



## Lamoine Select Board

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### Minutes – November 4, 2021

Chair Gary McFarland brought the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Present were: Municipal Officers Gary McFarland, S. Josephine Cooper, Nathan Mason; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, Hancock County Sheriff Scott Kane, Fire Chief George “Skip” Smith and Code Enforcement Officer Rebecca Albright. Municipal Officers Kathleen Rybarz and Robert Christie had informed the board they would be unable to attend prior to the meeting.

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

**Minutes – October 21, 2021** – Nathan moved to approve the minutes as distributed. Jo 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 3-0.**

**Expenditure Warrant 10** – The Board signed the warrant in the amount of \$102,080.06. Stu reported school expenses made up about \$81,000, and the Forest Hill Cemetery veterans graves care bill was also included.

**Cash & Budget Report** – Stu said there were nothing abnormal about the report. Nathan noted that excise tax collections continue to be very strong.

**Meeting with Hancock County Sheriff’s Department** – Sheriff Scott Kane said he was present instead of his Chief Deputy, as he was on Swan’s Island. Gary asked what can be done in regard to speeding. Jo noted that we have generated reports from the speed monitoring sign. Sheriff Kane said he hasn’t seen the report, but noted the speeding is the biggest complaint they get from all parts of the county. He relayed a story about a speeding ticket issued for someone traveling 94 MPH on Route 172 in Surry this week. He said part of the problem is that cars are better and roads are better and that leads drivers to believe they can drive faster than the speed limit.

Sheriff Kane said he needs manpower in order to help enforce the speed limit. He said they are currently three people short on patrol, and another plans to retire in a few weeks. He said the deputies just run from complaint to complaint. He said they do have grants for 4 hour traffic details, and they have just started to utilize that money. He noted that some towns do contract with the Sheriff’s Department for law enforcement coverage. He said they’re having a hard time finding people. He said they’ve been advertising for a month, and only four have applied. He said it’s a problem nationally, as people are not interested in getting into law enforcement. A brief discussion followed regarding the county budget.

Jo asked about the different kinds of contracts. Sheriff Kane explained how they work in Tremont, on Swan’s Island, in Castine and Stonington. He said he’s been able to hire good quality people thanks to better pay. Jo asked about the cost for a contract. Sheriff Kane said Castine, for example, pays \$10,000/year for coverage. He said he bills towns at the rate of \$65/hour plus mileage for a minimum 4-hour shift. Jo said that might not solve the speeding problem. Sheriff Kane said some drivers just don’t learn, despite the

significant fine and boost in insurance premiums. Discussion followed regarding contracts and the volume of traffic.

Nathan said the board often gets the comment that the speed limit should be lowered. He said it really seems like an enforcement matter. Sheriff Kane said he wasn't sure that lowering the speed limit has any effect on how fast people drive. He said fines don't seem to faze some drivers. Gary asked if the speed limit has any effect. Sheriff Kane said some people do slow down. He said he would ask his patrol lieutenants to run a speed patrol on Pinkhams Flats and Buttermilk Road as they seem to be prone to high speed drivers. There was a brief discussion about Marlboro Beach Road and Lamoine Beach Road by the State Park, as well as the school. Sheriff Kane said he would also share the information with the State Police who share the patrol activity for Lamoine. Discussion followed regarding pay rates.

Fire Chief George Smith said one of the most dangerous spots seems to be the intersections of Route 184 and 204. Stu asked what the town could help with. Sheriff Kane said the biggest help is to call the Sheriff's Department at 667-7575 for non-emergencies of 9-1-1 for emergencies when something is occurring, otherwise, they don't know. He said posting information on social media is not very effective, as they do not monitor their social media constantly.

**Fire Truck Bids** – The Board received just one bid for the chassis. It was from Colwell Diesel for \$107,000. Gary noted there could be a delay of up to a year in delivery. Chief Smith said the truck manufacturer doesn't have enough employees and there is a microchip shortage.

K&T Environmental Equipment submitted the only bid for the body at \$287,735. Chief Smith said he was told that price is locked in until the chassis is delivered to K&T. It was noted that manufacture would take up to 12-months after the chassis is delivered.

Stu noted the total \$394,735 is about \$10,000 more than the town meeting had authorized. He said he suspected the fire department could make up the difference. Chief Smith said Colwell had suggested they could hurry things along by supplying a smaller truck than specified, but there were certain things that would not be included. He said he told Colwell's that we could wait for the truck we wanted, and there was very little difference in price.

Nathan asked about selling the old truck. Chief Smith said that wouldn't happen until the town gets the new truck. There was a brief discussion about K&T wishing to purchase the old truck and whether they would be willing to lock in a price for it.

The Board referred the bids to the fire chief for a final recommendation at the next meeting.

**Code Enforcement Officer Request** – CEO Rebecca Albright was present to request assistance from the town attorney on an alleged Shoreland Zoning Ordinance violation. The Board reviewed a memorandum regarding the situation of the presence of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Recreational Vehicle on a Bay Road property.

Nathan asked if the property owners would be able to site a septic system on that lot. CEO Albright said she doubted it. Gary asked if the violation had more to do with the first RV or the 2<sup>nd</sup>. CEO Albright said it was the presence of the 2<sup>nd</sup> RV. She said a former Code Enforcement Officer denied a permit for the 2<sup>nd</sup> RV about 10-years ago, but then said it was OK to have the RV if it were disconnected from utilities. Nathan asked if the DEP said that was not allowed. CEO Albright said that was correct, but the RV had been present on the lot for about 10-years. Nathan asked whether the DEP would enforce it. CEO Albright said the DEP is not enforcement – that's done by the local CEO.

Nathan asked when the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance was adopted. Stu said there has been some sort of Shoreland Zoning in town for nearly 40-years. Nathan asked how the ordinance is worded. CEO Albright read pertinent sections of the ordinance. She noted that temporary uses of RVs are allowed. Nathan asked if it's allowed to sit on a property but unused. A brief discussion followed regarding the Shoreland Zoning language.

Nathan said he didn't have any problem with having the CEO utilize the town attorney, but he's not sure that the 2<sup>nd</sup> RV is in violation. Jo said it would be wise to consult the town attorney, and Gary agreed. Nathan said we don't want things to be in violation, but if there is no actual violation, people should be left alone. CEO Albright said she understands that she has permission to schedule a consultation with the town attorney.

**Marlboro Beach / Parks Ordinance** – Gary noted that a copy of the Parks Ordinance was in the Board's materials. Nathan said the ordinance is very clear on the open times for park usage. Jo said she has a problem with people camping on the beach, and that's not right. Stu said the ordinance does not say who enforces it. A discussion followed.

**ARPA Funds** – Gary noted that a memorandum from Maine Municipal Association was in their materials on how to properly disburse the funds. He said a plan should be developed and approved by the town meeting.

Stu said broadband is one of the allowed projects. Jo said County Government wants to be part of that project. Nathan said the proposal from Spectrum would wire a small portion of town, and he's opposed to that because it's not fair. Stu asked what the Board wished to propose to the town meeting. A lengthy discussion followed. The Board asked Stu to put together a proposal including broadband expansion, premium pay for emergency responders, and a water tank/pump system for the fire station.

**Fire Truck Loan Bid** – The Board reviewed the draft of a bond bid request. Stu noted that he used the language from a previous loan bid as a template. Jo moved to authorize the bid request after making one minor typographic correction. Nathan 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
**Vote in favor was 3-0.**

**Checking Account Reconciliation** – The Board members present signed the statement expressing satisfaction with the review of the checking account reconciliation which was e-mailed prior to the meeting.

**Broadband Mapping Sharing** – Nathan moved to authorize Stu to sign permission to Brian Lippold to use mapping info he gathered from Lamoine with another company that he's consulting for. Jo 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 3-0.**

**Assessing Future** – Selectmen reviewed a memorandum from the Board of Assessors regarding a proposal to eliminate the elected board and hire a professional assessor beginning in 2023. Stu said that would likely come up in discussion at the December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting with board chairs and department heads.

**Election Day** – Stu noted that 705 ballots were cast on Election Day, and Lamoine was the first to report its results, just 12-minutes after the polls closed. He said there were no issues during the day, and absentee ballots were processed while the polls were open.

**November 26<sup>th</sup>** – Stu said he planned to be out of town for Thanksgiving and the day after and wondered whether the office should open on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup>. Gary asked if it's very busy on that day. Stu said it traditionally has not been. The board agreed informally to be closed on Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Subdivision/Public Access Update** – The Board reviewed a memorandum from Planning Board chair John Holt regarding a subdivision that won conditional approval earlier in the week. It was noted the plan included an 8-lot parking area and a foot path to the shores of Jordan River that marine harvesters could use. .

**Budget Workshop** – The Board reviewed the proposed budget for road maintenance, paving, and Code Enforcement/Planning. No changes were proposed to the submission to go to the Budget Committee.

Other – Stu reported that he will become a grandfather next year as one of his daughters is expecting her first child in May.

Next Meetings – The Board will individually sign expenditure warrant 11 on November 12<sup>th</sup>, and expenditure warrant 12 on November 24<sup>th</sup>. Stu noted that he will be on vacation the week of November 14<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup>. The Board will next meet on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Lamoine School with department heads and board chairs. Meetings are scheduled for January 6 & 20, 2022 and February 3 & 17, 2022.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Selectboard