



Lamoine Board of Selectmen

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Minutes – July 12, 2018

Chairman Nathan Mason called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Present were: Selectmen S. Josephine Cooper, Nathan Mason, Robert Christie, Kathleen Rybarz, Gary McFarland; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, John Partridge (County Ambulance), Kenneth Smith, and Brian Hubbell (State Representative).

Agenda – No changes were proposed to the printed agenda.

Minutes – Kathleen moved to approve the minutes of June 21, 2018 and July 2, 2018 as printed. Nathan 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Expenditure Warrant 2 – Selectmen signed the warrant in the amount of \$96,714.92. Stu noted that no town payroll is on this warrant – that comes next week. He said the one time agency payments are include, as is an accounting program upgrade.

Warrant 3 Signature Date – Stu said that warrant will be ready by 10:00 AM on July 26, 2018. Selectmen requested that an e-mail be sent when ready.

Cash & Budget Report – Stu reported that issues with the accounting program which was upgraded earlier in the day prevented a current year budget report generation.

Jo asked about the transfer station capital fund and whether that could be used for upgrades at the transfer station. Stu said that was the purpose when it was established, and he hopes that the MRC payment expected in August will come through. A brief discussion followed.

Checking Account Reconciliation – Kathleen asked what the payment to Dream Machines was for. Stu reported it was an excise tax overpayment refund. Kathleen asked whether the payment to Weber Tree Service included just the fire station trees. Stu said that was correct.

Excise Tax – Stu noted that the collection of just over \$399,000 for the fiscal year is a new record high, and the heavy excise revenue seems to be continuing in July.

30-day Notices – Unpaid Taxes – Stu reported that tax collector Jennifer Kovacs sent out the 30-day notices for unpaid 2017/18 property taxes last week.

Foreclosed Property – Stu reported he has not yet had the opportunity to contact the town attorney in regard to this matter but will in the next week. Selectmen noted that there has been no communication from the former owners in reaction to certified mail sent a few weeks ago.

County Ambulance Contract – County Ambulance owner John Partridge was present. He told the Board that he's been operating the company for 45 years and has done a lot

of 3-year contract with the area municipalities. He said a lot of things have changed. He said revenues have dropped since a competing ambulance company owned by Eastern Maine Healthcare has started transporting patients between hospitals. He said those are the better paying calls.

Mr. Partridge said he didn't think that it was prudent for him to make another 3-year commitment to the town, so it was time to change plans. He said he would like to continue providing emergency ambulance service, but on a monthly basis. He noted that the town's fire department assists them quite often. He said he would prefer to send a bill on a monthly basis after the month has passed. Kathleen asked if the bill would be based on the volume of calls. Mr. Partridge said the rate would still be based on a \$9.00 per capita basis, with 1/12 of the yearly cost due each month.

Selectmen and Mr. Partridge continued to discuss the rate and discussed cash flow. Stu noted that the last written agreement has expired. Jo asked if Mr. Partridge believed his company would be OK for the next year. Mr. Partridge said he's hesitant. Kathleen said the proposed agreement is analogous to a month-to-month rental. She said the town would like notice if County intended to pull out.

Mr. Partridge said if something should happen to County, the town would not have to worry about ambulance coverage. A brief discussion about ambulance issues followed. Mr. Partridge noted that County provides services such as covering the Flat Top 5K race and public school education if desired as a courtesy, provided they have the manpower.

Nathan said he had no issue with going with a month to month agreement. Stu asked whether the town would pay a subsidy if some other organization took over service. Mr. Partridge said the town probably would. He said costs elsewhere around the state are higher. He said insurance reimbursements do not cover the costs of the service provided. Nathan said the town would be willing to work with County ambulance. Gary moved to sign an agreement that would cover a month by month payment as discussed. Bob 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Transfer Station – Compaction – Ken Smith reported that the recycling market has taken a significant downturn, but Eco Maine has been able to sell all of its material, except for glass which it is giving away. He said they are now paying to get rid of mixed paper. He said the average revenue has gone from \$100/ton in to \$7.99/ton paid out. He said he does not see more change in the markets. He said recyclers are starting to find alternative markets.

Mr. Smith said he met with DM&J regarding possible compaction at the Lamoine Transfer Station. He said they put together a proposal which has a number of shortcomings. He said he discussed those with DM&J and expects clarifications in the near future. He said he would study the invoices generated thus far. He said that compaction is expensive. He said there is a possible market for corrugated cardboard.

Stu noted that the recycling program has become too popular.

Layout – The selectmen reviewed a proposed plan from transfer station Chris Meyer and discussed it at length. The board took no action and several members said they would

like to study the plan further. Stu said he would order 3-no parking signs and several traffic cones.

Maine Resource Recover Association – After extensive discussion Nathan moved to not renew membership with MRRA. Gary 2nd. **Vote was 4-1, Christie opposed.**

Census – Stu gave a brief report on the LUCA program from the Census Bureau. He said the method to correct addresses was incredibly complex and he could not figure it out, so he contacted the State of Maine, which will take care of address corrections.

Solar Project – Kathleen reported that the Conservation Commission wanted to take on study of a solar project and possible work with the school committee. Gary reported Jon VanAmringe offered to help with cost-benefit analysis. Stu said he was going to recommend that the Conservation Commission take the lead on the idea. There was no objection to making that happen.

Lamoine Quarterly – Stu reported he's only been able to complete one page thus far.

Cable TV – Selectmen received a message from the Town of Hancock which had appointed a committee to look at Cable expansion into the Eagle Point area. They asked that this be placed on the August agenda.

Seal Point Road Paving – Bob asked about the shoulders on Seal Point Road following the paving project. Stu said Richard McMullen has been assigned that project. A brief discussion followed.

Ladder Truck – Bob asked when the fire department ladder truck would arrive. Stu reported the fire department has been monitoring the progress of construction on the British Columbia department's new ladder truck, and it should be late summer or early fall.

Storm Water Management – Kathleen reported that the Hancock County Planning Commission is looking for someone to work on storm water drainage needs for possible grant programs for the town. There was extensive discussion about drainage. Kathleen mentioned that help might be available for frequently inundated private roads. A brief discussion followed regarding drainage issues on state roads.

Next meetings – The board agreed to meet on August 9, September 13 and 27, and October 11 and 25.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Selectmen