



Lamoine Select Board

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Minutes – October 7, 2021

Chair Gary McFarland called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM at the Lamoine Consolidated School Gym.

Present were: Municipal Officers Nathan Mason, S. Josephine Cooper, Gary McFarland, Robert Christie, Kathleen Rybarz; Adm. Asst. Stu Marckoon, Cynthia Donaldson and Melinda Harris

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

Minutes – September 16, 2021 – Bob moved to approve the minutes as printed. Nathan 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Expenditure warrant 8 – The Municipal Officers signed the warrant in the amount of \$131,279.00. Stu noted there were two municipal payrolls, the school expenses, and (sadly) the first winter salt bill.

Cash & Budget Reports – Stu reported there is a fairly large amount of money in the checking account as the school department has received two payments in excess of \$120,000 for COVID relief. Jo remarked that the municipal budget expenses seem to be a bit ahead of where they should be. Stu said one time payments and paving push that percentage. Jo asked about the Lamoine 150! Fund. Stu said all the bills are in, except for the portion of the hat sales that are dedicated to Lamoine's Little Children. Jo said the bill for the time capsule has not yet been submitted either. A brief discussion about the Lamoine 150! Finances followed.

Checking Account Reconciliation – The Municipal Officers signed the statement expressing satisfaction with the checking account reconciliation which had been e-mailed prior to the meeting.

Create ARPA Fund – Nathan moved to create a fund within the investment management accounts called ARPA (America Recovery Program). Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Board Name – It was noted that the Maine Legislature and the Governor have changed state law, and the new name for the "Board of Selectmen" is "Select Board", the now former "Selectmen" are "Municipal Officers" and the former "Overseers of the Poor" are now "Overseers". A brief discussion followed.

Transfer Station Hours – Stu noted that Christmas Day and New Year's Day both fall on Saturday. He suggested that the Transfer Station be open on Friday, December 24, 2021 from Noon to 5 and Monday, December 27, 2021 from 8am to 5pm and Friday, January 31, 2021 from Noon to 5 and Monday, January 3, 2022 from 8am to 5pm. Gary so moved. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Annual Town Meeting Date – Nathan moved to set the annual municipal officers election for Tuesday, March 8, 2022 and the annual open town meeting date for Wednesday, March 16, 2022. Bob 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.** The Municipal Officers signed an order setting the dates.

Speed Sign Results – Gary noted he was shocked to see the speeds, especially on Pinkhams Flats. Bob said he was passing around copies of the Lamoine Quarterly to his neighbors who walk in the area of Lamoine State Park. He said they are all concerned about their safety on the road. He wondered what action the town could take beyond sharing the information with the Hancock County Sheriff's Department and the Maine State Police. He said often the speeds are criminally fast. He noted the recent fatal crash involving a Hancock County deputy struck by a vehicle on Route 3 in Trenton. He noted the Comprehensive Plan addresses safety. He said the town could be proactive and submit the speed reports to Sheriff Kane. He said people on Lamoine Beach Road don't feel safe, and urged the Select Board to do what they can.

Nathan said Needles Eye Road also has a speeding issue, as do all the roads in town. He said the volume is not as high on his road. Stu said he would be happy to contact the chief deputy. Cynthia Donaldson suggested asking the Sheriff's Department to meet with the Board. Nathan said it's a struggle everywhere. Jo said road rage also seems to be an issue in places. Gary asked if the Select Board wished to meet with the Sheriff's Department. There was no objection.

Welcome to Lamoine Sign – Nathan said the offer from Johnathan Mohr seemed reasonable. He asked if the cost would be applied to his property taxes. Stu said that's likely to be the request. Kathleen moved to accept the offer from Mr. Mohr. Nathan 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Lamoine 150! – Celebration of Community – Mrs. Donaldson noted that when the Lamoine 150! Celebration ended, the now disbanded committee met and thought it might be a good idea to keep the Facebook page open as people use it. She said the committee thought it might be a good idea to use some of what money was not used to fund community celebration in the future. She said the proposal from the committee had three beliefs;

- Celebrating our community, Lamoine 150! strengthened our sense of shared community;
- Activities generated during the Lamoine 150! period served to bring people together in ways that had not existed before
- Lamoine 150! served to make more residents of Lamoine aware of the activities Lamoine groups and Committees and Commissions provide.

Mrs. Donaldson said that perhaps there could be 2 or 3 things a year for the community, and that leaving some money in a Lamoine 150!-Plus fund could help. Nathan said he thinks that is a good idea. He said one of the original ideas for the Recreation Committee was a component of community. He suggested maybe meeting with the

Recreation Committee. He noted they are quite busy with youth sports. He said he could see that committee's role expanding a bit.

Jo said the committee cannot be the same people who take on the role for a lifetime. She said she saw lots of positives with the idea. She suggested there should be a "signing day" celebration. A brief discussion followed.

Bob said he supported the concept. He said there are already committees doing things, and there is a lot of energy with individuals. He moved to recommend putting \$1,000.00 into a designated fund.

Mrs. Donaldson explained the hat sales and the portion that was dedicated to the Little Children's play structure. A brief discussion followed. Jo suggested that continuing funds from merchandise sales could go to the new fund. Discussion followed on presenting this to town meeting, having a more formal plan, forming a committee, and coming up with logistics on how to do it. Kathleen said it could be kind of like the returnables from the transfer station – the Select Board could approve the funds for planned events. Nathan said there should be a more thoughtful plan and purpose laid out. Jo moved to propose to the town an ongoing fund, studying how to administer it, and to propose something in writing for the town meeting. Nathan 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Returnables Proceeds – Jo moved to assign the proceeds for returnable funds as follows:

Month	Organization
August 2021	Lamoine Parks Commission
September 2021	Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department
October 2021	Tiny Steps – Girl Scouts of Maine
November 2021	Lamoine School – Special Projects
December 2021	Lamoine School – Performing Arts, Music
January 2022	Lamoine School – 8 th Grade Class
February 2022	Lamoine School – Sports Programming

Nathan 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Code Enforcement – Gary noted there was a memo from the Code Enforcement Officer regarding a matter off Douglas Highway. He said there is an animal control issue at the same address, but because of a COVID situation, neither the CEO nor the ACO have gone on site. Stu said there are no actions for the Select Board to take at this time.

Meeting with Board Chairs/Department Heads – Stu said he had compiled a document for the Comprehensive Plan progress report which was many pages long. He asked if the Select Board wished to have this at the school or the town hall, saying the town hall is not likely large enough. He also asked if they wanted the meeting two weeks from tonight. Jo said it should be at the school because of the number of people who would potentially attend. After discussion, it was decided to schedule the meeting for December 2nd at the school. Nathan urged Stu to coordinate with Betty Eaton as the basketball season is also starting.

Broadband – Stu noted that Charter Communications has sent a contract to wire the rest of the town. He said the town would provide \$220,000 for the project. He said that exceeds the amount that ARPA would pay for. He said he's not sure what role the County might play but has been in contact with Kitty Barbee. He said the hope is to receive some ConnectME funding too. There was a discussion about the county. The Select Board took no action on the contract. Stu said he would contact Charter to let them know the town will await further funding sources.

2022/23 Budget – The Board discussed a draft administration budget. There was a brief discussion about salaries. Nate said the budget looks pretty tight, which is a good goal.

State Valuation – Stu noted that if there were any question about why the town needs a revaluation, this should answer it. He said the state will value the town in 2022 at \$326,900,000, which is up from the 2021 valuation of \$303,800,000, or 7.6% higher. It was noted that the sales figures used are a couple of years old.

Adopt a Highway – The Municipal Officers signed a letter to thank the Adopt A Highway volunteers.

ARPA-Firefighters – Stu said Hancock County is looking at premium pay for first responders. He said he could compile a list of firefighters who responded to calls during the pandemic emergency and submit that in case volunteer firefighters might be eligible.

Quarterly Excise Tax Report – Stu noted that the July-September quarter for 2021 was down about \$2,000 from the same quarter in 2020. It was discussed that new cars are hard to come by.

Other – Jo said she has started attending the Hancock County Budget Advisory Committee meetings. She said that should be done in 3-to-4 weeks. She said the budget as proposed is up 11.42%. She said salaries are proposed to rise to compete with the private sector. She noted that the elected county treasurer's salary has been slashed, as he is not showing up to work.

Bob asked about when the AT&T cell tower project would be done. Stu reported that the proposal approved by the Planning Board indicated shortly. He said a representative of

the FAA had called the office after reading in the Lamoine Quarterly about the project that the tower would be raised by 20-feet.

Next meetings – The Select Board will meet next on October 21, 2021 at the town hall, November 4, 2021; December 2, 2021 at the school if available, and December 16, 2021. The Municipal Officers will sign expenditure warrants on November 12 and November 20.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Select Board