



Lamoine Select Board

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Minutes – October 6, 2022

Vice Chair Nathan Mason called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present were: Select Board Members Larissa Thomas, Gary McFarland, Kathleen Rybarz, Nathan Mason, S. Josephine Cooper (arrived 7:41 pm); Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, Andi McGraw of Northern Light Medical Transport and Superintendent of Schools Rob Liebow.

Agenda Review – Stu noted that Mr. Liebow was present and suggested he be moved up the agenda under other business and after the discussion with Northern Light Medical Transport.

Minutes – September 15, 2022 – Stu reported that Larissa had sent two very minor corrections to the minutes. Kathleen moved to approve as corrected, Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Expenditure Warrant 7 – The warrant in the amount of \$250,114.69 was signed individually the previous week. There were no questions.

Expenditure Warrant 8 – The board signed the warrant in the amount of \$95,797.24. Stu noted the school warrants made up the bulk of the expenditures.

Cash & Budget Reports – Other than a brief discussion about excise tax collections, there were no questions regarding the current budget report.

Checking Account Reconciliation – The Board signed the statement expressing satisfaction with review of the checking account reconciliation for September which was e-mailed earlier in the week.

Quarterly Excise Tax Reports – Stu noted that the level of excise collection has slowed significantly and appears to be around the 2018/19 levels. He said the budgeted amount for the current fiscal year is right around that level.

Meeting with Northern Light Medical Transport – Andi McGraw, the director of the ambulance service, reported that in 2021 Lamoine had 106 ambulance calls, and NLMT responded to 101 of those. She said so far in 2022 there have been 96 ambulance calls, and NLMT has responded to 78 of those, with Bar Harbor responding to 16 and Sullivan to 1 call. She said in Lamoine after a protocol change, Sullivan is now the first mutual aid backup.

Ms. McGraw said EMS staffing is the reason that they've been able to respond to fewer calls. She said they are working to grow staff and explained an EMT training class with quite a few students will help move their agency in the right direction. Larissa asked if there is more than one ambulance available at any given time. Ms. McGraw said their Ellsworth base has two ambulances stationed there and they always have at least one

paramedic on duty. She said the lack of paramedics has limited their ability to respond to all calls.

Nathan asked if there has been an uptick in the number of calls. Ms. McGraw said there has but she didn't have the actual numbers. Nathan said it appears there are more calls with less staff available. Larissa asked if with COVID-19 trailing off if call volume will likely decrease. Ms. McGraw said she's not sure. She said most calls are not respiratory in nature.

Stu asked what would happen if NLMT was to cease operations. Ms. McGraw said she had heard rumors that they would only just be doing hospital transfers, and she said that is absolutely not the case. She said they will honor the contract they have with Lamoine. Stu asked if there might be any change in the contract formula going forward. Ms. McGraw said not at this time. Stu asked if Ellsworth might be adding an ambulance and if so, would that have an impact on the outlying towns. Ms. McGraw said the fire chief in Ellsworth said the department is not planning to buy an ambulance at this time, but if one were added, that might help alleviate some of the pressure.

Gary asked if NLMT had plans to purchase more ambulances. Ms. McGraw said they continue to purchase rigs, but they are very slow to arrive. Stu said he'd been told of a recent call where it took an hour for an ambulance to arrive because of the shortage and asked if that's more likely to happen more often. Ms. McGraw said she wished she could say that won't happen again, but she could not. A brief discussion followed.

Stu asked if there were any suggestions for the town. He asked if perhaps the fire department should be dispatched for calls where it's known there would be a delay to assure that an ambulance is on the way. Ms. McGraw said they're reluctant to do that, as firefighters are not EMTs and would not be able to render any medical assistance. She said NLMT has contracts with 13 towns in this area. Larissa asked what the average daily call volume is. Ms. McGraw said it's around 4 per day, but sometimes it's a lot more. A brief discussion followed about the region that's covered.

Ms. McGraw said they're going to start meeting with other EMS departments to try to coordinate to work together better.

Meeting with Superintendent of Schools – Nathan said to Rob Liebow that he was thankful that Mr. Liebow was willing to take on the challenge of the job. Mr. Liebow said he feels that he has landed in heaven. He said the school is amazing and the students are respectful.

Stu asked about the business office. Mr. Liebow said he has hired former Ellsworth School Superintendent Dan Higgins as the business manager and he will be headquartered at a trailer in Hancock. He said for now the Ellsworth School Department business office will continue to handle paying the bills in conjunction with the town treasurer. Discussion followed about leadership at the Lamoine School and the infrastructure at the school. Mr. Liebow said a new portable classroom will be arriving in late November or early December.

Larissa asked about long range facility issues. Mr. Liebow said Lamoine is currently 35th on the state's building project list, so the likelihood of a state funded project in the near future is virtually nil. A brief discussion followed, and Jo Cooper arrived at the meeting as the discussion ended.

Town Meeting Public Hearing - Kathleen moved to set October 20, 2022 during the regular Select Board meeting to hold a public hearing on the referendum question to be voted upon in November. Larissa 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0; Board members signed the order.**

General Assistance Public Hearing – Nathan opened the hearing at 7:45 PM. There being no comments, the hearing closed at 7:46 PM.

General Assistance Ordinance Update – Jo moved to adopt the 2022/23 updates to the General Assistance Ordinance. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0; Board members signed the ordinance form.**

Grading – Gary moved to accept the grading bid from Kelley & Sons for fall on the former landfill access road and the entrance onto Marlboro Beach, and to delay the work on Bloomfield Park Road until after the winter is over. Larissa 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

MacQuinn Road – Stu reported that the Town of Hancock, in response to the MacQuinn company, plans to place signs on their end of the road that the road is closed at the entrance to the MacQuinn complex. He said traffic coming from Route 1 has been causing problems. He said there is nothing needed on the Lamoine end at this time.

Camping Concerns – Stu reported that the Code Enforcement Officer is dealing with a complaint about people camping on the lot across the street from the Town Office. He said the CEO has been in contact with the property owner and has asked him to address the issue of septic disposal with a porta-potty.

State Valuation – Stu reported the town has received the annual state valuation proposed figure, and it's up to \$353,766,699, which was an increase from 2021's state value of \$268,433,757, or about 32%. A brief discussion followed, including notation that a revaluation is currently under way.

Community Center – Jo said she thought the discussion could start with the committee that was previously in place, plus the fire department and the school getting together to talk. She said she envisioned a "what if" meeting. Nathan said it's clear from previous discussion that everyone needs space. Jo said it's also clear it will cost a lot of money. Nathan said consideration should be given to having a small, dedicated group. Jo noted prices won't go down.

Larissa said stakeholders will be a linchpin to kicking off an effort. She suggested identifying the greatest needs for either new space or a reconfiguration. Jo said there are safety and parking issues. Nathan said the town has talked about something for

many years and it'll be a big ticket item. He said the school needs more space than anything else. Discussion followed about co-purposing a project.

Jo said her idea is to bring the entities together. Nathan said the impetus needs to come from the Select Board. A discussion followed regarding several options. Nathan said the town has been treading water for years, and a project needs backing from the Select Board. Discussion followed on costs and possible configurations. Gary suggested calling in the School Committee. Nathan said that should be the next step. Stu said perhaps bringing the groups together and suggesting hiring a consultant would be appropriate.

Jo noted that many older residents have no connection with the school any more, but would support something. Nathan said the central focus should be on the school. Jo said if it's agreed there is a need, it would be helpful to have a coordinated plan and a facilitator would help a lot. She suggested setting a date that is not a regular Select Board meeting night. It was agreed that November 10, 2022 at 6:30 PM at the school would work. There was discussion about having a moderator/facilitator for the meeting. Ron Beard and Matt Dunlap were mentioned.

Elder Program – Jo said she suggested the issue as a follow through to the Comprehensive Plan. She said there needs to be some interested people, and a 3-person committee would be a good start. She said it would be helpful to look at what needs Lamoine could address and come up with a list of resources. Stu suggested crafting a mission statement for a committee, and then appoint board members.

Pedestrian Visibility – Stu reported that he had tried to contact the Maine Department of Transportation which apparently had some sort of visibility program for pedestrians a few years ago, but he's not heard back. Kathleen suggested maybe Healthy Acadia could help with something. Larissa said maybe the town could obtain and sell reflective vests. Stu said he would be happy to contact Healthy Acadia.

Budget 2023/24 – Stu reported the Budget Committee will meet on October 24, 2022. He said he hopes to get some budgets put together for the next meeting. Nathan said he wants to make sure that the ballfield maintenance item is budgeted. Stu said he will also suggest a pay raise for the Select Board, as it has been decades since that has been adjusted. There was a brief discussion.

Town Meeting 2023 – Nathan moved to set March 7, 2023 as the annual town meeting election, and March 16, 2023 as the annual open town meeting. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0. The Board signed the order.**

Transfer Station Holiday Hours – Stu noted that Christmas and New Year's Day were both on Sundays this year. He said he would order an extra pickup on the weekend after Christmas. No changes to the open hours were proposed.

Stale Check Order – Nathan moved to approve an order to declare three long outstanding payments as "stale checks". Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Interim Animal Control Officer – Stu said he was willing to be appointed as the interim ACO until such time as a regional officer can be put into place. Gary so moved, Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Card for the Bartosenski Family – The Board signed a card for John Bartosenski in sympathy for the recent passing of former Town Clerk/Tax Collector Barbara Bartosenski.

Other Business

- Regional Animal Control – Stu reported three more towns have expressed interest and that Millard Billings has drafted a job description and suggested a common ordinance. A brief discussion followed
- Conservation Commission Presentation – Larissa said a speaker from the Maine Forest Service will be in town on Sunday, October 16, 2022 at 3PM at Coleman Woods to talk about forest health.
- Grant Opportunity – Larissa inquired about the Efficiency Maine program for heat pumps. Stu said he's made the call and the person from Efficiency Maine is on vacation this week but would get back to him.
- Gouldsboro Aquaculture Ordinance – Larissa asked if the town has received a letter from the Department of Marine Resources regarding aquaculture regulation. Stu said nothing has been received. Kathleen said she's familiar with the issues, and suggested towns need to coordinate efforts on any possible aquaculture regulation.
- Death Investigation – Stu reported that a death on Shore Road discovered on Monday is under investigation by the Maine State Police Major Crimes Unit.

Next Meeting Dates – The board will meet on October 20, November 3 and 17, and a special meeting on November 10, 2022 at the school

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Select Board