



Lamoine Board of Selectmen

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Minutes of January 19, 2012

Chair Jo Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present were: Selectmen Gary McFarland, S. Josephine Cooper, Richard Fennelly Jr., William Brann; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, Fire Chief George "Skip" Smith. Selectman Cynthia Donaldson had informed the board that she would be absent, and Stu reported that she became the grandmother of twins the previous day.

Agenda Review – Selectmen noted there were a few items on the addendum, and no change to the agenda was requested.

Minutes of January 5, 2012 – Jo moved to approve the minutes as distributed. Bill 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0 (Fennelly abstained)**

Expenditure Warrant 14 – Selectmen signed warrant 14 in the amount of \$191,591.15. Stu noted that \$173,000+ was the school bill. He said he transferred \$85,000 from the investment management account into the checking account to cover the checks.

Cash & Budget Report – Stu noted that he has added a line in the expenditure report to track General Assistance expenses as there has been increased utilization of the program recently.

Foreclosure – 2009/10 Tax Liens – Stu reported that the properties belonging to Brian Young and Janet Mullen had automatically foreclosed. He said he has drafted letters to each of the property owners, giving them a chance to redeem the properties until February 16, 2012 (the 2nd Selectmen's meeting in February). Gary moved to authorize Stu to send the letters. Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Tax Collectors Settlement – 2010/11 – Stu reported that all the taxes for 2010/11 had been collected or placed into lien. He said that's about the earliest that he can recall that all the personal property taxes had been paid. Jo moved to approve the settlement with the tax collector. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Fire Department – Boiler – Fire Chief George Smith said the furnace at the fire station has experienced a number of problems in the last few years, and the service technician says it is on its last legs. He said it is a steel boiler and the plates are giving out. He said it would likely cost about \$4,000 for a replacement, and he hoped he could get that on a town meeting warrant. He said the fire department could pay the money up front and be reimbursed later. He said there was no big rush on that.

Gary asked if there might be any energy grants available. Stu said he and Gary had talked briefly about that after Gary mentioned a radio news story about Blue Hill's town hall replacing its furnace through a grant program. Stu said he filled out an Efficiency Maine application for an energy audit which is apparently the starting point for that program.

Chief Smith said there is no deadline to replace the boiler, and that the service company is looking at what is needed. Richard asked if the boiler would make it through the heating season. Chief Smith said he hoped it would. He said there were a couple of outages earlier in the winter, but it's been working OK for about 3-weeks. Gary asked how old the boiler was. Chief Smith said it was installed in 1991 when the fire station was built. He said the average steel boiler has about a 20-year life span.

Jo moved to submit the application for the energy audit. Richard 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.** Jo signed the application.

Bill asked if there is any sensor in the fire station to alert someone if the boiler goes out. Chief Smith said they plan to put something in. Stu suggested an automatic phone dialer. Chief Smith said they also plan to put anti-freeze in the radiant heat lines to prevent freezing if the boiler fails.

There was a brief discussion about the insurance inspection report from Maine Municipal Association.

Town Report – Jo moved to use Xpress Copy again, provided the price is about the same as last year. Richard 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Selectmen asked when the drop dead date was for the town report. Stu said he'd like to have it done for approval at the next meeting. A draft has been distributed electronically and a printed draft was given to Jo for her review.

Conservation Commission – Jo moved to accept the resignation of Annie Crisafulli from the Conservation Commission. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.** Selectmen signed a letter to Ms. Crisafulli thanking her for her service.

Jo moved to appoint present alternate Conservation Commission member David Legere to fill out the now vacant term. Richard 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Returnables – Jo moved to approve the Lamoine Cheering Program for the returnable proceeds for March, 2012. Richard 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Local School Advisory Committee – Selectmen noted that another school forum is scheduled for February 6, 2012 at the school. Jo said she discussed the various issues with RSU 24 representative Brett Jones. Stu said he's received a lot of comments about the newspaper articles that profess that Lamoine is ready to pull out of the RSU. He said he's been quick to correct that the Local School Advisory Committee is simply exploring the process for withdrawal and trying to gather data and that no firm decision has yet been made on whether to proceed.

Jo moved to appoint R. Dale Macurdy to the Local School Advisory Committee. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

County Ambulance Contract – Stu reported that County Ambulance has offered to extend the contract with the Town of Lamoine for another 3-years at the same per capita rate as the current year. He said it's a lot less expensive than establishing our own ambulance service. Bill asked how County could do it so inexpensively. Stu said residents still pay for ambulance service; the fee simply assures that there will be adequate staffing in the area for calls. Jo moved to approve the contract. Gary 2nd.
Vote in favor was 4-0.

Property Tax Reminder Cards – Selectmen had no objection to sending postcard reminders that the 2nd half of property taxes are due on February 28, 2012.

MMA Insurance Inspection – Selectmen briefly reviewed the remaining items on the insurance inspection action plan and the response to them. Stu said he was pleased that the insurance inspector spent a great deal of time in town, and there were only a few items to address.

Invitation from City of Ellsworth – Selectmen noted that a meeting regarding the Card Brook Watershed on January 25, 2012 might be best referred to the Conservation Commission.

Code Enforcement Coverage – It was noted that CEO Dennis Ford would be absent from next week until early March and Mike Jordan would be filling in. Gary asked that Mr. Jordan keep an activity log as Mr. Ford has been doing.

Next Meeting – The next Selectmen's meeting is set for February 2, 2012. Jo said she will be unable to attend the meetings in February and possibly in March. It was noted that Cynthia is also unlikely to be available for the February 2, 2012 meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst.