



Town of Turner, Maine

11 Turner Center Rd. Turner, Maine 04282 – 207-225-3414 - www.turnermaine.com

Board of Selectmen/Planning Board – Special Meeting Thursday, July 19, 2018, 6:00 p.m. Minutes

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance - The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Selectmen present were Kurt Youland, Chairman, Angelo Terreri, Vice Chairman, Warren Hood, Steve Maheu and Kevin Nichols. Planning Board members present were Thomas Perkins, Chairman, Ed Morris, Vice Chairman, Bill Bullard, and Richard Lee. Also present were Kurt Schaub, Town Manager, Bob Boutin, Code Enforcement Officer, Mike Gotto and John Maloney.

2. AVCOG Contract/Billings – Mr. Youland stated the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Contract Planner arrangement with AVCOG. Fiscal year 2018 bills now exceed \$6,000.00 against a budget of \$1,500.00, and the invoices for May and June have not yet been received. He said the Selectmen respect that there were a larger amount than usual of ordinance amendments, but the overall total still seems excessive. He added that the Selectmen asked Town Manager Kurt Schaub to meet with AVCOG’s Executive Director Amy Landry and Planner Shelley Norton about the charges. Mr. Schaub said he discussed the invoices during the AVCOG meeting, in which he said the town was expecting a higher amount than usual, but not to this extent. Total 2018 billings to date come almost to the total of all planner bills for the past five years combined. He said Ms. Norton offered to provide greater detail on her efforts, which she did. She said she spent a considerable amount of time putting together a document that contained all of the amendment proposals so the Planning Board could determine what it felt would be best for the town. Mr. Schaub added that Ms. Landry said she is willing to consider some adjustment to the bills. Mr. Schaub said the town appreciates that but needs to see the May and June invoices for a complete picture of the year. It was also acknowledged those invoices would provide a clearer picture of “typical” months and indicate what to expect in the future, as the planner should now be fairly well through the learning curve.

3. Alternative Arrangements – Mr. Youland said the Selectmen issued a Request for Proposals for engineering review services for Planning Board applications. Six submissions were received. He said this would be a different approach in that, instead of using AVCOG for application review, a designated engineering firm would perform that service. Mr. Perkins said he believes the approach may be more expensive for applicants. Mr. Maloney said the RFP did not specify preparation of Findings of Fact and other core services. He also said that AVCOG has changed in recent years and, for example, no longer has an engineer on staff to review complex applications. Mr. Youland said his concern is for the small business operator who is just starting out and that, done properly, this approach could save money for both the town and applicants. Selectmen and Planning Board members agreed to review the proposals.

4. Other Business – Mr. Perkins discussed the complaints heard by the Planning Board about unauthorized use of a gravel pit as a firing range on County Road. He said the nearby residents at Sandy Bottom have requested the town consider some form of noise ordinance. He also said the residents are

reporting that the situation has improved substantially since town staff contacted the property owners and others to address the problem. On discussion, it was concluded the Selectmen are not supportive of a local noise ordinance.

5. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt E. Schaub
Town Manager