



Lamoine Board of Selectmen

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Minutes – July 22, 2021

Chair Gary McFarland called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Present were: Selectmen S. Josephine Cooper, Kathleen Rybarz, Robert Christie, Gary McFarland; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon (Selectman Nathan Mason had notified the board he would be unable to attend prior to the meeting); School Committee Chair Brett Jones

Attending via Zoom were Brian Lippold, Bayley Baldrige, and Merle Bragdon

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

Minutes – July 1, 2021 – Bob moved to approve the minutes as printed. Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Expenditure Warrant 2 – Selectmen had signed the warrant in the amount of \$121,236.81 individually prior to the meeting on July 15, 2021. There were no questions regarding the warrant.

Expenditure Warrant 3 – Selectmen signed the warrant in the amount of \$84,557.46. Stu noted that the payroll on the warrant would be processed tomorrow as he is on vacation the next week.

FY 2020/21 Budget Report – Stu reported the education lines are over budget, but the revenue line was also significantly over budget.

FY 2021/22 Budget Report – Selectmen reviewed the budget report for the current fiscal year. There were no questions.

Excise Tax Quarterly Report – Stu noted that excise tax collections were \$97,000 over budget. Mr. Jones remarked that new vehicles are waiting for computer chips, so new vehicle sales may slow.

Property Tax Liens – Stu requested permission to cut a check to the Registry of Deeds and purchase sufficient postage in order to file tax liens tomorrow and send certified mail. Kathleen moved to approve. Bob 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.** Bob asked if the number of liens was higher than usual. Stu said there are some new properties on the list, but the number was not sufficiently higher.

Encumbrance Order – Stu explained the encumbrance order that he'd prepared. There was a brief discussion regarding paving. Jo moved to sign the order. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor, the Selectmen signed the order. (Selectman Mason has signed earlier in the day).**

Heating Fuel Bids – Stu reported he thought bids were due yesterday as the school department was handling the bid process. Mr. Jones said he had not heard what the status is on heating fuel.

Broadband Expansion – Consultant Brian Lippold said Spectrum has proposed to expand its' infrastructure to unserved areas at a total cost of \$470,000. The town would cover \$220,000 of the cost, with Spectrum paying about 54%. He said he'd expected the company would pick up about 60% so that's in the ballpark. He said the challenge is to come up with the funding. He said the town could submit a grant request to ConnectME in September, and the town would be very likely to receive about 50% of that.

Mr. Lippold said a portion of the area is in Hancock, and recommended the town speak with the town to pick up a small portion of the cost in that area.

He noted the town is to receive about \$170,000 from ARPA fund which can be a source of broadband expansion funding. He said the proposal from Spectrum is a good proposal, and the town should be able to easily fund it. He said it's doubtful any other provider will come up with a proposal and this is a good one.

Kathleen asked if it's everywhere in town that is not served. Mr. Lippold said it is. Mr. Jones asked how spread out the payments might be. Mr. Lippold said Spectrum did not indicate, but he suspected they would be receptive to a counter proposal.

Stu asked Mr. Lippold if he is willing to write the ConnectME grant application. Mr. Lippold said he is and would work with Spectrum and explained how the process works. Jo asked what the ConnectME criteria are. Mr. Lippold said it's kind of a moving target as the rules seem to constantly change. He said their goal is to have to provide about 25% of the cost with 25% from the town. He said an application this time around might align well with past criteria. Bob asked about a time from for hookups. Mr. Lippold said once funding is in place it would be about 12-months, and it takes about 6-to-8 months to get agreements with the pole owners.

Stu asked if county funding might be available. Mr. Lippold said it is, and communication should be made with the County Commissioners. He said that has been successful in other counties, and lobbying may be needed. Bob asked if there was any advice on how to contact county officials. Mr. Lippold said each county has a different agenda. He said it might be helpful to ask if funding could be provided on a population basis. Mr. Jones said he had spoken with a county commissioner and they're not sure how they plan to use their ARPA money, so it would be a good time to open a dialogue.

Mr. Lippold said the town has a shovel ready project with a private partner willing to invest, so Lamoine is well positioned. Bob asked if it's known what might be coming from the county. Stu said as far as he knows, nothing has been decided. Mr. Lippold said he has not seen a set of final rules for ARPA funding. He said he's not sure about a water project discussed by the fire department. He said he would get in touch with Stu tomorrow on what to communicate to Spectrum.

Bob referred to a letter from Gordon Donaldson of the Eagle Point Association. Stu said he could provide Mr. Donaldson with an update.

Mr. Jones noted there may be some infrastructure money for the fire department water project as well. A brief discussion followed.

Lamoine 150! – Jo said the committee met earlier in the day and reviewed the schedule. She said they're recruiting volunteers for the August 14th events. She said there might be a rain date for fireworks on August 15th. A brief discussion followed.

Jo reported the website has a post with all the events set out, and the layout for the school for August 14th looks good. She said the committee plans to dig up the time capsule at the town hall. Mr. Jones asked if the airport has signed off on the fireworks. Jos said the FAA has given its approval. She said so far there are 16 units signed up for the parade. A list of potential items for the time capsule was reviewed. She said the committee could use more volunteers.

Kathleen moved to sign a contract with Central Maine Pyrotechnics. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0. Stu signed on behalf of the board.**

Jo noted the Conservation Commission has a photography display called Naturally Lamoine planned which will be on the internet. Stu said he noticed a Facebook post earlier in the day from someone disappointed that their entry was rejected. He said he would follow up if need be.

Maine Municipal Association Ballot – Selectmen approved of casting the ballot for the slate of proposed officers for the MMA Executive Committee and signed said ballot.

The meeting took a brief recess to observe a spectacular rainbow that appeared following a thunder shower.

Zoom Policy – Stu noted that if the Selectmen wish to approve a policy to allow for remote meeting access, a public hearing is required. Mr. Jones began a brief discussion about public attendance and rights to address zoom meetings. Jo moved to set September 9, 2021 for the public hearing date. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Water Testing Results – Stu reported the annual residential water testing results are in. Gary said they looked to be in line with previous years. Stu said they've been very consistent. He said the results were sent to the Maine DEP.

Road Name – Kathleen moved to approve the name Love It Lane to a drive that will serve a 2nd home at 323 Partridge Cove Road. Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0, the road naming order was signed.**

American Aquafarm Update – Kathleen said there was nothing new to report. She said the Department of Marine Resources has been very busy.

Gary noted that the DMR had contacted him regarding a public hearing request that came from Kathleen who identified herself as a Selectman. Kathleen said she'd requested a hearing on a mussel lease as a private citizen. There was a brief discussion about using the title of Selectmen on citizen requests.

Regional Shellfishing – Kathleen said the joint municipal board has not met, but will have workshops in September to look over ordinances. Stu said selling recreational licenses is increasingly cumbersome and the rules seem to keep changing. Kathleen said she would send the dates so Stu could attend a meeting.

Cell Tower Sale – Stu reported that Dan Pileggi had dropped off the paperwork from American Tower and would be in touch. A special town meeting will be needed, but at this point there is no action to take.

Fire Truck – Stu said the proposal from the fire chief should go to the Budget Committee, but there is nothing to submit at this point. There was no objection to passing it along to the Budget Committee.

Request for Resident Use Only at Bloomfield Park – Stu reported a citizen complained about high public use and trash at the park and suggested a “residents only” policy. Jo said the park should be policed for litter, which is routinely done. There was a discussion on how such a policy could be enforced. Stu reported the Parks Commission will likely discuss the matter.

Marlboro Beach Road Speed Limit request – Stu reported a citizen had contacted him via e-mail requesting the limit be lowered to 25MPH. He said he has moved the speed trailer to that road. Jo noted the private signs have popped up along the road on utility poles and that people do drive too fast, and it’s frustrating. Gary noted that Stu had drafted a letter to send to the Maine DOT to study traffic, and moved to sign the letter. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0 (Selectman Mason had signed the letter prior the meeting).**

Kiosk Sign – Stu reported someone had nailed a sign in regard to the proposed salmon pens in Frenchman Bay to the kiosk at Marlboro Beach. He said unless there is an objection, he would remove the sign, as neither the town, nor the Selectmen or Parks Commission had taken any stand on the matter. There was no objection.

Other Matters – It was noted that a flyer about the discouraged use of “Slow Children Playing” signs was in the packet material. Bob said there has been a speeding issue in the State Park area. There was a brief discussion about an off duty officer to monitor speed in the area. Stu said he could move the speed sign to Route 184 by the park after it’s done on Marlboro Beach Road.

Next Meeting – The next regular meeting will be on August 19, 2021 at 7PM.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Selectmen