted into a new town office, has passed the inspection for a building permit and the construction work may continue.

Resident Elizabeth Batista asked if a timeline of the project could be made available; First Selectperson Brad McKechnie prom-

ised to have one available at the next meeting.

In an open forum-style of meeting where residents spoke freely at will, without seeking recognition from the meeting facilitator, residents raised a myriad of issues, often off-topic from the agenda item at hand.

Issues raised by attendees during the agenda item of a firehouse update included: people throwing trash into a town dumpster at the fire house, speeding in residential areas, drug needles discarded inside and outside of the old post office, drug dealers working in the town, drag racing, paid sheriff's office support, installing security cameras outside the town office and the formation of a budget committee.

After a 15-minute discussion during the firehouse update agenda item that turned into an open forum, Town Clerk Michelle Share attempted to refocus the board, saying, "We've skipped a lot of the new business and gone directly to public forum."

Seavey said he took notes on all the comments and proceeded to the second item of new business on the agenda.

The selectpersons reported on several requests for proposal bids and job openings that would soon

be advertised, including for street sweeping, a public works worker, a sexton and the selling of a corner lot of land the town owns.

Share said the town can't put land for sale out to bid and must first use a real estate agent. One attendee questioned whether that requirement applies to property that the town owns which was not acquired from a foreclosure. Share said she believed it did apply, but Maine statutes appear to require a real estate agent to be used only for the sale of foreclosed properties.

From there, the conversation shifted to revaluation and the impact of property value assessments on millage -- the tax rate per \$1,000 of property valuation -- and the impact of other taxing authorities.

"We can go to the meetings for the fire and the schools, but we don't have a say," Seavey said. "Whatever they come up with, we have to eat. We have nothing we can do about it and that's where the two biggest expenses we have are."

Share corrected Seavey on the school budget, noting that a budget validation election is set to be held on June 10 where residents in the school district may vote for *See PASSADUMKEAG page 4*

Dispute erupts at Burlington Planning Board meeting

By Ben Melklejohn
BURLINGTON -- An April 1 meeting of the Burlington Planning Board ended in hostilities as members argued about procedures. First Selectman John Smith updated the planning board regarding a campground ordinance draft it had been developing.

Smith said the draft had not yet been modified with the changes suggested from the last planning board meeting, but once revised, it would be sent to legal counsel for review.

Smith said preparing for the annual town meeting and budget proposal had taken up most of his time in recent months.

The discussion of the campground ordinance was relatively brief, taking less than five minutes, but the board then received concerns from planning board member S. Edward Burns, who had submitted a letter to board members weeks prior regarding an inconsistency in holding monthly board meetings.

"There's an obvious dysfunction here because unless we meet once a month, we can't know how to

work together, because there's a resistance to meeting once a month," Burns said.

Planning board member Brian Blake responded, "There's a resistance to meeting and being told how we're not doing our jobs and not doing what's best for the town by somebody who hasn't even been in this to six meetings."

Chairman Richie Nelson clarified that the board's monthly meeting may be canceled if there is no business to conduct, which is why the board has not met every month.

The conversation soon devolved into a heated argument. Voices were raised, tempers flared, a piece of paper was torn, crumpled and thrown across the room and a board member left the meeting early.

When the meeting had reached a half hour's time and it became clear that hostilities between members was not going cease, Nelson made a motion to adjourn, which prevailed.

The planning board is scheduled to meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 5 p.m. at the Burlington Town Office. The next one is scheduled to occur May 6.

Enfield Select Board discusses contracts

By Ben Melklejohn
ENFIELD -- The Enfield Board of Selectpersons discussed a few town projects and bids for projects at a March 30 meeting.

Code Enforcement Officer Shawn Collins opened up bids to install windows, insulation, walls and door at the transfer station office space.

The bids offered for the project were for \$2,300 from C&I Custom Builders, of Enfield, \$7,300 from Bangor Abatement, of Brewer, and \$9,393 from Facility and Construction Services, of Old Town.

Selectpersons June Gray and John Marsden approved the contract with C&I Custom Builders; Selectperson Dwight Tilton was absent from the meeting.

Lincoln resident David Ireland was present to discuss renewing a longer contract with the town for vendor services at Morgan's Beach.

Ireland said he would like to enter into a longer term contract of five years. Ireland said he would pay for labor to upgrade the con-

cession stand if the town paid for materials, and he would assume maintenance and replacement responsibilities for the kitchen equipment.

Ireland noted that two of the town's deep fryers are near the end of their life and the grill is not far behind.

He also requested that the beach stay open until dusk instead of closing at 6 p.m., adding that he would pay the extra costs for beach staff.

Ireland said the beach typically gets an influx of visitors starting around 4 p.m.

"They're people from Old Town, Bangor, Brewer -- they get out of work, they come up, they get here at 4:30 and then we're closing at 6 o'clock," Ireland said. "I thought, going into this initially, that it would be 90 to 95 percent people in this general area -- Enfield, Howland, Lincoln -- and what really surprised me is, it's probably more like 50-50."

Marsden said, "It would serve the community more by staying *See ENFIELD Page 3*



| | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|----------------------|-------|
| Classified..... | 18-20 | BBB..... | N/A |
| Pet Page..... | 10 | Katahdin Region..... | 12-16 |
| Public Notices..... | 11 | Sports..... | 17 |
| Card of Thanks/Obits..... | 18 | Tea Pail..... | 17 |
| Coming Events..... | 6-7, 15 | Opinions..... | 18 |

Email us at: news@lincolnnews.com

out the removal of trees and brush along Park Road that left a lot of debris and mowed down trees.

Town Clerk Sharon Breton reported that the organization, Penobscot River Paddling Trail wanted to clear a small lot along Penobscot River for a campsite for Penobscot River paddlers.

The group has small campsites along the river, all the way toward the ocean, said Breton. The clerk said the company would set a picnic table and would not set a pit -- to deter

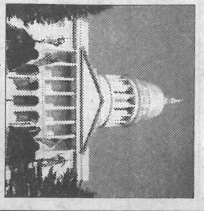
Ring told Watts that he would volunteer any Saturday to help haul trash to the dump with 14-foot trailer and pickup truck.

"I'll come down and haul as many trailer loads of wood refuse to the dump that I can in the given amount of time that I'll have, and I can do that starting this Saturday, if it's supposed to be a nice day," Ring said.

The next meeting of the Mattawamkeag Board of Selectmen is scheduled to occur April 20 at 7 p.m. at the Mattawamkeag Town Office.

THE SENATE DISTRICT 8

Mike Tipping, State Senator



It shouldn't ruin your life and our family's future

From some of the financial hardship on top of an already devastating diagnosis," said Julia MacDonald, Maine Director of Government Relations for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, speaking about the new legislation in a news release. "ACS CAN thanks Maine lawmakers and Governor Mills for protecting Maine cancer patients and survivors from the serious burden of medical debt."

"Medical debt continues to hurt hardworking Maine families who, through no fault of their own, take on debt for seeking medical care -- often for a life-changing diagnosis or for a life-threatening emergency," said Senator Donna Bailey, who sponsored LD 2129. "With the signing of this bill, we are taking another critical step to protect Mainers from the harmful impact of this debt. It is a part of our plan to help folks breathe a little easier, so they can focus on their healing and recovery."

We should continue to do everything we can to protect Mainers from medical debt, but we should also recognize that we're treating a symptom, not the root cause. Our whole medical system is continuing to become less affordable, even as health insurance and pharmaceutical corporations post record profits.

I'll continue to work towards reform, and a future where everyone has the coverage they need and no one suffers from a lack of care or goes bankrupt from the expense of it.

If you have thoughts on this or any issue before the legislature, or need help with a state agency, please don't hesitate to contact me at Mike.Tipping@legislature.maine.gov or call my legislative office at (207) 287-1515.

price.

The next few items on the agenda were executive sessions, the first of which the board went back and forth about whether to discuss publicly or privately a tax payment plan, because the property owner was not present. Lloyd noted that the payment plan itself is public information.

After initial discussion com-

PASSADUMKEAG

or against the proposed school budget.

Batista, who used to be one of Passadumkeag's directors for the school district, said unless two of the five member towns in the school district vote the budget down, the budget is considered passed and approved by voters.

One resident said, "Having been through this a few zillion times, no matter what happens, the school budget will go through. It might take three or four times and they probably don't do anything, but it always passes."

Treasurer Barbara Boyer however, cautioned, "The last time (the school budget) did not pass, we had to have another meeting, another vote -- actually the budget went up. So be careful -- it went up, not down."

After townspeople discussed the budget with their selectpersons for 15 minutes, Seavey moved the agenda along to the next item -- an update on the town's website.

Share reported that the town's information technology technician, Brian Blake, quit his association with the town due to a misunderstanding.

Share said Batista had volunteered to design a new website for the town and Blake thought that the town was paying Batista to develop a website.

The town's new website can be viewed at www.passadumkeag-me.org.

Under planning board report, planning board chairman Sergio Batista reported that 150 surveys were sent out to residents for input in developing a comprehen-

sans Fire and EMS District No. 1 to discuss the disposition of the municipal building and fire station.

The fire district submitted a proposal to the town earlier this year to establish a lease-to-own agreement for the building.

The board of selectpersons tentatively set a date of April 29 at 6 p.m. for the workshop to be held.

Cont. From Page 1

sive plan and about 15% had been returned to date.

Sergio Batista said the number one complaint registered on the surveys is about the condition of the roads.

"All we're trying to do is have some pride in the town, have some pride so that we look like we're an active, welcoming town," he said. "Can you imagine a young couple with kids coming here and finding out their kids are getting bussed to Howland and they look at the streets, they look at houses that are living next to drug dealers -- that's the kind of thing that a lot of people are commenting on."

Elizabeth Batista asked if the planning board could establish its own phone number to answer concerns and get input from residents.

Boyer said the town has an unused TracFone that is not active or in use, which the planning board could take and pay to activate with its own budget.

The board of selectpersons voted unanimously to lend the TracFone to the planning board for use.

As the meeting neared its end, Boyer announced that she is intending to resign as the town's treasurer at some point in the near future, but will refrain from giving her two week notice to allow the town time to find a suitable replacement.

Boyer has been employed as the town's treasurer since June, 2019.

The next meeting of the Passadumkeag Board of Selectpersons is scheduled to occur on April 16 at the Passadumkeag Town Office.