



## Lamoine Select Board

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### Minutes – December 1, 2022

Chair Jo Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM

Present were: Select Board members S. Josephine Cooper, Larissa Thomas, Gary McFarland, Kathleen Rybarz; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon. Select Board member Nathan Mason had let the Board know he would unlikely be able to attend as the Lamoine School basketball team he coaches was playing this evening.

**Agenda Review** – Jo noted the town has received a grant notification letter. Kathleen said she will have a Shellfishing report. No other changes to the agenda were noted.

**Minutes – November 17, 2022** – Stu reported he made two minor corrections as noted by Larissa. Larissa moved to approve as edited. Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

**Expenditure Warrant 12** – The Board signed the warrant in the amount of \$191,380.58. Stu noted the school warrants made up about \$128,500 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> revaluation payment of \$26,400 were the largest items.

**Cash & Budget Report** – There were no questions regarding the printed report. Stu noted the year is 41% completed and the expenditure budget is 41% spent.

**Checking Account Reconciliation** – Stu reported he completed the reconciliation late this afternoon and e-mailed it, as well as printing it for tonight's packet. He said he found a \$0.10 deposit error. The Board signed the statement expressing satisfaction with the reconciliation.

**General Assistance Ordinance** – Jo opened the public hearing to consider the updated Maine Municipal Association model ordinance at 7:05 PM. Stu said the 104 page ordinance is one that is periodically updated by MMA. Larissa said she is sure MMA would flag any major changes. Jo closed the hearing at 7:06 PM.

Gary moved to adopt the updated General Assistance Ordinance. Larissa 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

**PFAS Water Filter Installation Bid** – Kathleen moved to accept the bid of \$13,765.34 from Water Treatment Incorporated as recommended by the Maine DEP. Larissa 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

**Facilities and Infrastructure Committee Appointments** – After a very brief discussion, Gary moved to appoint Kimberly Martens and Jane Fowler as the at large members and Glenn Johnson and Nikki Endre as alternate at large members. Kathleen 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.** Kathleen moved to appoint George Smith (Fire Department), Ginger Madore (former Community Center Committee) and Mark Harris (Budget Committee) to the Facilities Committee. Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.** Larissa said she would be willing to represent the Select Board if desired. Jo said it would be best to wait until

Nathan could be present to decide. Kathleen said the Board should accept the recommendation of the School Committee for appointment.

There was a very brief discussion about having the committee meet as soon as possible and decide who should facilitate the meetings.

**Committee on Aging** – The Board reviewed a drafted committee purpose statement sent by Jo following the initial meeting of the potential committee. It was decided the committee will further refine it at the next meeting. Jo said the plan is to meet a week from Friday. She said one of the ideas they've discussed is a resource list to place on the town's website and to print for the town hall, and that can be added to as needed. She said there is interest in facilitating ways for people to get together, including community meals, cribbage tournaments, historical society presentations and the like. She said the group plans to meet with Candy Eaton of Sullivan in January. She said there is a nice article in the Ellsworth American this week. Kathleen mentioned there is an arts group in Bass Harbor that is willing to hold workshops.

Gary moved to appoint the following people to the committee: Sally Smith (term expires June 30, 2023), Iris Simon (term expires June 30, 2025), Mary Jude (term expires June 30, 2024) and Jo Cooper (term expires June 30, 2023). Larissa 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Jo noted the committee plans to meet with the Lamoine Little Children's group in February.

**Community Solar** – Stu said he placed this item on the agenda after hearing a presentation at the League of Towns meeting in November. Larissa said she didn't think the town needed to avail itself of an off-site project. She said that would be investing in a for-profit enterprise. She explained that having our own project on the salt-sand shed would be more beneficial. Discussion followed regarding electric vehicle charging stations. Gary shared a story about antique electric vehicles at the Seal Cove Auto Museum.

**Community Action Grant** – Larissa reported the town was just notified that it has received a \$50,000 Community Action Grant for heat pumps and to get a solar project going at the salt/sand shed. She said the heat pumps will add to the town's electric usage and will be factored into the solar system which would be a grid tied system. She said the town would receive credits for the solar project to offset the electric bills. She said a third party investor would pay for the solar project and receive tax credits. She said sometime after 10-years the town could buy the panels at a discount. She said the solar project should be viable for at least 30-years. She said the heat pumps should lower the heating fuel needs of the town buildings. She said the cost data for heat pumps is many months old now. She suggested putting out an RFP for the heat pumps as the next step after signing the contract for the grant. She said grant committee requested additional information regarding how Efficiency Maine rebates factor into the heat pump cost represented in our proposal. She said she is willing to provide that to the grant committee along with a form that Stu will complete.

Gary moved to authorize Larissa to take the lead in working up an RFP. Kathleen 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
**Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Larissa said there is another grant through Efficiency Maine that may allow for additional heat pumps. There was a discussion of options and Larissa said she and Stu would work on that. The Board thanked Larissa for her hard work on the grant. Kathleen said the Comprehensive Plan Committee and the Conservation Commission were a big part. Larissa said it was a team effort.

**Nomination Papers Available** – It was noted that nomination papers for the annual town meeting in March are now available. Stu said he spoke with Nathan earlier in the day who said he intends to take out papers.

**Board of Appeals** – Stu reported the Appeals Board suggested Gary Loft as the full member appointment following Griff Fenton's passing. Jo nominated Mr. Loft, Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
**Vote in favor was 4-0.**

The alternate position that Mr. Loft held is now open. Stu said he would post the opening on social media and e-mail.

**Thank You Notes** – The Board signed a card to Matthew Dunlap to thank him for facilitating the November 10<sup>th</sup> facilities and infrastructure meeting. Jo moved to make a \$200 donation to the school library as suggested by Mr. Dunlap instead of paying a facilitator's fee. Kathleen 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

The Board also signed a card thanking Gregg Tehennepe for donating a projector to the town.

**Budget Workshop** – **Shellfishing** – Kathleen reported the Joint Municipal Board met earlier and approved several changes to the fees. She said recreational licenses will follow the calendar year, but commercial licenses will run from July to June. She said the JMB approved price increases, including a sizable non-resident recreational increase which is still on the low side of the state average. She said the City of Ellsworth finally has a representative, and several people have expressed interest in becoming part time wardens and will take an upcoming training. She said the budget is still not set, but the fee charged to towns (\$3,000) probably will not change. She said the City of Ellsworth still owes money to the group. A brief discussion followed.

The Board also reviewed budgets for Library, Recreation and Social Service requests as well as the overall municipal budget impact as proposed. Stu said the increase can be tied directly to petroleum costs.

**Comments** – Kathleen said she might not be able to make the next meeting as grandchild #2 is due around that time.

Stu thanked the fire department for its efforts in the past 24-hours, reporting that a strong storm produced five calls for trees on wires. He said the most serious issue was that Pinkhams' Flats had to close for a few hours starting around midnight as lines were down across the road.

**Next Meeting Dates** – The next regular meetings will be on December 15, 2022, January 5 & 19, 2023, February 2 & 15, 2023, March 2, 2023 and an organizational meeting on March 16, 2023. The Town Meeting election is on March 7, 2023 and the open meeting on March 15, 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Select Board