



Lamoine Select Board

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Minutes – January 5, 2023

Chair Jo Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present were: Select Board members Nathan Mason, S. Josephine Cooper, Kathleen Rybarz, Larissa Thomas; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon and School Committee Chair Brett Jones. Select Board member Gary McFarland had notified the board that he would be unable to attend.

Agenda Review – No changes were proposed to the printed agenda.

Minutes – December 15, 2022 – Nathan moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Expenditure Warrant 14 – There were no questions regarding the warrant which board members had signed individually on December 29, 2022 in the amount of \$108,848.14.

Expenditure Warrant 15 – The board signed the warrant in the amount of \$19,913.78. Stu noted the largest payment was to Water Treatment Equipment for installation of 3 PFAS filters as required by the Maine DEP.

Cash & Budget Reports – Stu noted that expenses are lower than the percentage of the year that has passed and revenues are higher than expectations.

Tax Lien Foreclosures – Stu noted that only one tax lien from 2020/21 remains unpaid. He reported that the person who had requested an installment agreement came up with the money to pay off the lien which has been discharged.

Checking Account Reconciliation – The board signed the statement expressing satisfaction with the review of the checking account reconciliation that had been e-mailed prior to the meeting.

Excise Tax Quarterly Report – Stu reported that collections in the 4th quarter of the year were the best ever for that quarter, despite concerns about the economy. He said collections on the first day of business for the new year were also very high.

Animal Control Officer – County Contract – Stu reported on a zoom meeting with several towns and the county earlier in the day. He said the pay rate for the county ACO will be \$25/hour and he's made that correction to the contract. He reported that the county has placed an ad for an ACO and several towns have signed a similar contract or plan to. Jo moved to sign a contract with Hancock County for Animal Control Officer Services. Kathleen 2nd. Larissa asked if the stray animal sheltering contract is still required. Stu said that was discussed at the county ACO zoom meeting and towns will be required to maintain that sheltering agreement. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Animal Sheltering Contract – Larissa asked if the town had an animal welfare policy regarding euthanizing strays. Stu said there is no such policy, but as he understands it,

strays that are brought to the Small Animal Clinic are then sent for adoption to the SPCA. He said he does not recall any instances recently that animals were euthanized. Jo moved to sign the contract. Larissa 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Community Action Grant/Heat Pumps/Solar – Larissa moved to have the chair sign the grant acceptance form. Nathan 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Larissa said the draft RFP is the 2nd generation. She said it would require Efficiency Maine certified bidders for the heat pump task, as the town would apply for the Efficiency Maine program simultaneously to the with the Community Action Grant program for heat pumps.

Jo asked about the solar power task and a provision to assure access to the electrical grid. Larissa explained that there have been recent issues locally about being able to hook solar arrays into the grid because of capacity. She said the RFP asks to explore interconnection first. A discussion followed on the issue with Versant and solar capacity.

Larissa asked if the School Committee wished to review the RFP. Brett Jones said the project had accurate information on the number of units and he suggested the RFP did not need to wait for the school committee.

Stu asked by what date the Select Board wished to have the bids due. After a brief discussion the board indicated February 16, 2023.

Nathan moved to approve sending out the RFP. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Tax Assessor RFP – Stu reported the Board of Assessors met the previous day and approved the draft of the RFP. Jo moved to approve sending out the RFP. Larissa 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Town Meeting – Food Sovereignty Ordinance – Nathan said the Town of Blue Hill went through a food sovereignty issue several years ago. Kathleen asked if there was a reason this is coming to the Select Board now. Jo asked what other towns have adopted such ordinances. Nathan said Surry has. Stu said his biggest concern with the ordinance the Grange presented was that anyone could bring suit on behalf of the town, and there is a provision in the ordinance that would have to be enforced.

Kathleen asked if this could be considered at the special town meeting that includes the school budget. Nathan said it would be nice to meet first with the Grange and requested they be invited to the next Select Board meeting.

Discussion followed whether a public hearing would be required.

Shoreland Zoning Amendment – Stu reported the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed zoning map amendment on February 6, 2023 at 6:30 PM. He said the Planning Board chair has requested that someone from the Select Board be

present to explain why this is going to town meeting again. Kathleen said she would plan to attend.

Town Meeting Warrant – The article regarding the food sovereignty ordinance (drafted as article 8) will be removed. Stu reported that an LD1 increase article was placed into the warrant as the budget, if approved as recommended, will require that. No other changes to the draft warrant were proposed. Stu said he hopes the Board will have a warrant ready to sign by next meeting.

Cover – Town Report – The Board discussed the osprey picture which left a lot of blank space on the cover. Jo suggested having a picture of students by the bell at the school, juxtaposed with a picture of students posing outside the old North Lamoine School (now the town hall) from the early 1900s.

December 23, 2022 Storm – Marlboro Beach – Stu reported he submitted a FEMA Form 7, estimating \$10,000 in damage between repairs and debris cleanup. Larissa said the Parks Commission and the Conservation Commission will discuss the damage when they meet later this month. Kathleen reported that pieces of an aquaculture lease broke up in the storm and washed up on her property. She said the lease owner will clean that up. Brett noted the tide was extremely high. Larissa said there will be discussion on whether a DEP permit will be needed to perform repairs at Marlboro Beach.

Bloomfield Park Tree – Stu reported that a previous wind storm broke off a large pine tree, part of which is sitting precariously on top of other trees. He said facilities maintenance director Mike Hodgkins has placed caution tape around that area. He said a professional tree outfit will need to address that. Kathleen moved to authorize Stu to engage a tree company. Larissa 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Fire Calls – Stu reported that the fire department responded to about a dozen calls during the storm weekend. He said mostly the department placed traffic cones as warnings near downed power lines. He said the town really could use more traffic cones and asked for authorization to purchase 25 more cones. Jo so moved, Larissa 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Power Restoration – Stu reported that he and his wife opened up the town hall on Christmas Day and the day after for a few hours as a warming center. He said a few people, including Jo, showed up and there were many offers to supply food. Kathleen suggested the new Committee on Aging could talk about a calling tree in such cases. A brief discussion followed.

Fire Truck Crash – Stu reported an accident involving Engine 403 occurred as the truck was returning from another accident call on Route 204 in Trenton. He said the accident cause very little damage to the fire truck, but the car that got hit sustained significant damage. He said the town's insurance carrier is handling the matter.

PFAS Filters – Stu reported that the three filters the DEP ordered to be installed are in place and will be inspected tomorrow. Nathan asked about the status of lead contamination at the school. Brett said Cold Spring Water Company has installed a new aerator which should correct the pH of the water, explaining the impact of acidic water on brass. He said the school board will get an update on Tuesday.

Facilities & Infrastructure Committee – Stu reported the committee held its initial meeting just prior to the Select Board meeting. Nathan said it's off to a good start. Jo said it seems like a very good committee with some new faces involved. Stu reported the committee will meet again next Thursday.

Committee on Aging – Jo said the committee will meet a week from tomorrow at the town hall at 1PM. She said they plan to meet with the Grange and later with folks from Sullivan. She said they are starting to tap into the basics, and the town could use a place for programs.

Other – Stu said the town got a letter from the Hancock County Planning Commission asking it to join. The Board reviewed the letter and opted to take no action.

Comments – Stu reported he has been asked to do a Q & A article for the next Maine Town & City Magazine for February.

Next Meeting – The Board will meet next on January 19, February 2 & 16, and March 2. Election Day is March 7, with nomination papers due tomorrow. The open town meeting is March 15, and the organizational meeting will be March 16.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Select Board