

## MINUTES

Cumberland Town Council Meeting  
Town Council Chambers

**MONDAY, November 23, 2020**

**6:30 P.M. Finance Committee Meeting**

### 7:00 P.M. Call to Order

Present: Councilors Copp, Edes, Foster, Gruber, Storey-King, Turner and Vail

#### I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Vail, seconded by Councilor Copp, to accept the amended minutes from October 26, 2020.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

Motion by Councilor Vail, seconded by Councilor Copp, to accept the November 9, 2020 meeting minutes as presented.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

#### II. MANAGER'S REPORT

Joyce Stiles passed away this past weekend. Our thoughts and well wishes are with Bill and his family during this difficult time.

#### III. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Shawn McBreairey of Willow Lane read the following:

*Let's discuss the ongoing "safety and community concerns" from some of the School Board Members and their woeful attempt at a slander article in the Portland Press Herald today. The article, if possible, actually made them look even more ignorant to the policies, laws and Constitution. Their continued use of illegal meetings and emails will come back to the school with numerous fines. There are now dozens and dozens of examples of these illegal meetings.*

*They can't seem to understand, even at the request of the MSAD51's lawyer, that retaliation via public comment and by the press, solicited by public officials is illegal. It is illegal under the Constitution and under the U.S Supreme Court, Harman v. Moore. It forbids government officials from retaliating against individuals for speaking out.*

*As part of what the School Board and Superintendent Jeff Porter continue to do, is; 1) attack the facts (check), 2) attack the person with the facts (check), 3) change the facts to fit their narrative. Oh...they can't seem to figure out how to do this one, because I have all the facts on my side.*

*But, **the cancel-culture is out for blood folks**...how dare someone have actual, factual, dissenting opinions about the Sovereign Nation of MSAD51.*

*Ann Maksymowicz, she's the anti-flag School Board member whose term is up on 6/30/21, the one who spoke directly to Shay Stewart Bouley from CCI, who illegally hired the anti-racism group for*

*Greely. The one who came to my house twice, unrequested, then the Cumberland Police Department served a no-trespass warning to. I've never spoken to her, nor ever been to her house.*

*She is, "setting a horrible example for our students, as well as staff and community." She also thinks I'm "misogynistic" which is strongly prejudiced toward women. **No, I'm equally against ignorant men also.** We will get to a couple below...*

*Kate Parrin, prior School Board Chair, who's term is up on 6/30/21, she's the one who after Town Council Member Mike Edes, who's been in law enforcement 40 years, corrected her misinformation on Facebook about the 5% MSAD51 budget increase earlier this summer, was so concerned, she allegedly had her husband sleeping on the couch with a gun?*

*The one who wasn't able to walk down the sidewalk, after I used words to describe their continued illegal actions on the MSAD51 School Board? The one who illegally used the term, "stalking" in the 10/23/2020 School Board meeting? There is no way she should have anything to do with the children at Greely.*

*Tyler McGinley, School Board Chair, who claimed in the article that I reached out to one of her family members to find out information on her. It was actually that family member who reached out to me, unsolicited, through a third party, concerned about her "socialist actions." He's the one who said that Tyler stated on several occasions, said she's a "self-proclaimed socialist." She's running your School Board Folks, for your kids!*

*Tyler, who stated in the article that she sought a cease of harassment notice from Cumberland Police, but there is no actual public documents of that. Nor would any judge grant her this. Harassment from what, the last time I spoke to her on 8/25/2020, in which the entire ½ hour call is recorded? I'd love to play it for anyone.*

*Now, facts are that Jeff Porter, only recently on 10/15/2020, provided certification for her to actually have looked at the School Board policies. Shocker, he didn't follow that policy either, after she took over in July. So, what this means is if Tyler doesn't follow all the policies of the district, during the School Board meetings, she's now in **violation of the Constitution and laws of the State and does so under pains and penalties of perjury.***

*So maybe it's her concern from me holding the School Board Chair accountable to read things like Robert's Rules of Order? She sits there and I quote, "head spinning, weighing the capacity for me to continue as a member of this board, I am at a loss. I have hit a dead-end in every direction, police support, legal support and now board member support."*

*Weird that when you have zero facts and because I've broken zero laws, that you have no case? How about just doing your job correctly?*

*Mike Williams, he's a huge anti-Trumper and said as much during a School Board meeting, blaming the Covid-19 virus on the President. Too bad you picked the wrong, "vociferous person" to deal with on this one. I'm not going anywhere.*

*Margo Harrington, who's seat is also up on 6/30/20 stated in a previous email to Tyler that, "fear of the moment" was previously keeping her silent. Let's talk fear Margo.*

*Fear when Superintendent Jeff Porter, against MSAD51 policy, provided my confidential concerns to CCI? Fear when he illegally provided my FOAA request back to Elana Maker, the author of the 216 current and past Greely alumni looking to, “reimagine” the SRO position? Fear of when Jeff Porter makes up terms like, “verbally abusive” to send to Chief Rumsey, even though I have not spoken to Mr. Porter since June 18th? Fear of your wife crying at the dining room table, considering having to bail you out of Cumberland County Jail, after Jeff Porter and a group of School Board Members met with the Town to preplan your arrest at the last School Board meeting, simply for asking them to follow their own rules?*

*Fear of twin daughters having to go through their senior year at Greely with the constant attempted bullying of the Superintendent and School Board, because their father is calling out the loads of hypocrisy? Fear of a Black Lives Matter Allies Group of Maine, calling me a racist, looking to shoot up my residence, because of your Portland Press Herald article today?*

*Let me say that again, **shoot up my residence.***

*You don’t get to tell me about fear Margo Harrington...you have no idea.*

*So, what you have here are several people, playing School Board who don’t have a clue about what they are doing. They also don’t know it is illegal to advance your own agenda, at the expense of the taxpayers. One in which they have spent hundreds of thousands of your taxpayer dollars on “anti-racism efforts.” CCI, teacher training, travel, hotel stays, legal bills, conferences, payroll, so on and so on.*

*Guess what folks, I’m only getting started. I will make this School Board’s attempt to misappropriate our tax dollars very difficult, but well within the policies, laws and Constitution of the United States of America.*

*Yes, I am relentless...relentless in pointing out that Superintendent Jeff Porter and much of this MSAD51 School Board have no appreciable skills to be guiding and influencing the curriculum of our youth. None.*

*As a reminder, this is all due to the Equity and Inclusion Committee, the School Board and Superintendent Jeff Porter’s actions on June 2nd, 2020. He split the community down the middle and has done nothing to repair it.*

*Nothing...this is all on you Jeff Porter*

#### **IV. LEGISLATION AND POLICY**

##### **20 – 101 To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on accepting Fuller Road as a Town road.**

Town Manager Shane explained that the Finance Committee voted unanimously to forward this item to the Town Council for consideration. The details have been reviewed by the Finance Committee, the Town Attorney has provided her list of items for acceptance, which all have been met. Staff is recommending moving forward with accepting Fuller Road as a public road.

Councilor Vail said that he is opposed to accepting anymore new roads. It costs money to maintain roads and we are having difficulty in keeping up with paving the roads we have now. We should have some stronger language in our Ordinances to let developers know that when they come to Cumberland, we are not taking their roads on.

Chairman Gruber opened the Public Hearing.

Stephen Quirk of Fuller Road said that with the road not being a public road, school busses won't come down the road to pick up the children. Due to this, many families don't have their children take the bus to school because of safety concerns in having the children walk up to Blackstrap Road to wait there for the bus. The neighborhood is hoping that this will finally be approved as a Town Road.

Chairman Gruber closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Copp, seconded by Councilor Edes, to accept Fuller Road, generally described as 1,400 feet in length and 50 feet in width, including all utilities and stormwater facilities, and further described in a deed from Walnut Hill Investments LLC, dated November 23, 2020 and depicted on "Exhibit A" of the Spring Valley Subdivision plan (C-102) designed by Sevee & Maher Engineers, Inc.

VOTE: 7-0                      UNANIMOUS

**20 – 102 To hear an update from the Communications Committee.**

Councilor Foster said that she and Councilor Copp met with Communications Director, Eliza Porter last week. They discussed a plan to get more people to sign up for the Cumberland Crier and the development of the postcard (below) to be mailed to every household in January.



The Town of Cumberland is working hard to connect with all of our community members!

Are you subscribed for our weekly email, The Cumberland Crier? Sign up today by scanning the QR code to the right (*open the camera on your iPhone to activate the scanner*) or visit

[www.cumberlandmaine.com/cumberlandcrier](http://www.cumberlandmaine.com/cumberlandcrier)



If you do not have access to a computer, please call us at 829-2208 so we can mail our weekly newsletter to your home!

After the postcard mailing, a communications survey will go out to residents in order to understand how they receive information from the Town and what their primary source is for getting the information. This will help Eliza prioritize where to be spending most of her communications time. (See survey below).



## Cumberland Communication Survey

\* 1. How did you first learn about this survey?

- ☐ The Cumberland Crier (weekly email)
- ☐ Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
- ☐ Town Website
- ☐ Other (please specify)

**\* 2. How do you currently RECEIVE information from the Town?**

- ☐ The Cumberland Crier (weekly email)
- ☐ Social Media (Facebook/Twitter/Instagram)
- ☐ Email alerts from the Town Website
- ☐ Local Access Channel
- ☐ The Forecaster
- ☐ Direct Mailing
- ☐ I don't receive any information from the Town.

**\* 3. How do you currently FIND information from the Town?**

- ☐ The Cumberland Crier (weekly email)
- ☐ Social Media (Facebook/Twitter/Instagram)
- ☐ Town Website
- ☐ Local Access Channel
- ☐ The Forecaster
- ☐ Calling Town Hall
- ☐ I do not look for information from the Town.

**\* 4. What age bracket do you fall into?**

- ☐ Under 25
- ☐ 25-39
- ☐ 40-55
- ☐ 56-70
- ☐ 70+

**\* 5. What gender do you identify as?**

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Gender non-binary
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

**\* 6. How long have you lived in Cumberland? (Doesn't have to be consecutive.)**

- ☐ Less than 2 years
- ☐ 2-5
- ☐ 5-10
- ☐ 10-20
- ☐ 20-30
- ☐ more than 30 years

**7. Would you like to share your email address with the Town of Cumberland? You will be added to our weekly email, The Cumberland Crier!**

Name

Email Address



V. **NEW BUSINESS**

**Councilor Edes** – Condolences to the Stiles family. His thoughts are with Bill during this difficult time.

**Councilor Storey-King** – She also sent condolences to the Stiles family. They are a large family and a large presence in our community.

With the holidays coming up, she encouraged everyone to buy local. Rick Anderson, who grew up in Cumberland, wrote 2 children's books, which would make nice gifts.

The Social Justice & Equity Committee met earlier this evening and Councilor Foster will give an update on that. There will be a presentation by the committee at the next Council meeting.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. She hopes that everyone finds something to be thankful for.

**Councilor Vail** – In regard to the Social Justice & Equity Committee, he thinks that they are doing great work. He does not want us to get bogged down with the issue between Shawn and the School Board. He wants to welcome them into our greater discussion, but they should not be the focus. Our community is the focus. He would like to achieve this without spending any money. A resident at the last Council meeting offered her assistance. There are a lot of professional people in our community who may be willing to assist us.

**Chairman Gruber** – The Food Pantry served 71 families this past week. The Thanksgiving food baskets were distributed. Thank you to all the volunteers who make it happen every week.

Condolences to the Stiles family. Bill and his family are in his thoughts.

**Councilor Foster** – She sent her sincere condolences to Bill Stiles and his family.

The Social Justice & Equity Committee will present a detailed report at the next Council meeting. The committee is looking at equitable practices with the execution of services to the Town as their objective. We can't really move forward with that objective until we can help those critical parties whose relationship is broken. That breakage is having collateral affect. We have to have a grounding and respectful communication and be able to work through the disagreements so that all parties feel heard. The work that is immediate for us is ensuring that the Town is involved, not necessarily incurring all the cost, but ensuring that those critical parties are willing to participate and finding an appropriate mediator.

**Councilor Turner** – He expressed his sadness for Bill Stiles who lost his wife. He spoke to Bill recently and he is fortunate to have a family who will give him ample support.

**Councilor Copp** – Condolences to Bill Stiles. Bill has been a true friend for many years, and he knows that his family is taking good care of him.

He read the following letter in regard to Cumberland Police Officer, Matt Merriman:



# Yarmouth Police Department

*Excellence in Policing*

Charles Rumsey, Chief of Police

Cumberland Police Department

290 Tuttle Road

Cumberland, ME 04021

November 12, 2020

Dear Chief Rumsey:

I am writing to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to you, Officer Matthew Merriman and the members of the Maine State Police who assisted my elderly father on Friday November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

As you are aware, my father John Gibbons, has dementia and disappeared from his residence on Cape Cod sometime on the night of November 5<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 18 hours later, he was found on I-95 in Maine. It was the first time in my 26 years in law enforcement that I have been on the other side of a missing person investigation but I truly hope it is the last.

My father could not say enough about the way you and Officer Merriman treated him and helped make the best of a tough situation. You both went above and beyond by transporting him to Kittery so that it reduced my travel-time. I am forever grateful to you both.

If I can ever be of any assistance to you and your department in the future, either in a professional or personal capacity, please know as I will always be there for you. If you find yourself in Yarmouth on Cape Cod, please drop-in and say hello, I would love to shake your hands and buy you lunch.

Sincerely,

Gordon T. Gibbons

Police Officer, Badge #123

Cc: Merriman Personal File

## Yarmouth Police Department

*Excellence in Policing*



Gordon Gibbons  
Patrol Officer

Office: 508-775-0445 ext.2170

Fax: 508-771-0443

ggibbons@yarmouth.ma.us

One Brad Erickson Way  
West Yarmouth, Massachusetts 02673



One Brad Erickson Way, West Yarmouth, Massachusetts 02673 • Phone: (508) 775-0445 • Fax: (508) 862-2721

**Town Manager Shane** – The Food Pantry distributed over 7,000 pounds of food last week for Thanksgiving. Every item on the list of needed items was fulfilled by the community. The Girl Scouts, who started helping with the Thanksgiving distribution set up 8 years ago, still show up every year to help. It's an amazing process and it always goes very well.

Craig Wright of Coastal Landscaping has donated Christmas trees to the Food Pantry for the last 5 years. This year Craig has donated \$2,000 so that every Food Pantry patron can have a Christmas tree. Jeff Storey of Spring Brook Farm provides the trees at a reduced rate. There are so many good stories like this because of the amazing people in this Town.

- VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION** pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A., § 405(6)(A)(1) re: a personnel matter.  
Motion by Councilor Copp, seconded by Councilor Storey-King, to recess to Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A., § 405(6)(A)(1) re: a personnel matter.  
VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS  
TIME: 8:27 P.M.

Reconvene to regular session at 8:41 P.M.

- VII. ADJOURNMENT**  
Motion by Councilor Foster, seconded by Councilor Turner, to adjourn.  
VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS  
TIME: 8:41 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brenda L. Moore  
Council Secretary