



Lamoine Select Board

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Minutes – March 3, 2022

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

Present were: Select Board members Nathan Mason, Kathleen Rybarz, Robert Christie, Gary McFarland and S. Josephine Cooper; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, and Conservation Commission Chair Larissa Thomas.

Agenda Review – No changes were made to the printed agenda or addendum.

Minutes – February 17, 2022 – Nathan moved to approve the minutes as presented. Bob 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Expenditure Warrant 20 – The Board signed warrant 20 in the amount of \$115,865.91. Stu noted the largest expenditures were for the school warrants. He noted that a culvert thaw on Shore Road was included, as were the Citizen of the Year and Conservation Award plaques. Bob asked about electric bills. Stu said they have gone up, but they've not doubled as some have reported. He said usage is usually higher in the winter at the town hall and fire station as the heating system works harder and lights are on longer.

Cash & Budget Report – Stu noted that tax collections were strong in the past two weeks as the 2nd half due date was on Monday.

Foreclosure Letters – Stu reported that one of the three property owners has requested an installment plan to purchase back the property on which he lives. He said he worded that letter differently than two others from whom there has been no communication. He said he put a 20% down payment requirement if an installment plan is to happen.

Jo said she's concerned about such a plan as there has been previous history with the property owner. Bob said he shares the concern, but at the same time doesn't want to kick someone out of their home. Jo moved to change the letter to express the concern and reluctance about entering such an agreement. Nathan seconded saying he agreed that it's not a precedent to set for the future. It was noted that each case is considered individually. **Vote in favor was 5-0.** The letter was revised, and the Selectboard signed all three letters.

Checking Account Reconciliation – Board members signed the statement expressing satisfaction with review of the checking account reconciliation which had been e-mailed earlier in the week.

Recycling Transport Contract – Stu said an updated contract with DM&J which included a rate hike based on either 2% or the Consumer Price Index had been overlooked last July. He said that there has also been an increase in container rental from Ecomaine, but he's not sure how that plays into the transportation contract. Kathleen moved to sign the updated contract. Bob 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0; the chair signed the updated contract.**

Broadband Expansion – APRA – Stu reported that adequate language was added by Spectrum/Charter that complied with ARPA guidelines, and since the board had voted to approve the contract contingent on compliance, he sent the signed and revised contract to Spectrum/Charter, which has signed and sent the approved contract back. He said that the County Commissioners have indicated that a check for the 1st half of their obligation should come to the town next week. He said it will likely take about a year for the project to come to fruition.

Premium Pay-ARPA – Stu reported he’s not heard anything from the county in regard to matching the previously issued premium pay.

Fire Department Water Project – ARPA – Stu said that he spoke with the treasurer of the Cold Spring Water Company and said that he presumes any engineer the town hires to design the fire department project will work with the water company. Bob asked about the future of the front portable classroom at the school, where the water tank presumably would be located. A brief discussion followed.

Town Meeting Preview – The Board reviewed the printed copy of the proposed Power Point presentation. They did note that while it’s an attractive presentation, they usually sit with their back to the screen.

Citizen of the year – The Board signed a resolve honoring the Citizen of the Year to be presented at the town meeting.

Website Mockup – The Board looked over the proposed layouts of the new town website and said it was very attractive. There was no objection to referring it to the Technology Committee for a recommendation.

Boston Post Cane – The Board signed a resolve for the cane to be presented at the open town meeting to Jay Sutter, the town’s oldest resident.

Fire Truck Loan – Stu reported that Camden National Bank personally delivered the \$300,000 check for the loan on Monday. He said he brought it to First Wealth Management to place into a separate account, as the money will not be needed until probably next January.

Masking Policy – Stu reported that there is no formal policy in regard to masks at the town hall. He said the School Department voted Monday to make masks at the school optional, and he took down the “masking requested” sign from the front door. Gary said optional masking was fine with him. Bob said the town has endured the pandemic well and numbers have started to fall nationally. He urged the town to be alert for what is next and thanked the community for largely following the CDC guidelines. The board favored no sign in the door for now and a brief discussion followed regarding masking.

Other – Climate Grant – Larissa Thomas reported that she has submitted the grant and heard only that it has been received. She said she might follow up in a couple of weeks for its status.

Trash Disposal – Bob noted that the MRC has made an offer to purchase the defunct Fiberight plant.

Aquaculture – Gary said he spoke with the developer of a proposed fish farm off Jonesport who said one of the big advantages of Maine is the water temperature. Nathan said it'll be tough to find the workers needed to run that operation as there is also a large development in the Columbia Falls area for a Veterans' destination complex.

Next Meetings – The municipal election is March 8th, the open town meeting on March 16th and the next regular/organizational meeting is on the 17th. Kathleen noted that she would like to discuss aquaculture developments at the meeting of the 17th.

The Board thanked Bob for his two terms of serving. He said he'd be open to other opportunities to serve the community.

Stu thanked Gary for his Good Samaritan response to a motor vehicle accident early in the morning. Bob thanked Gary for his family's generosity over the years and related a story about helping someone at their business.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Select Board