



## Lamoine Select Board

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### Minutes – September 1, 2022

Chair Jo Cooper called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 PM at the Lamoine Fire Station.

Present were: Select Board members S. Josephine Cooper, Larissa Thomas, Nathan Mason, Gary McFarland; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, Fire Chief George “Skip” Smith, Assistant Fire Chief Rick Martens, Captain Joseph Young Jr., Fire department members Dan & Shelly Coyne, and prospective fire department member Tina Warner. Select Board member Kathleen Rybarz had informed the board she was not able to attend.

Jo thanked the fire department for hosting the meeting, and said it was important for the board to see the fire station and meet with the members. She said it’s not a long meeting agenda and perhaps a tour of the fire house would be in order afterwards.

**Agenda/Addendum** – There were no changes to the printed agenda or addendum.

**Minutes – August 18, 2022** – Larissa reviewed several changes she had proposed to the minutes prior to the meeting. Nathan moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Jo 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 3-0, McFarland abstained as he was not present at the previous meeting.**

**Expenditure Warrant 5** – The Board signed the warrant in the amount of \$39,836.93. Stu noted there was only a very small school payroll included on this warrant.

**Cash & Budget Reports** – Stu noted that the town checking account has a lot of money in it as the taxes have come in nicely. He noted that first half of the property taxes were due yesterday, and the total tax collection is in excess of 50% for the year.

**Mileage Policy** – Stu explained that the [IRS](#) had changed its mileage reimbursement rate to 62.5 cents per mile effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. He said the town’s rate has been a hybrid of the state and federal rate, and with that change, the town’s rate would increase to 54-cents per mile. Gary moved to approve the new rate. Nathan 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

**Investment Funds** – Stu referred to a spreadsheet included with the material for the board this evening. The sheet calculates the fund balance following activity for FY 2022 and then any additions or fund use for FY 2023. Larissa moved to approve the various investment fund transfers and additions. Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

**Meeting with Fire Department** – Chief Skip Smith welcomed the Board to the fire station and said the department has no particular problems and would love to see the Board more often. Nathan said the Board had met occasionally at the fire station prior to the pandemic. Jo said the townspeople should be aware of the great effort the fire department puts into its job.

Chief Smith said the department hopes to hold an open house in October. Stu introduced the members of the department present at the meeting. Jo asked prospective member Tina Warner how she decided to join the department. Mrs. Warner shared her story and her goals in joining. Jo said it's great that she reached out to join up and the town needs to know how to get people involved. Chief Smith says there is a big nationwide effort to retain people once they decide to volunteer. Mrs. Warner said she was attracted by the flexibility of being able to volunteer but not on a full time basis. Jo suggested a future article for the Lamoine Quarterly. Chief Smith says it's a challenge to attract female members of the fire department because there are not a lot of females who volunteer and it's difficult to feel comfortable. He said the fire departments need more diversity

Nathan said the volunteer numbers for Lamoine are higher than many towns, and the chief should take credit. There was discussion about continuity of chief officers, retention and similar volunteer departments. Chief Smith says he's been fortunate to keep the chief officers. Shelly Coyne said retention rate for the department seems better than most. Chief Smith says keeping people involved is helpful. Nathan said higher numbers prevent burnout. Chief Smith noted the department recently had to respond to Sedgwick because of low numbers in that part of Hancock County. Jo said the town should be proud of its department.

Jo asked about the future new fill tank. Stu said the project awaits removal of the front portable classroom. Nathan said the new portable will likely arrive next spring.

Chief Smith reported the new fire truck chassis is still waiting for computer chips. He said it'll likely be done in January with manufacture of the body probably in May. There was a brief discussion.

There was a discussion regarding ambulance response and firefighters administering first aid and other tasks that EMT's are supposed to perform. Larissa asked if the town might consider having its own ambulance. Chief Smith said that would be extremely expensive both in money and labor. He said that once a department starts running an ambulance, firefighters who become EMT's are generally lost as firefighters just due to the sheer volume of calls. He said he would be in favor of bolstering Northern Light's fees.

**Animal Control** – Stu reported that yesterday was Deborah McFarland's final day as Animal Control Officer. He said the group of towns discussing a joint animal control officer is making slow progress, but for now the town office would have to handle animal control calls. There was a discussion about how a county approach might work. Nathan noted that safety has become an increasing issue during the past few years.

**Code Enforcement/Camp Sites** – Stu said the Code Enforcement Officer had included a written update on the various matters under investigation. He said one notice of violation was issued, three are still under discussion, and an inspection of a property on which the town had received a complaint of many campsites determined that the complaint was unfounded.

**PFAS/Landfill Area** – Stu reported the Maine DEP has conducted more residential testing. He said they drew water from the well at the Anderson Garage lot, but it took a major effort to do so, as that well has not been used for about 20-years. He said one well tested extremely high for sodium, and there is speculation that might be tied to the salt/sand shed. He said work will continue.

**Walking Program** – Stu reported the Board received an e-mail from a citizen encouraging some program to promote greater visibility for people while walking on the roadsides. He suggested it be referred to both the Parks and Recreation Committees. Nathan moved to do so, Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

**Heating Fuel** – Stu reported he was not able to get in touch with the current fuel vendor to see if a pre-purchase price was available yet. He suggested that if there was a lock-in price available at a reasonable rate, that the Board could authorize him to move forward with it. Nathan so moved, Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

**Mooring Survey**- Stu reported the survey is complete and a report was included in the Select Board packet. Nathan asked about the moorings identified on the map as unknown. Stu said they're either unoccupied moorings or if there are float balls attached, they did not have numbers on them. A brief discussion followed.

**Assessing Future** – Stu reported that Assessor Brian Thomas had forwarded some language that could go to referendum in November to eliminate the elected Board of Assessors in favor of an appointed position. He said the town has [an ordinance regarding municipal elections](#) and he has marked up the ordinance to reflect that change, as well as clean up some outdated wording and comply with proper position names, such as Select Board instead of Board of Selectmen. He said he also forwarded that to the Board of Assessors for discussion at their next meeting, just prior to the next Select Board meeting. He said he expects a town meeting warrant will be ready to sign at the September 15, 2022 meeting.

**Revaluation** – Stu reported the revaluation started yesterday and appraisers hit the field today. He said he posted on the town's Facebook page about the re-valuation and that generated a few calls.

**Checking Account Reconciliation** – The Board signed the statement expressing satisfaction with the reconciliation of the August, 2022 checking account statement which was completed earlier in the day and sent via e-mail.

**Returnables** – Gary moved to award the proceeds from returnable containers to the Historical Society in October, and the Frenchman Bay Snowmobile Riders in November. Nathan 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

**Other** – Jo asked that the next agenda include items regarding elder services and community center.

The next regular meetings will be held on September 15, October 6 & 20, and November 3 & 17.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM. The Board then took a tour of the fire station.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Select Board