



Lamoine Select Board

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Minutes – January 20, 2022

Chair Gary McFarland called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Present were: Selectboard members Robert Christie, Kathleen Rybarz, Gary McFarland, S. Josephine Cooper, Nathan Mason (arrived 7:35PM); Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, School Committee Chair Brett Jones, and Conservation Commission chair Larissa Thomas

Agenda Review/Addendum – No changes were proposed to the printed agenda or addendum.

Minutes – January 6, 2022 – Jo moved to approve the minutes with one minor correction. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Expenditure Warrant 17 – The Board signed the warrant in the amount of \$178,694.92. Stu reported he had to transfer \$135,000 from investments to the checking account to cover the warrant, of which roughly \$137,000 was for school expenses.

Cash & Budget Reports – Stu reported that the municipal year end balances were finally in, so the 4th page of the budget report with the various fund balances is now included in the reports. He noted that the undesignated fund balance to start FY 2022 was in excess of \$700,000.

Audit – Stu reported that auditor Ron Bean advised that the municipal side of the budget is pretty much done, they're now waiting for the school department which won't be ready for them until mid-February. He said Mr. Bean was optimistic that he'll have the audit ready in time for the town meeting.

Tax Liens – Stu reported that an attorney for William Walker's estate had been in contact with the town office regarding paying off the tax liens. He said a couple of the liens nearing foreclosure have been paid and expects most will wait until the deadline.

ARPA Funds – Broadband – Stu reported that the Hancock County Commissioners met the previous day and Lamoine's expansion proposal was the first being considered for funding. He said Mission Broadband presented the proposal, but said there was a "snafu" as the updated ARPA rules require a certain speed for broadband. He said that Charter indicated that the system upgrade is scalable to that required speed, but that the Commissioners have not committed any funding yet for Lamoine.

Stu reported the Technology Committee met just before this meeting and recommended proceeding provided the project meets the ARPA requirements and the County Commissioners help with the funding.

Brett Jones asked how fast the rest of the town would be wired. Stu said he had no idea, but given the status of projects, he suspects it could happen fairly quickly.

Premium Pay – Stu reported that he'd prepared an updated memorandum outlining the proposed premium pay for firefighters and the town staff to total \$30,000 and thus eligible for matching funds from Hancock County. He noted it now includes the facilities maintenance director. Jo moved to approve the premium pay plan as presented. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Stray Animal Sheltering Contract – Jo moved to sign the contract with the Small Animal Clinic. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Town Meeting Warrant – Jo moved to sign the town meeting warrant for March 8 and 16, 2022. Bob 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.** The board signed the warrants (Nathan signed after arriving).

Specimen Ballot – The Board reviewed the ballot for March 8, 2022. Jo asked if a meet the candidate's session has been planned. Kathleen said the Patrons group at the school has been asked, and maybe the Grange. Mr. Jones said such a session would serve the town well. He said it's been a long time since there has been a contested race. Kathleen said the hope is to hold the session at the school gym.

Town Report – Stu reported he put the updated report in tonight's materials. He said the only thing he's waiting for is the school report. He asked the board to review the draft thus far and e-mail any changes needed if possible.

Technology Committee – Stu reported the committee has recommended accepting a proposal from Reach Marketing for designing and hosting the town's website. Mr. Jones explained there would be better reliability by having the site hosted outside the building, and it should be more user friendly to update. Bob moved to accept the proposal, Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Insurance Billing – Fire Department – Stu reported that currently the fire department does not charge for any responses, but insurance companies are routinely billed by many communities for services. He said a company met with him about doing that billing for things like automobile accidents, and he ran the proposal by the fire chief who was strongly in favor, so long as individuals are not billed. He said the town would need an ordinance and a fee structure to proceed. A discussion followed on a recent fire call. Jo moved to proceed to draft an ordinance for future consideration. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Lamoine Conservation Commission – Grant Opportunity – Conservation Commission chair Larissa Thomas said the commission has drafted a self-assessment and has set February 15, 2022 as a public workshop date. It'll be held at 7PM at the school gym. She explained the workshop will be to identify the priorities to pursue for the grant program. She said she asked Stu and Mr. Jones to provide input for baseline information on behalf of the town and the school department. She said once they have a ranked list of priorities for a grant, they'll come back to the Selectboard for an approved mission statement in order to enroll in the grant program. (At this point in the meeting Nathan arrived).

Mrs. Thomas said they will need to get costs for consultants who will work for the town. She said the hope is to apply for the first grant window at the end of March, as the state is looking for small towns for grants. She said the list will likely be pretty small. She said it might help if the town's application is rejected to get the feedback to resubmit.

Jo said it's great that Mrs. Thomas and the Conservation Commission are pursuing this. Kathleen asked about what kind of awards and categories there might be. Mrs. Thomas said there is a \$50,000 cap and a 71 item list of eligible categories. She said there is no necessity for matching funds.

Other – Mrs. Thomas noted that she is running for the Selectboard in March and while there is no requirement that she step down from the Conservation Commission she polled the other commission members. She said there was unanimous support for her to continue on the Commission. She said if there appears to be a conflict, she would recuse herself. She said she would leave it up to the Selectboard to see if she should continue. Bob noted that when he was elected to the Selectboard, he continued to serve on the Comprehensive Planning Committee.

Fire Chief – The board signed a card wishing Fire Chief Skip Smith well as he recovers from surgery earlier in the day.

COVID – Nathan noted that the school had to close for a week due to excessive absence of students and teachers due to COVID-19. He said that did not have a positive impact on the basketball teams.

Legislative Update – Kathleen reported she sat in on the MMA Legislative Policy update. Stu asked if there were bills that directly impact the town. Kathleen said there is a proposed change in Shoreland Zoning about how to measure building height in the flood zone. She also said there is a proposed land trust for brownfields.

State Senate – Gary noted that State Senator Louis Luchini has resigned his seat and there will be a special election at some point to fill the vacancy.

Planning Board – Attorney Use – Stu briefly explained that a subdivision that received conditional approval a few months ago has requested that the Planning Board sign the plan prior to transferring a portion of the property to an abutter. He said the developer asked to contact the town attorney for guidance. He said he would recommend that the town attorney be authorized to work with the Planning Board on the matter. Gary so moved, Bob 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Next Meeting Dates – The Selectboard will hold regular meetings on February 3 & 17, and March 3. The Election Date is March 8, the open town meeting in March 16, and the new Selectboard will hold its organizational meeting on March 17, 2022.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Selectboard