



Lamoine Board of Selectmen

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Minutes – June 3, 2021

Chair Gary McFarland called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Present were: Selectmen Gary McFarland, Robert Christie, Kathleen Rybarz, S. Josephine Cooper; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon.

Gary moved to go into executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA §405(6)(F) to discuss Hodgkins Scholarship Applications. Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0. Out at 6:24 PM**

Selectman Nathan Mason and Facilities Maintenance Director Michael Hodgkins joined the meeting.

Gary moved to go into executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA §405(6)(A) for a job performance review. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in Favor was 4-0 at 6:27 PM. Out at 6:55 PM**

Regular Meeting

Gary called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. All five Selectmen and Stu were present. Fire Chief George "Skip" Smith joined the meeting.

Agenda Review – No changes were proposed to the printed agenda or addendum.

Minutes – May 20, 2021 – Bob and Jo submitted minor spelling changes. Bob moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0 (Mason abstained).**

Expenditure Warrant 28 – Selectmen signed the warrant in the amount of \$154,248.15. Stu reported that approximately \$128,000 was for the school department, including \$50,000 for another portable classroom. Jo asked how much the town meeting moderator made. Stu said he gets the same as the ballot clerks by agreement.

Cash & Budget Reports – Stu reported that municipal expenses are well below the amount of year that has passed, and revenues are well in excess of the annual budget. He said the estimated cash amount at the end of the year presumes no more revenue, so it's likely to be significantly higher.

Checking Account – The board signed the statement expressing satisfaction with the checking account reconciliation which was sent by e-mail prior to the meeting.

Parks – Privy Maintenance – Gary noted that Stu had e-mailed the board regarding problems with keeping the outhouse at Lamoine Beach Park. Stu said he sought estimates from area companies that service porta-potties. He said Ray Plumbing was not able to maintain the two outhouses in Lamoine, but MDI Toilets could. He said they would clean and supply materials once a week for \$40/per outhouse.

Nathan asked whether Bloomfield Park had the same issues. Stu said there have been some issues, but not as frequently as Lamoine Beach. Nate noted the maintenance rate is the same as the cost for Porta-Potties. A brief discussion followed on what would happen if an emergency cleanup is needed between cleanings. Jo moved to utilize MDI Toilets. Bob 2nd. It was asked what the time frame would be. Stu said it should be through Columbus Day. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

ARPA Funds – Gary said it looks like the town might receive in excess of \$179,000 from the federal government. Stu said there was a webinar last evening through Maine Municipal Association and he would watch that presentation when time allows. He said in addition to the broadband, water and sewer projects, there is also the possibility of “premium pay” for front line employees. Jo asked if that might involve school employees. Selectmen asked Stu to send the webinar link when it’s available.

Cell Tower Lease – Selectmen reviewed the information sent by American Tower in regard to changing the lease of land for the cell tower. Bob asked how much the town receives. Stu said it’s \$1,322.50/month. He suggested referring this to the town attorney. Bob so moved. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Broadband – Stu suggested it might be time to meet with the Technology Committee and Consultant Brian Lippold to further discuss how to expand broadband to unserved areas of town. Nathan said he is not sold on that concept. After a brief discussion, Gary asked Stu to arrange that meeting.

Town Meeting Review – Gary said that he discussed the use of a written ballot on question 10 on the town meeting with Stu following the meeting. He said there was a request to vote by secret ballot, and the vote was tied. He said that he and town clerk Jennifer Kovacs-Lord supervised a recount request. He said after that process, they were approached by a voter who questioned the legality of having a written ballot. He said the clerk is prepared with pre-printed ballots in the eventuality of such a request. A brief discussion followed regarding written ballots. Gary said nothing wrong happened. He said there was a question as to whether someone who received a ballot was registered to vote. He said it became a bit contentious.

Jo said there is no action to take, but she can imagine that some involved with that matter are frustrated. Chief Smith said he believed there is a way to revisit a tied vote.

Gary said questions came up about the State Park possibly closing the facility commercial fisheries. He said there has been no such proposal to his knowledge, and no one has approached the board about this. He said the petitioner had no written proposal for using his lot for commercial fisheries. He said the petitioner mentioned spot zoning, but there has been no spot zoning in town. He said he received questions about historic preservation of the property and there was no such proposal.

Jo said she can understand the frustration. She said a lot of things that were done long ago can’t be done now. She asked about whether lobster traps can be stored on the property. Gary said they could, 100-feet back from the shore. He said there was a

question about how much the property tax on the lot would be reduced. He said there was a figure mentioned, but there was no way to know an accurate amount. Jo asked if there were a lot of citizens that were in touch with Gary. He said it was a surprising amount.

Bob said it felt like the town meeting was a little awkward in regard to the process. He said the presentation from the petition was a little disappointing. He said it's not likely that lobster fishermen would rally behind a private property matter. He said others thanked him in the days following the town meeting, and the process went the way it should have.

Chief Smith said if the petitioner wanted to fish from his own property, he could do what he wants. He said he wasn't sure what he was trying to do. Nathan said he was all for a commercial working waterfront, but there was no specific proposal. Chief Smith said it might be time to consider a municipal harbor.

Future Moderator – Gary asked if there was a pool of moderators to draw from. Stu said, there is not, nothing that he moderates the open meeting in Stockton Springs. Jo said she would love to moderate other towns someday. Stu suggested Joe Marshall might be interested, and Gordon Donaldson was another name that came to mind. There was a brief discussion about the benefits of having a non-resident moderate meetings.

Fire Truck – Chief Smith reviewed a proposal from K&T Environmental and said it shows what things are required in a truck. He said he was a little surprised by the price. He said normally a quote is good for about 30-days. Nathan asked if he had any guess on what the cost might have been pre-pandemic. Chief Smith said he would guess about \$350,000. He said the price of aluminum has skyrocketed.

Nathan asked where the town stands on payments. Stu said the town currently has no debt. Nathan asked if there are issues with the 1994 truck. Chief Smith said it's in good shape, but it's getting near 30-years old. Bob asked if maintenance costs are up. Chief Smith said the department takes good care of its trucks and fix them if needed. Nathan asked if there are records kept of hours used. Chief Smith said there is a meter but he's not sure what the number is. A brief discussion followed.

Gary asked if the fire department had any funds to use toward the project. Chief Smith said the fire department treasury has some funds. Stu said there was roughly \$46,000 in the fire department bank accounts. Bob asked if the fire department has helped with truck purchases in the past. Chief Smith said the department used to purchase the chassis, but they can't do that now as the chassis costs have risen dramatically.

Jo asked the chief if he had any crystal ball about truck prices in the future. Chief Smith said he expects the cost of aluminum will continue to be high. Jo said it probably wouldn't help the town to wait. A brief discussion followed.

Stu asked the Chief if he was looking for any action from the Board. Chief Smith said he just wanted to keep the board updated. Gary said he'd like to see some information on having a composite body instead of aluminum. Jo asked if there might be an option to purchase a used truck. Chief Smith said used trucks are expensive, and perhaps the newest available trucks are 10-to-15 years old. Gary said used trucks are bringing premium prices. Nathan said he'd like to see some price differentials. Chief Smith said some used pumpers are in the \$200,000 range. A brief discussion followed.

Jo said she would like to see something to compare the cost of a new truck to a used one. Bob said it would be wise to look at options, and he would support that. Jo noted that the department currently has five trucks, and it's scary that a small town has such a huge expense. Chief Smith reviewed the use of the various pieces of apparatus in the fleet.

Gary summed things up, saying the Board would like to see the chief explore the cost of a used truck and a composite material construction. Chief Smith said he would do so, though a used truck might not be what the department really wants. He said he would be able to have something ready by next meeting.

Lamoine 150! – Jo said the committee met earlier in the day. She said there have been issues with locations to have fireworks. She said the committee consulted with the Hancock County Sheriff's Department. She said the parade plans are OK, but having fireworks at Lamoine Beach are a problem, so they're looking at other locations. She said they considered Marlboro Beach, the School, and the fields on Pinkhams' Flats. She said the fireworks company was consulted, and the Lamoine 150! Committee was meeting with the fire department this evening. She said there are many positives about having all the festivities at the school. She said they're planning an end party with music, speakers and a time capsule among other things. She said there might be a tent and portable toilets, and more importantly, people would not have to travel by bus.

Nathan asked if parking will be an issue. Jo said possibly. She said the Selectmen have a letter from the committee in their packet, and they're looking for opinions. Nathan asked if they've talked with the school leadership. Jo said they have. She said the committee is looking for the general OK. She said fire safety is a top priority, and the fireworks company said the wind must be calm and fire danger not high. She said using the school seems like the best option in a lot of respects. Bob said the safety issues involving Lamoine Beach and parking are considerations. He said the committee should encourage carpooling. Discussion followed on informing neighbors and parking.

Jo said the committee will send out another postcard and have an article in the Lamoine Quarterly about the final plans. She listed the activities that are plan. Jo asked if the Selectmen wish to be recognized in the parade. The route will start at Deer Run and conclude at the Grange along Shore Road. She said the committee meets again on June 17th. She said the deadline to register for the parade will be August 1st.

Stu said the Conservation Commission is looking to sponsor a kayak tour around Raccoon Cove and was looking for the approval of the Selectmen. Nathan asked

whether the Selectmen are authorized to do so and what liability there might be. Stu said he would check with the town's insurer.

Shellfishing – Kathleen said the June 1st Municipal Joint Board meeting was canceled. She said Franklin takes over as the administrative town on July 1st. Stu asked if the town is expected to issue a huge packet of information that Franklin sent electronically for each recreational license sold. Kathleen said she would ask.

Roads – Stu said Needles Eye Road slightly flooded on Monday due to beaver activity. He said he contacted Richard McMullen when the fire department was dispatched and he removed the beaver debris in less than an hour. He said he had contacted IF&W and would like permission to have a beaver trapper work the area again. There was no objection.

Stu asked about utilizing Haley-Ward on the Buttermilk Road paving project. He said they could be used for bidding out the work and the town could forego the supervision of laying the pavement. Selectmen agreed that would be acceptable.

Personnel Contacts – Stu said he had put proposed personnel contracts in the packet for review. He encouraged Selectmen to look them over as they will hopefully be ready to sign next meeting.

Vacancies – Selectmen reviewed the list of expiring appointments. Stu said he would contact those whose terms are up on June 30th to see if they're willing to be reappointed. It was noted there are some vacancies on the Budget Committee that are in need of appointees.

Honor Grads – Stu reported that he had called both MDI and Ellsworth High Schools for a list of honor graduates from Lamoine, but had not received a call back. He said he would call again.

Elementary School – Stu reported that Iris Simon is leading an effort to recognize the school staff which has kept the school going all year without a lost day. He said that he had e-mailed Lynn Williams and a legislative sentiment might be forthcoming. Nathan said the school staff has done an outstanding job and they deserve high marks. He said the staff is tired. The last day of school is June 17th.

Other – Bob remarked further on the town meeting, saying that when he left, he wasn't as positive about the meeting as in the past. He said it was clear that we're all part of a community, and the service from the local government has been fair, and he was humbled afterward and felt better. He remarked on a letter that was copied to the town hall from a Marlboro resident. He said he feels part of the effort that serves the community well. Jo said it was a long town meeting. Gary said it shows the government process works. A brief discussion followed.

Next Meetings – The board will meet next on June 17, 2021 at 6:30 PM, and then July 1, 2021 at 7PM. The summer schedule will be set on July 1st.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Selectmen