



# Lamoine Board of Selectmen

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## Minutes – September 17, 2020

Chair Kathleen Rybarz called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at the Lamoine Town Hall.

Present were: Selectmen Kathleen Rybarz, Nathan Mason, Robert Christie, Gary McFarland, S. Josephine Cooper; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, School Committee Member Gordon Donaldson, Superintendent of Schools Katrina Kane and John J. Whitney (briefly).

**Public Hearing – General Assistance Ordinance** – Kathleen opened the hearing at 7:00 PM. Stu said this is the annual update in the various figures used for processing general assistance applications. There were no other comments. The hearing closed at 7:01 PM.

Nathan moved to adopt the amendments to the General Assistance Ordinance. Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 5-0, Selectmen signed the ordinance page.**

**Agenda Review** – Kathleen asked to move the school committee item to after the treasurer's reports.

**Minutes – September 3, 2020** – Nathan moved to approve the minutes as written. Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

**Expenditure Warrant 8** – Selectmen signed warrant 8 in the amount of \$107,990.06. Stu noted that the school department was the bulk of the warrant, and the warrant also contained payment for the Lamoine 150! History books, and the first load of salt for winter plowing.

**Cash & Budget Reports** – Bob noted that excise tax is running about \$27,000 ahead of projection. Stu said it's closer to \$30,000 after today's business.

**Meeting with School Committee Representative** – Gordon Donaldson noted the Selectmen receive a letter from the school committee earlier in the day. He said it was designed to open a dialogue to help spread the basic message of disease control. He said the school does not have the resources to reach the entire community by itself.

Dr. Donaldson noted that two schools have had to resort to complete remote education this week. He said the school committee doesn't want that to happen here. He said the staff worked hard all summer to get ready for in person education. He said 80% of the students are in school 5-days a week, and 20% are receiving education remotely.

Dr. Donaldson said the purpose of meeting with the Selectmen was to get a community wide message that people need to be careful, and their interaction with school students is important. He said everyone in town shares the responsibility. He said the school department was not requesting any specific action.

Dr. Donaldson asked what can be done to keep people on their toes. He said the parents have made very clear that students need to be in school, and he asked what the town could do to emphasize that. He said the only thought they had was a public service announcement on the Cable TV channel. Stu noted that very few people would see that. Dr. Donaldson said this is a very hard place to do mass communication.

Nathan said the staff has done an outstanding job with the resources they have. He said his daughter who attends the school doesn't like the mask requirement much, but said the day goes well. He said he sees the principal every day greeting students as they get off the bus. He said he's got a concern about the wear and tear on the teachers. He said he's not sure how the school board can alleviate staff stress.

Superintendent Katrina Kane thanked the Selectmen for the appreciation gifts handed out to the staff. She said it was a great surprise and reminds the teachers that the town has their backs. She said it's a challenging, and is physically exhausting for teachers to talk through a mask. She said it's also emotionally exhausting. She said the staff is amazing and parents have been supportive. She said there is a lot movement in the school population with some remote and home schooled students wanting to attend in person, so there is a lot of transition. She said the staff has gone above and beyond the call of duty.

Nathan asked if the Hancock school is following the Lamoine model. Superintendent Kane said no, there are too many students, and not enough space. She said Lamoine's is a hybrid remote system with a separate room for zoom because of the physical space limitations. A brief discussion followed.

Superintendent Kane said they have isolated the middle level students from the lower grades, and students are spaced apart on the bus. She said there is no longer any space for new students attending in person so they are learning remotely.

Gary said it looks like the Recreation Committee might be looking to use the outdoor facilities. Stu said they would not be – that's later on the agenda. Superintendent Kane said there was an athletics meeting today, and there will be skill building activities with the students are in school and they will keep that on site and follow state guidelines. She said there is no coaching staff for soccer and there couldn't be any interscholastic games any way. She said some kids are doing things through other recreation groups.

Dr. Donaldson said it's a fragile setup. He said if a positive case turns up, it would shut down the school. Superintendent Kane said if there is even a suspected case, school would be out until it's safe to bring everyone back. She said the quicker they go out, the quicker they would be back.

Dr. Donaldson said he would like to get back to the messaging question. Jo said she was impressed by the letter that shows everyone has responsibility. She said she is concerned for the teachers. Bob referenced comments that Nate made in a past meeting which addressed the very same concerns, indicating stress leads to anger, and there doesn't seem to be as much here in Lamoine. He said the elected officials set the

standard, and said some people are resistant to complying with the state standards. Jo said there are several venues, including the Lamoine Quarterly, the town's website and Facebook pages. A discussion followed about having outdoor campaign like signs.

**Lamoine 150!** – Dr. Donaldson reported that the history book that he compiled is published and handed out copies to the Board and staff. He said every residence will get one for free beginning on Saturday at the salt/sand shed.

**Fire Department Membership** – Resident John Whitney said he would like to return to the fire department membership. Jo said that's not up to the Selectmen, but to the fire chief. She said the board cannot override such decisions from the chief. Kathleen thanked Mr. Whitney for coming to talk with the board.

**Agency Liquor Store Request** – Stu reported that the Kimberly Murphy, the owner of the Lamoine Marketplace has requested that the town vote on whether to allow an agency liquor store should be allowed. He said the state laws changed in March, and the Selectmen could place the matter to referendum without a petition. He said the petition number requirements apparently changed, too, with only 30-signatures required instead of the 15% of the voters in the previous gubernatorial election. There was a discussion about timing of a referendum vote. Stu said there is not enough time before the November 3, 2020 election, as public hearings are needed and absentee ballots would be required. It was suggested the annual town meeting election would be more appropriate.

Bob said he would prefer to receive petition signatures. Jo said that might encourage more public contact. There was a discussion on whether to require a petition, and whether sending it directly to referendum sends a mixed message about safety.

Kathleen moved to require petition signatures, and then schedule a referendum vote. Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

**Recreation Committee – Fall Sports** – Stu reported the Recreation Committee met the previous night. He said Nikki Chan did an incredible amount of research, including polling whether anyone would be willing to coach soccer. He said the committee concluded there would not be enough volunteers to be able to run a soccer season with the required state protocols and they will not hold fall sports.

**Roads** – Stu recapped a memorandum on road projects on Maxwell Avenue, South Birchlawn Drive and Needles Eye road. There were no objections to proceeding.

Gary moved to sign the acceptance of Local Road Assistance funds from the Maine DOT. Nathan 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

**School Appreciation Recap** – Kathleen said there was a wonderful and fast reaction from the town, and a lot of money was raised to be able to buy gift cards from a local store. She said the Friends of Acadia, Lamoine 150! Committee and the Lamoine

Marketplace all contributed, and the gesture was very much appreciated by a surprised staff at the Lamoine Consolidated School last Friday.

**Lamoine 150!** – Jo said Gordon Donaldson has been phenomenal with his work on the history book. She said the scavenger hunt of historic locations begins tomorrow, and the book distribution starts Saturday.

**Lamoine Quarterly** – Stu said he plans to have it done and for approval by the next meeting. He said he would e-mail the draft prior to the meeting.

**2021 Planners** – Stu asked if the Selectmen wanted to order planners for the volunteer committees as has been done in the past. After a brief discussion the board opted to pass, as most people seem to be using electronic planners instead.

**Mounting a TV Monitor in the Meeting Room** – Stu suggested mounting a TV/Monitor on the North wall where a display about the coaling station currently hangs. The board felt that would be a good idea, especially with the number of zoom meetings being held. They suggested a larger TV be used than is currently in use. Stu said he'd like to put IT director Bill Butler in charge of the project. There was no objection.

**Speed Sign** – Stu reported that the speed display sign was damaged earlier in the week, apparently when a passing motorist hit it with a beer bottle. He said he was able to fix it with some tech support from the sign maker.

**Land Donation** – Stu reported that the signed deed from Katherine Dudzinski arrived this week, and he drafted a letter thanking Ms. Dudzinski for the donation. Selectmen signed the letter. Stu reported that the Parks Commission is talking about a cleanup of a small dump that has cropped up in recent years on the donated land.

**Debit Card Breach** – Stu reported that he checks the town's checking account every day and discovered two charges to the account to Uber Eats in San Francisco. He said he immediately canceled the card and filed a dispute with the bank. He said the bank has returned the \$38.88 that was fraudulently charged to the card.

**Broadband Expansion** – Stu reported that the Maine Community Foundation turned down a grant request. He said he'd distributed information from the Island Institute at the previous meeting. Selectmen said they'd be interested in pursuing that avenue. Stu asked if they'd like consultant Brian Lippold to pursue that. There was no objection.

**Letter from Birchlawn Drive Resident** – Kathleen noted an e-mail communication was received from the gentleman on Birchlawn Drive who has a problem with high neighbor's rooster.

**Other** – Stu reported that Facilities Maintenance Director Mike Hodgkins has started construction of the new deck/ramp for the back door and it should be done next week.

Stu reported the drop box is in place and lettered. He said a cover for the slot is still needed, and it has to be able to be locked.

Bob said a resident reported to him that someone was discharging a firearm close to a residence and inquired about laws about that. Bob said he suggested the resident call law enforcement.

Bob recommended viewing of a Netflix show called The Social Dilemma.

Stu reported that the Board of Assessors prevailed in an abatement appeal before the County Commissioners who said the presentation by the Board was one of the best they'd seen.

Kathleen noted that the October 15, 2020 meeting at the school will start at 6PM.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst.