



Lamoine Board of Selectmen

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Minutes – March 4, 2021

Chair Kathleen Rybarz called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Present were: (at the town hall) Selectman Nathan Mason, Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon (via Zoom meetings) Selectmen Robert Christie, Gary McFarland, Kathleen Rybarz and S. Josephine Cooper; member of the public Alan Moldawer

Agenda – There is no addendum, and no changes were made to the printed agenda.

Minutes – February 18, 2021 – Stu reported that he made a couple of changes to the original printed draft minutes at the suggestion of Mr. Moldawer, and the updated minutes are posted on the town's website. Bob moved to approve of the minutes as corrected. Nathan 2nd. **Rollcall vote in favor was 5-0.**

Expenditure Warrant 21 – Selectmen approved the warrant in the amount of \$684,337.06 on a **unanimous rollcall vote in favor**. Stu said most of the warrant was a \$575,000 transfer to the investment management account, along with school expenditures of over \$73,000 and a sizeable refund check to Core Logic, a real estate escrow company for property tax overpayments.

Cash & Budget Report – Stu reported a 4th page of report is now included with the effect of current operations on the various fund balances now that the audit has been completed. There were no questions regarding the reports.

Checking Account Reconciliation – Stu reported that he e-mailed the reconciliation earlier in the week. He noted that two deposit discrepancies totaling \$0.09 were corrected. Nathan moved to approve the reconciliation review, Gary 2nd. **Rollcall vote in favor was 5-0.**

Audit for FY 2020 – Stu reported the audit was completed last Wednesday, and there was a management letter included regarding the 2019 property tax commitment error as expected. He said the letter recommends a future town meeting article to approve the appropriation from surplus to be transferred to match the negative commitment overlay.

Town Meeting – Stu said it is his recommendation that due to the pandemic gathering restrictions that the town meeting be convened on March 17th and immediately recessed to a future date. He said that Harvey Kelley had suggested an outdoor meeting in May. There was discussion about meeting inside on May 12th or 19th (a Wednesday) evening and coordinating the resumption of the meeting with the school budget. Selectmen agreed they would meet at the school gym as scheduled for town meeting on the 17th and come up with a date certain to recess.

Nathan said he didn't want 100-people to show up at the town meeting on the 17th and not have the meeting happen. Stu said he would publicize widely that the meeting would be convened and immediately recessed.

Broadband Expansion – Stu reported the latest information from Brian Lippold indicated that ConnectME could fund up to \$100,000 of the Premium Choice project, but the town has to get 80% of the potential customers to sign up for service. He said that Mr. Lippold has suggested that the town request another price from Spectrum on wiring up unserved areas and asked for authority to make that inquiry. Nathan so moved, Kathleen 2nd. There was a brief discussion about the potential for Star Link service.
Rollcall vote in favor was 5-0.

Target Practice Complaint – Stu reported that several residents of the Marlboro Woods Subdivision have complained about shooting, apparently in a gravel pit near the subdivision. He said one resident plans to put their home up for sale because of the constant noise. Bob asked if it's a private pit. Stu said the pit is indeed private and permitted for gravel extraction, and actively worked.

Jo said there are more homes in that area now, which might be part of the issue. Nathan said if there is nothing illegal happening, there is nothing the town can or should do. He said perhaps the property owners in the subdivision could contact the pit owner to inquire about what is happening.

Bob said communication is important, and related a story about a neighbor of his who had told him about his plans to shoot, and he appreciated that. He asked if the pit owner had given permission for shooting to take place, and perhaps there might be some consideration given to the time of day that shooting is allowed. He said it would be prudent to understand whether the shooters are trespassing.

Nathan said the town has no idea what is actually taking place. Jo said the noise is disturbing, and she can hear it on Sunday afternoons. She suggested the neighborhood could ask the Sheriff's department to look into it. She said it appears to be a clash of expectations. Gary said shooting in a gravel pit is much safer than shooting in one's backyard. Bob said he would feel better if the shooters had a better relationship with the neighbors who might be concerned about poaching activities. He said there is a big difference between several people shooting at once and an automatic weapon. Kathleen noted that if shooting is taking place within 100-yards of a dwelling, it might violate the law.

Stu asked if the Selectmen wished to have town staff to contact the pit owner. Jo said that would be fine. Stu offered to place a call to inquire whether permission has been given for shooting activity. Kathleen suggested that the people complaining about the noise could write to the landowner to suggest some practical guidelines.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station – Jo noted that her sister has an electric vehicle and that there are some charging stations in Ellsworth. She said that some spots in Ellsworth could be a money maker, but she was not sure about Lamoine. Nathan said if he had an electric vehicle, he would charge it at home. He said charging an EV is not free, and he's not sure there would be a key area in town to have such a station. Bob noted that General Motors and Volvo are investing in the EV market. He suggested checking with towns of similar size but he doesn't see a demand for a public charging

station in Lamoine right now. There was no desire by the board to pursue installation of the charging station at this time.

Lamoine 150! – Jo said there was not much to update – the committee meets next week. She said there were some fun Lamoine facts posted in the past week as the town quietly noted its 151st birthday. Gary asked when the meeting takes place. Jo said it would be on March 11 at 4PM via Zoom. Gary said he would try to join the meeting to get going on organizing vehicles for a parade.

Other – Salmon Farm – Kathleen reported that American Aquafarms is proposing to place salmon pens on 110-acres in Frenchman Bay, near the mussel operation visible from Lamoine Beach. She said some fishermen wish to know more. She said American Aquafarms will make a presentation to the Bar Harbor Town Council on March 6th and it can be viewed on line. She said the company would meet with Lamoine if wanted. She said the company has turned in a permit application to the Department of Marine Resources. After a brief discussion, Kathleen said she would inform Harbor Master David Herrick to let him spread the word.

Credit Card Fraud – Stu reported that a police department in Louisiana contacted the town office regarding an on-line property tax payment received and applied to the taxes of a recently deceased taxpayer. He said he supplied what information he could to the investigating detective. The zoom portion of the meeting temporarily froze inside the town hall meeting room.

Election Day – Selectmen urged registered voters to turn out Tuesday to cast ballots. There was a brief discussion about absentee balloting.

Vaccination – A brief but lively discussion followed about the availability of COVID-19 vaccinations for people 60 and older and school teachers. It was noted that Maine Coast Memorial Hospital, Hannaford and the Cross Center in Bangor are offering appointments. Jo's organization, Friends in Action, has been assisting people with signing up.

Next Meeting – The next scheduled Selectmen's meeting is March 18, 2021 which will be the annual organizational meeting following the municipal election. Stu reminded the board to show up the night before at the school to address town meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Selectmen