



# Lamoine Board of Selectmen

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## Minutes – September 13, 2018

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

Present were: Selectmen S. Josephine Cooper, Gary McFarland, Robert Christie, Nathan Mason; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, Ed Moreshead (Capital Ambulance), Mark Robinson (Town Manager, Fayette), School Committee members Michael Brann, Gordon Donaldson, Matthew Montgomery, Brett Jones, Robert Pulver, and Superintendent of Schools Katrina Kane. Selectman Kathleen Rybarz was unable to attend.

**Minutes – August 30, 2018** - Jo moved to approve the minutes as presented. Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

**Expenditure Warrant 6** – Selectmen signed expenditure warrant 6 in the amount of \$108,269.92.

**Corrections to Expenditure Warrant 5** – Jo moved to approve the corrections proposed to expenditure warrant 5 due to an entry error on the federal tax withholdings and a back order from a supplier for the Conservation Commission. Nathan 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0, the correction order was signed.**

**Cash & Budget Report** – Stu reported he left a sizable amount in the checking account in anticipation of paying the County Tax and for the fire department ladder truck which will likely arrive in the next few weeks.

**Checking Account Reconciliation** – Selectmen signed the form expressing satisfaction with their review of the reconciled checking account on August 31, 2018 which was e-mailed prior to the meeting.

**Encumbrance Order – Fire Department** – Stu reported the fire chief ordered a number of items which have all been received prior to the end of the fiscal year, but the bill has not yet been received. Jo moved to approve the encumbrance order as follows:

Account Name	GL #	Carried Forward	
		Amount	Purpose
Fire – Equipment	5-01-05-161	\$10,593.00	To reflect equipment order placed by fire chief May 14, 2018. Most equipment has been received but not yet billed.

Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

**Cash Flow Report** – Stu said he prepared a spreadsheet of projected cash flow for the investment company the town uses. There were no questions.

**Foreclosed Property** – Stu reported no further payments have been received per the installment agreement on the property that automatically foreclosed to the town last winter. He said there are no new developments to report but he would be contacting the town attorney.

**Capital Ambulance** – Stu introduced Ed Moreshead of Capital Ambulance. Mr. Moreshead said they are currently owned by Eastern Maine Health Care and will soon change the name to Northern Light. He said the ambulance portion will become a non-profit entity on October 1, 2018.

Mr. Moreshead said they own 15 ambulance and they have been serving the former County Ambulance communities for 2-weeks. He said they got 10-days' notice that County would be going out of business. He said their headquarters will likely be in the Town of Hancock. He said the company employs the life flight paramedic crew and they have a lot of experience.

Mr. Moreshead said he received a list of questions that had been generated by the Town of Hancock. He said Maine EMS and Capital held a meeting with the various towns using County Ambulance recently. He said probably everyone needs to be on the same page for the arrangement to work. He said Capital had planned on contracting with Gouldsboro and Surry, but Gouldsboro has opted to run its own ambulance service, and Surry is expanding its agreement with Peninsula Ambulance. He estimated the operation in Hancock County will likely lose \$100,000 in the next year.

Mr. Moreshead said they generally collect only 43% of the cost to run the ambulance and pay the crews and other expenses. He said it's an expensive business. He said two ambulances will be based in Hancock County and explained the mutual aid agreements with other ambulance services in the area to provide coverage if both of their rigs are tied up.

Mr. Moreshead explained how the fire standby portion of the agreement works as well as the education portion. He said they use the same contract with many other communities in other parts of the state they cover. He said there is no extra work for the towns in regard to seeing finances, and the books of Capital will be wide open for review other than those matters that are confidential under HIPPA laws. He said the Freedom of Access Act supersedes the contract language. He said Capital would have no problem if the town wished to wait for the name change to Northern Lights, but the contract would still be retroactive to September 1, 2018.

Gary asked where training would be held. Mr. Moreshead said it would rotate around the different fire departments.

Nathan said he might favor waiting for the name change. Stu noted the name change is addressed in the proposed contract. Jo said the change would not affect the service provided, and she said she appreciated those services. Jo moved to sign the proposed

contract with the understanding that Capital's name will change to Northern Light. Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

**Smoking Policy** – Jo said she has read the two proposed policies, and prefers the second version, but cautioned that the Board needs to be careful what it signs. A discussion followed regarding the difference in the two proposed policies. Jo moved to table the matter to an undetermined date. Nathan 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

**Raising the Floor** – Stu introduced Mark Robinson, the town manager of Fayette. Superintendent of Schools Katrina Kane said Mr. Robinson was here to make a presentation regarding the Raise the Floor initiative to increase funding to minimal state aid to education receivers.

Mr. Robinson said his Selectmen were behind him. He showed a graphic that outlined the significant reduction Fayette saw in education funding from the state beginning in 2008. He said school costs have risen and will continue to rise. He said the effort is to guarantee 15% of EPS funding to the 113 minimal receiving communities. He said Lamoine is at about 5% now, so the additional revenue under the proposal would be \$222,000. He said the proposal is for the state to allocate an additional \$15-million dollars for education funding to be distributed to the minimal receiving communities. He said while that is a lot of money, it's not a significant part of the state budget.

Mr. Robinson explained the concept behind the proposal and stressed that it is not intended to be competing with other school districts that receive more than 15% of EPS funding. He said support is gaining ground and the plan is to have the law firm of Preti Flaherty to write a bill for the next legislative session. He said the success will be based on the minimal receiving towns. He said the town can help with the lobbying effort and there is a sponsor ready to back the bill. He said such towns are spread all over the state, and the biggest obstacle to overcome is the perception that this would be benefitting the wealthier communities.

Mr. Robinson said the bill, should it pass, would also protect those towns that are on the cusp of losing funding because they're near the 15% mark. He said Portland is very close, and he went into some of the politics behind the matter. He said they've raised 50% of the fundraising goal, and the town of York just contributed \$8,800.

Bob asked if the school committee had discussed the proposal. Chair Brett Jones said they have, and no one seems opposed to participating, and the desire was that both the school board and Selectmen would be a united front. Jo said she was very impressed by Mr. Robinson's presentation. Discussion followed about the proposal, legislative action, community valuations and source of the state funding.

Mr. Robinson said Lamoine is the 8<sup>th</sup> community with which he has met. Bob asked if this has been any part of the dialogue with the gubernatorial candidates. Mr. Robinson said not yet. Bob Pulver asked how much more Fayette would receive if it passes. Mr. Robinson said about \$205,000. A brief discussion followed regarding the politics of the legislative session.

Mr. Robinson said they hope to raise the rest of the money needed by the end of October. Gordon Donaldson asked how the coalition would work and a brief discussion followed. Mr. Robinson said he hoped a representative for each community would continue the dialogue. Jo said she thinks the coalition concept is the way to approach this.

Superintendent Kane recommended that Lamoine's share be \$1,000 and that the municipal and school budgets would cost share that. A brief discussion followed. Michael Brann said the school department never knows what its state share will be until well after the budget is approved. Brief discussions followed regarding the state school funding formula and how budgets are crafted. More discussions followed about school demographics and facility needs.

Stu asked how the boards wished to move forward. Nathan asked for a recommendation. Jo moved that the town as a whole support the Raising the Floor initiative with \$1,000 in total, and that the municipal budget and school budget each contribute 50%, pending school board approval. Stu asked if that would come from the town's legal fund. Jo said yes. After a brief discussion, Gary 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. **Vote in favor was 4-0.** Stu said he would contact Mr. Robinson.

**Sheds** – School Committee Chair Brett Jones explained how three structures were moved from the school property to the former Anderson property where the town has a storage garage. He said the buildings are in decent condition, though some look a little shabby. Stu said maybe the Recreation Committee could use one for off-season storage. Jo said she'd like to ponder what to do with the buildings. Nathan said if the town doesn't need the buildings, they become a maintenance issue. The board asked to place the issue on the next meeting agenda.

**Permit Fees – Code Enforcement** – Code Enforcement Rebecca Albright sent a memorandum to the Board of Selectmen regarding concerns about the permit fee schedule. After a brief discussion the board requested that the Code Enforcement Officer and Administrative Assistant propose an updated schedule.

**Harbor Mooring Assignment** – Stu explained that a mooring assignment was made to a person on the waiting list last winter, but the mooring payment was not received until mid-summer. In the meantime, that assigned mooring was assigned to someone else, yet the original assignee is using that mooring. After some brief discussion it was suggested that the Harbor Master assign a different mooring number to the original assignee and that the mooring holder assigned that permit retain the mooring number.

**Mobile Vendors** – The Parks Commission has requested guidance from the Board of Selectmen in regard to regulating mobile vendors at the town parks as food trucks have become popular. The Selectmen instructed the Administrative Assistant research other communities' regulations and that the Parks Commission could work on suggested language.

**Vandalism at Bloomfield Park** – Stu reported that a person set fire to a picnic bench at Bloomfield Park and was caught by a Hancock County Deputy Sheriff. He said the young man had contacted him and made an initial payment of \$50.00 for restitution. Total cost to replace the bench is \$188.88. There was no objection to collecting full restitution.

**General Assistance Update Hearing** – Jo moved to set September 27, 2018 at 7:00 PM as the public hearing date for an update to the General Assistance Ordinance. Nathan 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

**Staffing** – Selectmen deferred discussion about staffing levels for the town office. They did ask to meet at 6:30 PM on September 27, 2018 in order to recognize Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs on the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her hiring. Bob noted that he would be out of town on that date.

**Town Meeting Date** – Jo moved to set the annual town meeting date on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 (voting day) and Wednesday, March 20, 2019 (open town meeting). Nathan 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

**Board Chairs Meeting** – Jo said she supported having a meeting with the board chairs. She said she would also like to meet at the fire station for the first meeting in October (the 11<sup>th</sup>) as the new ladder truck should be in by then. After a brief discussion, the board set November 15, 2018 as a meeting with the board and committee chairs.

**Sculpture Offer** – Stu reported that Harold MacQuinn, Inc. has offered to donate a metal sculpture at the former Miro property to the town. There was no desire to take such ownership. Stu said he would communicate that to agent Steve Salisbury.

**Speed Sign** – Stu reported he had included a log of where the Maine DOT speed monitoring sign was located during the summer. There was a brief discussion as to whether any data would be available from the sign. Stu also noted that Maine Municipal Risk Management had reimbursed him for damage to his personal vehicle from hauling the sign.

**Transfer Station** – Stu gave a brief verbal description of use of cones and no parking signs at the transfer station to improve safety for swap shop users. He said DM&J has agreed to automatically pick up a roll off weekly.

**Septage Capacity Contract** – Gary moved to approve renewal of a contract with Haslam Septic guaranteeing capacity for the town's septage. Stu reported that Haslam is now hauling to the sewage treatment plant in Ellsworth. Jo 2<sup>nd</sup> **Vote in favor was 4-0. Selectmen signed the contract.**

**Returnables Request** – Jo moved to award the returnable proceeds during January 2019 to Lamoine's Little Children through Special Children's Friends. Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

**Code Enforcement Actions** – Selectmen reviewed letters from the Code Enforcement Officer to a pair of landowners regarding possible Shoreland Zoning cutting violations. There was no action taken.

**Lamoine Beach Playground Equipment** – Stu reported Amy Duym of Lamoine’s Little Children had asked a local contractor for advice on what to place underneath a piece of equipment they’re proposing for Lamoine Beach Park. There was a brief discussion.

**MacQuinn Road Tree** – Bob moved to accept an estimate from Huebner Tree Service to remove a dead pine tree from MacQuinn Road. Jo 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0**

**MMA Annual Meeting voting delegate** – Jo moved to approve Stu as the voting delegate at the Maine Municipal Association’s annual meeting on October 3, 2018. Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

**Other Business**

- Bob asked if the Planning and Appeals Boards attend the workshops offered by MMA. Stu said they do from time to time and he tries to e-mail the boards when one is offered close by.
- Stu reported that he had been in contact with the personal representative of a property about which many complaints about discarded debris was received and the effort is under way to clean up the yard.
- Stu reported the owners of property near Lamoine Beach had dropped off a letter regarding concerns about trespassing earlier in the day. The matter will be on the next meeting agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Selectmen