

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Special Meeting

December 8, 2015

11:00 a.m.

Minutes

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Bill Trevaskis, Jon Emerson and Stacy Beverage

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Joe Stone

ALSO PRESENT: Crystal Grant, Doug Stone, Charlene Stone, Lindsey Beverage, Jerry White, Rex Crockett, Kevin (Bub) Hopkins, John Parsons, Dan McNichol, port Captain, Kim Alexander, John Anders, manager of MSFS, Rick Dubois, MDOT, Patty Sparhawk, Jay Bartner, Foy Brown, Janice Hopkins and Kenneth Hopkins.

Bill Trevaskis called the meeting to order at 11 am.

Joe Stone, Town Administrator, listed some of the effects of the change in schedule and repeated some of the points he had made in a phone conversation with Anders.

1. Loss of any opportunity for quick mainland errands between arrival of 12:30 boat and departure of 2:15. E.g, the Town's sand truck will now have to wait until 5:15 to return.
2. With a 1:50 dismissal time, Region 8 students will be challenged to make the 2:00. MSFS promises to hold the boat were greeted by some public skepticism. Change will affect ability of special needs student being transported from a Camden program to make the boat on time. With representatives from NHCS present, Stone suggested to the MSFS representatives that they would be hearing of the effects on field trips and athletic events.
3. The current schedule allows for medical appointments and other errands to Augusta, Bangor, Brunswick and Portland without always having to wait until 5:15 to return to the Island.
4. North Haven's new nurse practitioner is committed until she has purchased local real estate to commuting by air from Pennsylvania. The 2:15 is already a close call.
5. Stone expressed his opinion that the schedule change had the appearance of the MSFS placing the convenience of employees over the needs and convenience of the public served by the MSFS.
6. He pointed out that the need for the *Thompson* to wait outside the channel for the *Burgess*' departure was only occasional while the "solution" of changing the *Burgess*' schedule was permanent and would cost 90 mainland hours/year for North Haven residents.
7. With three trips a day compared to Vinalhaven's six, the negative impact on North Haven of a schedule change was highly disproportionate.

Public Comment:

1. Jon Emerson questioned why must schedule be changed when waiting for the *Thompson* to leave the pen is only an occasional occurrence?
2. Doug Stone stated that he felt that those in Augusta had no clue about how the ferries ran.
3. Jay Bartner, superintendent of SAD 7 voiced his concern about the shortening of the classroom attendance time and field trips.
4. Patty Sparhawk agreed with Bartner and stated that leaving class early would have an adverse effect on her daughter.
5. Lindsey Beverage, Outreach Worker, stressed the importance of the extra 15 minutes made with taking the elderly to appointments.
6. Kim Alexander stated that she felt that the MSFS had already made up their minds and asked if it might be possible to conduct a survey that would provide concrete evidence that the *Thompson* spent time waiting to dock.
7. In response to a statement made that the *Thompson* went faster on its 1 p.m. than the rest to beat the *Burgess* into the channel, Foy Brown suggested that the *Thompson* slow down.

John Anders cited several reasons why the schedule change must be implemented and why the change had to be the *Burgess*.

1. Passage in the channel has become narrower due to the location change of the channel marker. This was changed after the *Thompson* went aground. This is a safety issue.
2. The *Thompson* crew must do more extensive drills due to the size and changing their schedule would prevent them from having enough time
3. Having both vessels in the pens at the same time makes it harder for the *Burgess* to unload because of the thrusters on the *Thompson*. Captain Hopkins expressed concern on the wear and tear on the engines of the *Burgess*.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm