



Lamoine Board of Selectmen

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Minutes of June 4, 2009

Draft

Chair Jo Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM

Present were: Selectmen Kermit Theall, Gary McFarland, Richard Fennelly Jr., Cynthia Donaldson, S. Josephine Cooper; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, Deputy Code Enforcement Officer Michael Jordan and Assistant Town Clerk/Tax Collector Diane Carter.

The meeting was televised and recorded by Lamoine Cable TV Channel 7

Agenda Review – There were no changes proposed to the printed agenda

Minutes of May 21, 2009 – Cynthia asked a question about a reference to the transportation costs to MDI High School. The board agreed that section was correct. Richard said he had a few minor corrections. Kermit moved to approve the minutes with the corrections. Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Expenditure Warrant 26 – Selectmen signed expenditure warrant 26 for \$303,552.42. Stu reported \$286,000 was for the school department. He reported he moved \$275,000 to checking to cover the checks.

Selectmen said the school board should be recognized and formally thanked for their service. Stu said he would place that on the next agenda

Cash & Budget Report – Stu noted excise tax collections were picking up. He said he expected to end the year short of budget by between \$15,000 and \$20,000. A short discussion on revenues followed.

30-day notices – Stu reported the notices were mailed the previous Friday. He said several people have sent in payment. He said the policy regarding small amounts of unpaid tax was followed earlier in the month. (At the end of the meeting there was a discussion in regard to correspondence from a taxpayer who owed and paid a small amount. Jo said she would compose a letter in response).

Credit/Debit Cards – Stu reported that state law had changed to allow municipalities to pass along merchant fees to the consumers using credit/debit cards. He asked for permission to contact the town's bank to see about setting up such a system. Richard moved to grant that permission. Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Certificates of Commendation - Selectmen signed certificates commending the following honor graduates from local high schools:

MDI High School	Ellsworth High School
Emily Crotteau (valedictorian)	Casey Wyman
Tyler Crawford	Lauren Kief
Kathleen Bowman	Justin Harding
Cara Weber	Brooke Moulard
Samuel Spruce	

Cynthia noted the Kelley Henry of the Lamoine Consolidated School won the regional Modern Woodman speech contest. Stu said he would be recording the national entry using the town's CTV system next week. He said he would have a certificate done up for next meeting.

General Assistance – Stu noted the Board had tabled authorization to enter an interlocal agreement for a fair hearing authority at the last meeting. Jo said the proposal before the board was the same as had been looked at before. She moved to authorize Stu to sign the agreement. Kermit 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Stu reported the state DHHS conducted an on-site audit of the GA program and the town passed. He said the auditor liked that the town keeps a narrative on each case.

Contract with Jennifer Kovacs – Jo moved to sign a new contract with Town Clerk/Tax Collector Jennifer Kovacs for the 2009/10 fiscal year. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Contract with Stu Marckoon – The board reviewed the contract in detail. There was a brief discussion about the sick time section. A tie-in with the Union 92 teacher contract was removed from the compensation section. There was a very brief discussion about the suspension section. Selectmen asked Stu to check with MMA health trust to compare insurance costs.

Selectmen reviewed some proposed changes to the job description that had been tabled previously. Cynthia said the proposal articulates what is actually happening for the most part. There was a discussion about how job performances would be reviewed. Richard said he would like to think more about the job description. Jo said the description has to be realistic and prioritize what the position does. She said some of the communication aspects should be discussed and made more general.

The matter was tabled to be redrafted and reviewed at a later meeting.

Jo moved to sign the new 3-year contract with Stu as redrafted. Kermit 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.** (During the executive session performance review Stu redrafted the contract with the changes noted. The contract was signed after the board came out of executive session and just prior to adjournment.)

Personnel Appointments – Stu asked if the Board wished him to contact the appointed personnel whose terms expire at the end of June to see if they wished to continue. He said the Planning Board had communicated that Melody Havey wished to not continue. The Board asked to advertise for an alternate member of the Planning Board.

Stu said the Road Commissioner had also communicated that he might not wish to continue. He said the Board would meet with him next meeting.

The Board asked Stu to contact those up for reappointment.

School Budget – Jo noted the validation vote is next Tuesday, June 9, 2009 from 10AM to 8PM

Local Advisory Committee Ordinance – There was a discussion about the definition of budget. Stu said the school board and superintendent Norton wished to leave the language as drafted instead of incorporating the changes suggested after an attorney's review.

There was an extensive discussion about section 7 of the proposed ordinance (budget development). Selectmen then went through the changes proposed by the attorney one by one. Jo moved to change the first sentence of Section 7 to add the words "through the elected RSU representative". Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.** With that change, the document is finalized for presentation to a special town meeting on June 24, 2009.

Paving – Stu reported there is a contract with Lane Construction to sign. Cynthia moved to authorize Jo to sign the contract. Kermit 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0. Jo signed the contract.** Mike Jordan suggested that the Selectmen put paving in the budget for next year so a special town meeting isn't needed to pave early. Jo said the warrant article could be reworded.

Goals Discussion – Stu said he planned to pull from the list of goals one item per meeting for further discussion. He said the first topic is finding alternative revenues and helping lower property taxes.

Richard said he couldn't think of lots of opportunity, but felt encouraging business development in the community would help. Jo said things like the cell phone tower rent helps. There was a discussion about the cell tower and possible other leases, as well as selling gravel.

Jo said discussing economic development with the Planning Board might be in order. Stu suggested talking with the community development director in Ellsworth might be helpful.

Cynthia said the area really needs a small conference/event center. Kermit said he'd tried to buy some commercial land, but had a difficult time. He said having land available for business to buy is a key. Richard said some areas of town ought to be rezoned. Mike Jordan said water and sewer access are a problem. He said the town is

zoned backward, as development from Ellsworth would naturally progress down Buttermilk Road and Douglas Hwy. Richard said there is a potential for business between Buttermilk and Douglas. Gary asked if the Board should look at rezoning first and attracting business 2nd. Stu said he would see if either Michelle Gagnon or Janet Toth from Ellsworth would like to meet with the board some time.

Cynthia asked if impact fees might be a way to raise some revenue. Stu said they're difficult to collect and few communities use them. Kermit mentioned potential parking for Acadia National Park visitors. Jo said there is money available for park and ride facilities. Richard said aesthetics should not be overlooked. There was a brief discussion about the possibility of a business development park similar to Trenton's.

Town Meeting Timing – Jo said she would like to respond to a letter received a while ago regarding scheduling town meeting on a religious holiday (Passover). She said the Board would make every effort in the future to make sure that doesn't happen. Stu said he would draft up a letter for her.

Next meeting - The next meeting will be June 18, 2009

Executive Session – Jo moved to enter executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(a) for the purposes of conducting a performance review. Cynthia 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.** In at 8:32 PM. Out at 8:50 PM

Selectmen signed the revised contract with Stu.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst.