



Administrative Assistant to the Select Board

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Report for Meeting of August 18, 2022

Greetings and I hope everyone got over the wicked hot days of early August. The town office was nice and comfortable for most of it, even without air conditioning. We had several people say they wanted to stay here all day on one particularly hot day. When I told them they could help stuff certified mail they seemed to change their minds.

It will have been about a month since you have met last. No horrible issues have come up to speak of that require Select Board intervention. The town office survived vacations with relatively little inconvenience. Both of us enjoyed having a week off!

I am writing this on August 10th (Wednesday) and Thursday the 11th. It's a bit cloudy, but the much needed rain is not yet materializing.

Just a note that I will be off the day after the meeting as a colonoscopy was rescheduled to that date. It might make things a bit uncomfortable that evening. And remember, the evening will start at 7PM with a special town meeting. I suspect that might not take long, as the only business is to elect a moderator and vote on the article to move funding for the waste disposal budget from surplus.

Minutes – June 21, 2022 – Please look over the minutes and get changes to me in writing if possible.

Expenditure Warrant 3 – Many thanks for signing this warrant for \$163,873.69 last week. Let me know if there are any questions.

Expenditure Warrant 4 – This will be updated periodically on the website and printed the day of the meeting.

Cash & Budget Reports – The **FY 2021/22 Report** should be fairly accurate now – I have done some reconciling and brought things up to date with the end of that fiscal year. There is still a discrepancy with the investment accounts (just a few dollars) that First Wealth Management is trying to figure out. You'll note that the Recreation Budget is overspent – I charged some of the work to that budget and some to this year's budget. There is still plenty in the Rec Fund.

The FY 2022/23 report will also be posted on the website and periodically updated and printed for the meeting. You might notice a negative amount of interest earned on the investment management accounts. Because the prime rate has gone up, the town's investments market value went down a bit, and the interest earned was less than the fee charged by the wealth management folks. I am in hopes that will turn around soon.

Meet with Recreation Committee – Nikki Chan said she could come in to give an update on where things stand. I know you wanted to talk about the ballfields with them. It would be good to get caught up with the committee and talk about membership, roles, and what the expectations are before they get rolling on soccer.

Corrective Deed – One of the lots we sold after tax acquired is being sold, and there was a very minor error in one of the lien references in the deed that was issued. At the request of the current owner of Map 4 Lot 52 I have prepared a corrective deed to rectify that error.

Traffic Light Repairs – While vacationing in Boston, I got a call from the town office about the Route 3/204 traffic lights. Jennifer said that the Regional Communications Center spoke with her about someone possibly running into the lights and they were not functioning properly. I called Frazier Signals with whom we just signed a maintenance contract, and they got back to me later in the day to say they planned to be down. In the meantime, Jenn traveled to the intersection and observed the lights, and they seemed to be working just fine. Turns out Versant was working on the power lines on Route 3 and traffic was badly backed up and the caller to the RCC felt that the lights must be to blame.

Frazier was down the next week to do the PM work (the bill is on the warrant). During that work they found (and I knew) that several signs and holders need replacing due to wind damage, as well as a couple of the backplates on the lights. They've prepared an estimate which is in your packet. The hardware is relatively inexpensive, the bucket truck and crew cost is not. I would recommend that we have the repair work done (we're obligated to according to the MDOT contract).

Crack Sealing – Where we've delayed paving for a while, I would recommend that we crack seal Needles Eye Road and probably Asa's Lane. I'd like Wilson's (which we've used for many years) to get us an estimate first.

Marlboro Beach Road Speed Limit – The determination is finally back from Maine DOT and the speed limit will NOT change. I would recommend we send the report to the gentlemen who has been most vocal about wanting a lower speed limit. The report did recommend a couple more 35MPH signs be installed, which is doable. It is taking a while for signs to get made up, though!

Letter of Concern – LD 2003 – Materials from a group in Western Maine are in your packet regarding the affordable housing laws passed in the Legislature last session. I'm not sure if you wish to get involved in their effort, but it's a good discussion.

Property Tax Stabilization Program – Applications have started to roll in for this program which freezes property tax bills at the prior year's level for senior citizen homestead owners who've had homesteads for 10-years. There are lots of questions about the program which we don't have the answer to. The applications are going to the Board of Assessors.

Board of Assessors Future – The Board met last week and will be drafting a special town meeting referendum question for November to eliminate the elected board and to replace that with an appointed Assessor effective following the revaluation. I've asked Brian Thomas to draw up the question. The reason for holding this referendum in November is twofold. It will satisfy the state law requirement that the vote take place at

least 90-days before the annual town meeting and it will also ensure that at least 10% of the number of voters in the last gubernatorial election will have turned out, since this is a gubernatorial election year.

Comprehensive Plan/Conservation Commission – Larissa has prepared a very detailed report from the Conservation Commission and their monitoring of the Comprehensive Plan. It's in your packet.

Code Enforcement Matters – The CEO is dealing with a few non-permitted, rented RV and / or tent sites that are being marketed as short term rentals. One tent platform that was permitted for personal use has been rented much of the summer and the neighbors are concerned regarding a fire ring that is being used during high fire danger times (thankfully it has not gotten away). I prepared a report for the CEO regarding that. She and the Planning Board chair have been looking over how the town regulates camp sites and campgrounds. I'm not sure what questions you might have in this regard.

PFAS Update – I spend much of Thursday with the Maine DEP attempting to collect water samples from additional residential wells. A separate memo is in your packet.

Regional Animal Control Update – The numerous towns interested in this met via zoom briefly this morning. A separate memo is also in your packet regarding this.

That's what I have thus far. We'll see you Thursday evening!

Stu