



Lamoine Select Board

606 Douglas Hwy
Lamoine, ME 04605
(207) 667-2242
town@lamoine-me.gov

Minutes – October 20, 2022

Chair Jo Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present were: Select Board members S. Josephine Cooper, Nathan Mason, Larissa Thomas, Gary McFarland, Kathleen Rybarz; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, members of the public Andrew Revkin and Lisa Mechaley.

Agenda Review – No changes were proposed to the agenda. There was no addendum.

Minutes – October 6, 2020 – Stu noted the two minor corrections were submitted by Larissa. Kathleen moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Expenditure Warrant 9 – The Board signed the warrant in the amount of \$130,031.94. Stu noted that no snow plowing bill was included as it's not yet been received. He said about \$93,000 of the warrant was for school expenses. Nathan asked about the \$69 web hosting bill. Stu said that's a monthly charge.

Cash & Budget Reports – There were no questions regarding the printed report.

Public Hearing – Elections Ordinance Referendum – Jo opened the hearing at 7:04 PM. She explained the question on the November 8, 2022 ballot was to change from an elected Board of Assessors to an appointed professional assessor. Larissa said the people will decide if that should pass. Jo said it's the hope to be able to hire a professional, part time assessor. (At this point the phone rang, the Ellsworth American reporter informed Stu that the audio on the streaming feed was not working).

A brief discussion about the assessing job followed. Kathleen noted the town would have to spend more money on professional assessing. There being no further comments, the hearing closed at 7:09 PM.

Animal Control Update – Stu reported Larissa suggested very minor changes to the proposed job description. Larissa said she hopes the area can find an applicant. Kathleen asked about the proposed ordinance that was included. Stu said Unorganized Territory Supervisor Millard Billings suggested that each town adopt a similar ordinance for uniform enforcement. There was a discussion about the barking dog provision of that ordinance. Stu said it would require voter approval.

Infrastructure & Facilities – Jo thanked Larissa for sending the link to a survey the previous committee had taken. She noted the town has discussed infrastructure for many years, such as the school, town hall and fire station, and there has been interest in an improved gym and community center. She said the Select Board formed a committee a few years ago and Larissa served on it. She said the folks who led the committee have since moved away. She said there did not seem to be an appetite for

the cost and no next step was identified. Stu noted that the COVID pandemic started at about the same time as the committee was working.

Larissa said the committee gathered information about what people would like to see and there were varying options. Jo said COVID hit about that time. She said the thought is to have a meeting to talk about that and invite that committee, the fire department and the school committee and the public to discuss things. She said the board picked Thursday, November 10, 2022 and to have the meeting facilitated. She said he brother (former Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap) is available to facilitate. Kathleen noted that Ron Beard was interested in facilitating, but was not available on the 10th. The board was fine with using Mr. Dunlap and paying a reasonable fee.

Jo asked how the meeting ought to be structured. Nathan said each group should bring their needs to the table and see what intersects. Jo said perhaps the groups should be provided questions in advance. She said she would like to hear each point of view. Stu said he'd like to hear what ideas folks would have for moving something forward. Nathan said he'd like to hear ideas on a funding model. Gary asked about the meeting time. Stu said 6:30 PM at the school gym.

Larissa said she's not sure that the survey monkey report that was copied is complete. She said she would check on that. Stu said he could set up a power point display for the meeting.

Elder Programs – Jo said she envisions a small committee and she drafted a mission statement which is in the packet. She said she sent that to Iris Simon and will reach out to Sally Smith as a possible committee member. Nathan said the mission statement sounded great. Jo said the goal is not to provide the resources but to assist people in making connection to existing resources. Stu said the Heating Assistance Committee developed a detailed program, and perhaps the committee can move forward with something similar. She said perhaps the committee could come into being and then meet with the Select Board.

Other – Community Resilience Grant – Stu said that Larissa had sent an e-mail to show the grant application was being reviewed and a decision would likely come in November. A discussion followed on the Efficiency Maine heat pump program. Stu said he got information on heat pump installers in the area and after we hear whether the town has a grant or not, we could contact them to work through Efficiency Maine.

Forestry Workshop – Larissa said the Conservation Commission sponsored a speaker from the Maine Forest Service to talk about forest health at Coleman Woods and a lot of people attended. Jo said it was a really good program.

Upcoming Election – Stu said absentee balloting has been very busy and extra help will be brought in to process ballots ahead of Election Day. It was noted the Secretary of State's office has provided a new, larger drop box for the town office, but it can get damp inside if it's raining.

Comments – The Board members introduced themselves to the two members of the public, Mr. Revkin and Ms. Mechaley, and there was a brief, informal dialogue.

Budget Workshop – The Board reviewed the proposed administration, waste disposal, and code enforcement/planning budgets. Discussions took place regarding assessing, the health officer position, heating fuel costs, and a possible solar power purchase program. The Board also discussed the cost of recycling and whether this item should be revisited, given the high cost in both dollars and carbon to transport materials to Portland. The Board said they would like to know how much is actually recycled by ecomaine and how much is incinerated.

Stu reminded the Board that the Budget Committee meets on Monday at 6:30 PM.

Jo noted the Hancock County Budget initial draft is up 15%.

Next Meetings – The Board will meet next on November 3 & 17 Regular Meetings
November 10 – Infrastructure 6:30 at the school; December 1 & 15; January 5 & 19, 2023; February 2 & 16, 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Select Board.