



## Lamoine Select Board

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### Minutes – March 17, 2022

Deputy Town Clerk Stu Marckoon called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Present were: Select Board Members S. Josephine Cooper, Larissa Thomas, Gary McFarland, Kathleen Rybarz and Nathan Mason; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon and members of the public Crystal Canney and Duncan Haass

**Board Officers Selection – Chair** – Stu asked for nominations as Board Chair. Kathleen nominated Jo. Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0 (Cooper abstained).**

**Vice Chair** – Jo asked for nominations as Vice Chair. Kathleen nominated Nathan. Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0 (Mason abstained)**

**Agenda Review** – Kathleen requested that the Aquaculture Moratorium Ordinance issue be moved up in the agenda to accommodate Ms. Canney. There was no objection.

**Minutes, March 3, 2022** – Kathleen moved to approve the minutes as written. Nathan 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

**Expenditure Warrant 21** – The Board signed the warrant in the amount of \$693,664.89. Stu noted that the bulk of the expenditures were transfers into investment management accounts, and the \$110,000 payment to Charter Communications for the broadband expansion.

**Cash & Budget Reports** – The board noted that things seem to be on target.

**Quitclaim Deeds/Tax Acquired Property** – Nathan moved to sign quitclaim deeds to Charles Graham and Richard Jordan who have paid all back taxes, fees and interest in full. Stu noted that only the Watts property remains tax acquired. He said the previous owner has received the offer letter by certified mail and e-mail, but has not yet responded.

**Audit** – The board received the printed audit in their packets. Stu noted it arrived just in time for the town meeting to be held.

**Aquaculture Moratorium Proposal** – Stu noted that a sample moratorium ordinance and a report were contained in the board packets. Kathleen introduced Crystal Canney of the Protect Maine's Fishing Heritage Foundation.

Ms. Canney said the foundation is 3-years old and concerned mainly with industrial scale aquaculture projects. She said they are OK with small scale projects. She handed out a chart that showed an increasing number of aquaculture applications over the years, and said if the board wishes to move forward, a consultant could meet with the board later.

Jo asked if the numbers on the chart indicate the number of lease applications or size of projects. Ms. Canney said it's the number of applications, but the size of the proposed leases has grown. She said legislation approved in the past several years has allowed for much larger lease areas. Ms. Canney said the aquaculture association is a very strong group with powerful political backing. She noted that her organization has put together a paper on why a moratorium and ordinance are necessary. She asked if the board liked the proposed moratorium ordinance.

Duncan Haass said he was pleased that the town voted the previous night to seek intervenor status in the American Aquafarms project. He said the lobster fishermen are OK with smaller aquaculture operations. He said the American Aquafarms project would kill Frenchman Bay, and then the company would bail out.

Ms. Canney said her organization is currently battling two other leases, including one in Frenchman Bay proposed by the de Koning family. She said Frenchman Bay is becoming crowded, and she mentioned a project in Jonesport. She said they ask themselves who is making money.

Jo asked about a moratorium. Ms. Canney said the Select Board can vote to put it out to the town for a vote, and moratorium would be in effect for 180-days and could be renewed once for another 180-days. Jo asked what jurisdiction the town would have over offshore aquaculture projects. Nathan remarked that the Department of Marine Resources has authority over aquaculture leases, the town has no vote. Ms. Canney said the town can control the waters, and discussion followed about developing an ordinance.

Jo said the board should discuss whether it wants to meet with the Foundation's attorney. She said perhaps there could be a workshop meeting on the topic. She said people are concerned, and there's a question about what authority the town has. Ms. Canney urged the town to act swiftly. She said the board could meet with an expert via Zoom. A brief discussion followed on whether the remote meeting policy would allow that.

Nathan asked how many towns are considering such a move. Ms. Canney said there are some in Southern Maine, including Freeport. She said she's met with a dozen towns in Eastern Maine. Larissa asked about the timeline and the urgency of passing a moratorium and a discussion followed on that and the project in Jonesport.

Jo asked who would develop the language for an ordinance. Nathan asked to place this on the next agenda.

**Policies – [Disbursement Policy](#) – Gary moved to approve the annual disbursement policy. Nathan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Stu said the only changes were the name and date. **Vote in favor was 5-0, the Board signed the policy.****

[Mileage Policy](#) – Nathan moved to approve the policy. Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. Stu said the price is now \$0.52/mile. There was a very brief discussion about the very high cost of gasoline. **Vote in favor was 5-0, the Board signed the policy.**

[Fee Schedule](#) – Nathan moved to approve the fee schedule. Larissa 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 5-0, the Board signed the schedule.**

[Select Board Procedures](#) – Gary moved to approve the procedure policy. Kathleen 2<sup>nd</sup> **Vote in favor was 5-0, the Board signed the policy.**

**Climate Resilience Grant** – Larissa reported she heard back from her point of contact at the State, and she had misunderstood one element of the enrollment application. She said that has been completed and she's waiting to hear from the State. She said it might not meet the March 22, 2022 deadline, but perhaps it could be submitted in the next round.

[Appeals Board Resignation](#) – Nathan moved to accept the resignation of Larissa from the Board of Appeals. Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.** Stu said Brett Jones is the current alternate. Jo said the practice has been to offer the full position first to an alternated. Larissa had submitted a name at a prior meeting and suggested a search for a 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate could take place too. Kathleen said she had broached the idea of board recruitment at candidates' night. It was informally agreed that the offer to fill the full slot should go to Mr. Jones and to advertise for two alternate members. Nathan suggested using the school newsletter.

**Recycling Transportation Contract** – Stu reported he was still waiting to hear from DM&J Waste on the contract proposal for including the dumpster rental price in the agreement.

[Hodgkins Scholarship](#) – Jo said the whole board could sit as the committee, now that Nathan no longer has any children eligible (yet). There was a discussion about the application deadline and criteria for approval. The Board will make its awards at the June 16, 2022 meeting.

**Website Design** – Stu reported the Technology Committee had made a recommendation on the design for the front page of the town's new website. Kathleen moved to accept the recommendation. Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

**Remote Recording Equipment** – Stu reported there has been no recommendation yet from the Tech Committee.

**Broadband** – Stu reported that he and Larissa attended the County Commissioners' meeting on Tuesday and received a ceremonial check. The actual check for \$55,000 arrived in the mail later that day. He said he did up a press release and Channel 5 TV came down earlier in the day to do an interview.

**Town Meeting Follow Up** – Jo said the meeting was short and sweet. Stu said the only action to follow up on is the seeking of intervenor status in the American Aquafarms matter. Kathleen said the Department of Marine Resources does not yet have a complete acceptable application, so it will be a while. She said Hancock is deciding on a similar question in May. Gary said there is no public hearing date yet set. Kathleen said the soonest that would likely happen is at the end of this year. Larissa asked what the board might be thinking regarding testimony. Kathleen said there should be an economic impact study in regard to lobster landings. Stu suggested that the board look into hiring an attorney to guide the process. Mr. Haass said lobster fishermen would be willing to help out with the costs. A brief discussion followed. Jo said this should stay on the agenda.

**Fund Balance Transfers** – Stu reported that now that the audit is finally done, some fund transfers should be done to have the investment accounts sync up with the fund balance amounts at the end of FY 21. He said he prepared a memorandum with tonight's material for approval. Nathan moved to approve the fund transfers, Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

**Other** – Mr. Haass said he was interested in pursuing the Harbor Master position. He said that Kevin Murphy had told him he would like to be replaced as the deputy Harbor Master, and if he were to have the job, Jason McMillan would be willing to serve as a deputy. He said the waiting list for moorings doesn't seem to be moving, even though several moorings are not being used. He said he was not sure if current Harbor Master David Herrick was interested in remaining in the position. A brief discussion followed on mooring issues. The board said they would like to meet with Mr. Herrick as it's been many years. Mr. Haass said he would like to be involved in helping the community.

Nathan welcomed Larissa to the Select Board as this is her first meeting as a Municipal Officer.

**Next Meetings** – The Board will individually sign warrant 22 on March 31<sup>st</sup> or April 1<sup>st</sup> depending on when the school warrants are ready. The April meetings will be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The first meeting in May will be on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Nathan said he would know soon on whether there are conflicts on Thursdays beyond that.

Larissa noted she had established a new e-mail address because the town hall e-mails were not coming through on G-mail.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Select Board