



Lamoine Select Board

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Minutes – January 19, 2023

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

Present were Select Board Members Larissa Thomas, Kathleen Rybarz, Nathan Mason, Gary McFarland and S. Josephine Cooper; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, Dan & Shelly Coyne, Taylor, Brad and Brielle Hamor and several of their family, and Kathleen Stanley.

Agenda Review – Nathan moved to shift item 9 to the top of the agenda. Larissa 2nd.
Vote in favor was 5-0.

Unicorn Permit – The Select Board members and Stu introduced themselves to 5-year old Brielle Hamor who had requested an application for permission to have a unicorn. Jo said she was super impressed that Miss Hamor wrote to the town, saying some grownups don't ask for permission to do things and can get into trouble. She said the Select Board makes sure everything is safe with such requests. She reviewed the items on the application, including shelter for the yet to be acquired unicorn. Miss Hamor said they have a barn already, they just need to paint rainbows on it and clean stuff out, and that would give her unicorn a place to sleep and stand. She said they already have two pets, so she knows about pet care. She said she cleans the cat's box and feeds the cat and dog and helps walk the dog.

Jo asked Miss Hamor what she planned to do with a unicorn. Miss Hamor replied that she would take it on walks and ride on rainbows, and her brother said he'd like to ride a rainbow too. Jo said it appears Miss Hamor has thought a lot about having a unicorn, if she can find one.

Gary moved to grant the permit to keep a unicorn. Nathan 2nd. Larissa said perhaps the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife might need to issue a permit for keeping a wild animal. Stu said he didn't think unicorns fell under wild creatures, as they are more of a magical being. Jo said the town has to make sure it's a safe situation for both the unicorn and neighbors. Miss Hamor said the neighbors have horses who could make friends with a unicorn. Jo asked if the unicorn might fly away. Miss Hamor said they don't have wings. Nathan asked about winter weather. Miss Hamor said they would give the unicorn snacks and a blanket to keep warm. Jo said it looks like Miss Hamor has really thought hard about this. The **vote in favor of granting a permit was 5-0**. Stu presented Miss Hamor with a handmade stuffed unicorn that his wife Bonnie had completed just a couple of hours earlier. Miss Hamor and the Select Board posed for pictures after the Board signed a permit.

Minutes – January 5, 2023 – Stu said Larissa had sent several edits. Larissa moved to approve the minutes as edited. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0 (McFarland abstained as he was not present at that meeting).**

Expenditure Warrant 16 – The Board signed the warrant in the amount of \$130,223.70. Stu said there was nothing unusual on the warrant. Nathan said the traffic cones

approved last meeting were included. Stu said he marked those up last night. Kathleen asked about the salt deductions. Stu explained that as part of the plowing contract, the town purchases the salt and deducts it from the contract price paid to the contractor.

Cash & Budget Reports – Stu noted that cash flow is picking up a bit as the 2nd half of property taxes is starting to come in.

Lien Foreclosures – Stu reported that all the 2020/21 tax liens have been paid in full so there will be no foreclosures. He said some of the folks who frequently approach foreclosure have paid all of their back taxes.

Appointments – Nathan moved to appoint Jennifer Kovacs-Lord as the Registrar of Voters. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Gary moved to appoint Stuart Marckoon as the Deputy Registrar of Voters. Larissa 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Town Meeting Warrant – Stu said the maximum interest rate has not yet been set. He said by statute it has to be set tomorrow, so he would recommend signing the warrant at the next meeting. He said the maximum interest rate on delinquent taxes could be 10% or higher, depending on the prime rate. He said that would be quite a sizable increase from the current 4%. He suggested that perhaps the board could establish the town rate as the maximum minus 25. Nathan so moved, Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Stu said he had modified the wording of the Shoreland Zoning Map amendment question as suggested by the Planning Board Chair.

Food Sovereignty – Kathleen Stanley said she was present on behalf of the Lamoine Grange. She said the Grange had discussed a farmers market where cooked goods could be sold directly to consumers by people not licensed by the state. She said towns have the ability to become sovereign and allow for direct sales to consumers without sellers having a license. She said without that designation it would not be legal to sell jam (for example) by the roadside. She said this idea apparently started many years ago in Blue Hill and led to a state constitutional amendment. She said the Grange thought this would be a good idea for Lamoine and crafted an ordinance based on models from other towns.

Nathan said he thought the intent of the amendment was to allow farmers to sell directly to consumers at farm stands. He said he was not sure about farmers markets. A brief discussion followed. Mrs. Stanley read from Trenton's ordinance which said the producer has the right to sell directly to consumers.

Stu said the proposed ordinance from the Grange gave him some heartburn as it would grant standing to anyone in town to bring suit on behalf of the town. Kathleen said the town could place an ordinance on the warrant for the school budget town meeting later in the spring. Stu said the other provision in the ordinance was an enforcement

requirement that sellers must display a small card which seemingly could require the town to enforce all direct to consumer sales.

Jo suggested the Grange go back to the drawing board. She said there is no time to get an ordinance ready for the annual town meeting as the Select Board will not meet again before signing the warrant. Larissa said she worries about unintended consequences from such an ordinance. She asked if someone who wanted to do harm could use it to get around some rules. Mrs. Stanley said anyone who sells something is still liable for problems that might come from ingestion of them. A brief discussion followed as well as a discussion on whether this applied only Lamoine residents and cannabis products. Stu said Maine Municipal Association has a model ordinance which Larissa supplied to Mrs. Stanley. Mrs. Stanley said the Grange would go back to the drawing board. Jo said perhaps this could go onto the May town meeting warrant.

The board briefly discussed the Shoreland Zoning map amendment. Kathleen said she would attend the February public hearing by the Planning Board.

Town Report Review – The Board discussed the front pictures and expressed preference on listing those who the report was dedicated in memory of in alphabetical order.

Facilities and Infrastructure Committee – Kathleen said she watched last week's meeting. Only four members could attend. She said they discussed the history of facilities and needs.

Committee on Aging – Jo reported the committee met on January 13, 2023 and got a report from the Grange and met with Candace Eaton of Sullivan's committee. She said they plan to reach out to different committees in town. She said they discussed wellness checks and they are developing a resource list. She said Nina Zeldin of Healthy Acadia has reached out to the committee. She said they plan to meet with the Little Children's group and she's excited about the committee's energy. There was a brief discussion about scam phone calls.

Parks Commission – Stu reported the Parks Commission did not meet on the 16th due to the ice storm but will meet on Monday January 23, 2023 at 6PM.

Community Action Grant – Stu reported a lot of good responses on the RFP for heat pumps. Larissa said one potential bidder for the solar project was concerned about the deadline due to the interconnectivity with Versant. She said she asked the state about the deadline. She said the state responded that because they are not providing funding to the solar portion that if it will be OK if an agreement is signed by the deadline. She said the town will modify the RFP and notify the solar companies to which the RFP was sent. Stu noted that the school has also been talking about an RFP for a solar project.

There was no other business to discuss and no comments from the board, staff or public.

The Board will meet next on February 2 & 16, and March 2nd. The municipal election is March 7, the open town meeting is March 15 and the organizational meeting is March 16.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Select Board.