



# Lamoine Board of Selectmen

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## Minutes – May 20, 2021

Chair Gary McFarland called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.

Present were: (at the town hall) Selectmen Robert Christie, Gary McFarland, S. Josephine Cooper; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon; Code Enforcement Officer Rebecca Albright; (via zoom) Selectman Kathleen Rybarz

Gary moved to go into executive session pursuant to 1MRSA §405 (6) (a) for the purpose of an annual job performance review (personnel matter). Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0 at 6:36 PM. Out at 7:02 PM.**

**Regular Meeting** – Chairman McFarland called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Present, in addition to those above were Fire Chief George Smith, and eventually Deborah Verrill-McFarland. Ms. Albright left the meeting following executive session.

**Agenda Review** – There were no changes proposed to the printed agenda or addendum.

**Minutes – May 6, 2021** – Bob moved to approve the minutes as printed. Jo 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

**Expenditure Warrant 27** – Selectmen signed the warrant in the amount of \$370,715.86. Stu noted that the school warrants accounted for about \$340,000, and the next largest bill was to the Secretary of State for vehicle registrations.

**Cash & Budget Report** – Stu reported that in addition to the excise tax revenues on the report, another \$3,500 came in during today's business. Gary noted that new car registrations will dry up for a while as there are very few new cars left in inventory due to a computer chip shortage.

**Meeting with Fire Chief** – Chief George "Skip" Smith says he's been working on a rough diagram of a new fire truck which would be a combination of pumper and tanker. He said it would carry a large amount of water and be able to fight a fire and be on a 10-wheel chassis. He said the idea is pretty straight forward and passed around a preliminary design picture.

Kathleen asked if this would replace a truck. Chief Smith said it would replace the 1994 pumper which is in the rotation for replacement. He said that truck is now 28-years old and it's time to replace it. He said the newest pumper is now 16-years old. Bob asked if the '94 is showing its age. Chief Smith said there have been various nuisance problems in recent years. He said it might make a good truck for some other community. He said his goal is to keep the Lamoine fleet relatively modern. Bob said there seems to be a reasonable turnover of fire apparatus, and that has served the town well.

Jo said a new truck should get support. She said her first year on the board involved the “hoo-rah” around a new fire truck. Gary asked when this would happen. Chief Smith said it wouldn’t happen before 2022. . Stu asked what kind of price the chief expected. Chief Smith said the chassis would run between \$102,000 and \$120,000. He said he would prefer the Cummins engine in an International chassis. He said the body would likely run about \$200,000, and the entire project would likely be in the \$325,000 range.

Bob asked if there was any action for the board to take. Chief Smith said if the Selectmen back his plan, he would continue designing the vehicle. Jo said she was not opposed, and it takes time to get the design work done. Gary said the board would need a detailed proposal. Chief Smith said the price is not firm, but it’ll be close. Jo asked about what kind of price changes. Chief Smith said the last truck, a tanker, ran \$234,000 in total. A brief discussion followed about selling the 1994 truck.

Jo asked if the town will need a different fire station at some point. Chief Smith said he cringes when that discussion comes up. Jo asked if the current fire station covers what the town needs. Chief Smith said he would like to add a meeting room to the downstairs area on the school side of the building. He said he’s concerned about the public walking through the fire apparatus bay, as there’s exposure to carcinogens. He said the department is trying to clean and repaint the apparatus bay, and have the truck interiors professionally cleaned. He said the department recently installed a new washer and dryer.

Bob asked if there is an urgency to get the truck. Chief Smith said no; the urgency is to line up the financing while interest rates are still favorable. A brief discussion followed regarding funding.

**Federal Pandemic Relief Funds** – Gary asked about the water project for the fire station. Chief Smith said they plan to install at least a 10,000 water tank beside the fire house once the portable classroom is removed. He said they have permission from Cold Spring Water Company. Stu asked about the project cost. After discussion, it was estimated it would cost about \$25,000 for the tank, plumbing and pump. Kathleen asked about a sprinkler system for the school, and whether the tank would work for that. Chief Smith said he’s not sure that would be big enough – perhaps a 20,000 gallon tank would be needed, as that’s a big project.

Stu said the federal application is now available to fill out. He said the other priority is broadband, and he would recommend that the Selectmen authorize him to fill out the application on line on the town’s behalf. Bob so moved, Kathleen 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

**Memorial Bench at Bloomfield Park** – Selectmen reviewed a letter from Emily Lawley requesting a bench in memory of Jessica Kane be placed at Blunt’s Pond. Stu suggested this be referred to the Parks Commission. Kathleen said the bench should be of substantial construction to hold up to the weather. The board had no objection to referring the request to the Parks Commission.

**Town Meeting** – Stu said he’s finished the power point presentation for Wednesday. He said the recommended amounts reflect the change in Administration Budget due to the new contract, as well as the undesignated fund balance allocation to cover that. Kathleen asked when the Conservation and Citizen of the Year awards would be handed out. Stu said that would be prior to the start of the meeting.

**Lamoine 150!** – Jo said the committee is busily making plans for the week of August 7 through the 14<sup>th</sup>. She said they’re hoping to ask groups that want to hold events to be in touch for publicity and coordination. She said the individual organizations will have to run their own events. She said among the plans are a church fair and ice cream social, digging up the 1995 time capsule and replacing it with the 2020 time capsule; a program from the Historical Society about fishing; an outdoors event from the Conservation Commission; and possibly a play reading by Lamoine Community Arts.

Jo said a parade is planned for August 14<sup>th</sup> to be held on Shore Road and it should last about a mile. She said they’re in discussion with the Hancock County Sheriff’s Department about how to hold it safely. She said neighborhoods and groups will be encouraged to have floats in the parade. She asked Gary if he could coordinate antique vehicles.

Jo said the question for the Selectmen will involve authority to close Lamoine Beach Park for the day in anticipation of fireworks. She said a celebration with music, cake and ice cream will take place at either the school or Lamoine Beach and transportation by bus will be provided from the school to the beach. She said there is such limited parking at the beach along with the planned fireworks show that closing the park for the day would allow for a bus shuttle to occur safely. She asked if it was permissible to close the park. Gary asked if vendors would be located on site. Jo said maybe, but maybe not. A lengthy discussion followed over what to do. Stu said the Selectmen can order the park closed, but they should check with the Parks Commission first, and then should start running the shuttle bus early in the day. Bob said he’s concerned about parking and traffic speed. A discussion followed on handicapped access.

Bob moved to approve closing Lamoine Beach for the Lamoine 150! Events on August 14, 2021. Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Jo said if it rains, there will be no rain date.

**Cell Tower Lease** – Stu reported the town was contacted by American Tower which holds the lease for the cell tower near the former landfill. He said the gentleman he spoke with said the tower is an underperforming tower because only one carrier is located on it. He said the lessee wants to change the lease terms, and apparently the contract gives them a right to pull out of the lease with a year’s notice. He said the gentleman was supposed to send more information by e-mail, but it had not yet arrived. He said he would follow up to make sure he has the correct e-mail address.

**Other** – Bob asked about the requirement for face coverings for the town meeting. Stu said he’s not sure whether they’ll be required for those who are vaccinated, but suspects

they would be due to the fact the meeting is held at a school. He said he would check with the superintendent.

**Transfer Station Inspection** – Selectmen received a copy of the transfer station inspection from the State DEP. Stu noted that the hot loads area needs to be scraped down to prevent potential fires.

**Other** – Buttermilk Road Pothole – Stu reported that a pot hole developed Monday at a cross culvert on Buttermilk Road. He said he moved chunks of pavement out of the middle of the road immediately, and put a cone on the hazard at lunch on Wednesday. He said someone removed the cone Wednesday evening, but Randy Kelley filled it with gravel and will put stone dust in it shortly until the culvert is changed out next week. He said a woman and her daughter came to the town hall earlier in the day and reported that her tire was damaged on Wednesday evening.

Jo asked about the road work that was awarded last meeting. Stu said he's contacted all three bidders and has assigned the work accordingly.

Maine Town & City Magazine – Bob said he was struck by essays written by 7<sup>th</sup> grade students, including one from Trenton, about what they would do if they ran the community. He said a common theme was community spaces and treating people with respect.

Community Center – Kathleen asked if there has been any discussion about getting the community center committee active again. She suggested perhaps re-forming the committee in the fall. After a brief discussion Kathleen offered to contact the committee members.

Regional Shellfishing – Kathleen reported that Franklin will assume the administrative duties on June 15<sup>th</sup>. She said Ellsworth is transferring the money over to Franklin as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. She said there is a joint municipal board meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Next Meetings** – Gary listed out the upcoming meeting dates, including Town Meeting on May 26, 2021, the next Selectmen's meeting which begins with the Hodgkins Scholarship Sub Committee on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6PM followed by an employee review at 6:30 PM.

**Executive Session** – Gary moved to enter executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA §405 (6) (a). Jo 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0 at 8:11 PM. Out at 8:29 PM.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Selectmen