



Lamoine Select Board

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Minutes – March 16, 2023

Deputy Town Clerk Stuart Marckoon called the meeting to order at 7:25, once there was a quorum.

Present were: Select Board members S. Josephine Cooper, Larissa Thomas, Kathleen Rybarz; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon. Select Board members Nathan Mason and Gary McFarland had reported they would be unable to attend due to illness and a work emergency.

Selection of Chair – Jo moved that Larissa be the chair until the 2024 Annual Town Meeting. Kathleen 2nd. There was a discussion about rotation of the chairmanship and the role that the chair plays. Larissa said she is reluctantly willing to do that job, but preferred that the entire board be present for the selection and hopes there are no hard feelings. **Vote in favor was 3-0.**

Vice Chair – Kathleen moved that Nathan continue as the Board's Vice Chair. Jo 2nd. A discussion followed on what might happen should he decline. **Vote in favor was 3-0.**

Minutes – March 2, 2023 – Larissa reported some minor edits to the minutes have been entered. Kathleen moved to approve the minutes, Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0.**

Expenditure Warrant 20 – The board members present signed the warrant in the amount of \$178,287.38. Stu noted the 3rd revaluation payment and the school warrants made up the bulk of the warrant. Kathleen asked about the salt deduction. Stu explained that the town pays for the salt purchase and deducts it from McMullen Landscaping's contract.

Cash & Budget Report – Stu reported that the up-front payment due to Dave's World for the heat pump project will be on the next warrant. He said while that will exceed the amount of the state grant, he will book the expected rebate as an account receivable. Larissa asked about the timing of the Efficiency Maine rebate. Stu said he's sent the paperwork to Dave's World and when the project is complete, they will file for the rebates and we should get the check.

Policy Adoptions – Jo moved to adopt the [Disbursement Policy](#). Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0.**

Kathleen moved to adopt the [Mileage Policy](#). Larissa 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0.**

Jo moved to adopt the [Administrative Fees Schedule](#). Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0.**

Jo moved to adopt the [Procedures for the Select Board](#) Policy. Larissa 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0.**

Heat Pump Project Update – Stu reported that he met with a representative from Dave’s World yesterday and the heat pump installations at the town hall and fire station will start soon. He said the Efficiency Maine paper work has been submitted to Dave’s World and they will handle the state submission. Larissa asked if she could get a copy of the invoice and project specs to help with the Community Action Grant quarterly report. Stu said he would send those. Kathleen asked about the school project. Stu said they might start during April vacation, but probably couldn’t finish up until school dismisses in June.

Solar Project Update – Stu reported that he and Larissa met with Revision Energy and the Select Board will need to make a decision on some things. He said he’d talked over putting solar panels on the school with Superintendent Liebow and School Board Chair Jones, and they were surprised that Revision had come up with a plan for the school, as they had stopped discussion when it was learned the town was seeking a solar plan.

Larissa explained that it would be advantageous to the town to do both the salt/sand shed and the school arrays simultaneously. She said in addition to which or both projects to do, the Board would have to decide on which contract options to go with. She said the town would get a better rate if it agrees to buy the solar panels. She said if the town reneges on that purchase, electric rates would go up in 6-years. Stu said if purchasing, the town should start setting aside money at the next budget cycle so it’s there in 5-years.

Kathleen asked if the school has ARPA funds they’ve not used. Stu said he’s not sure.

Jo moved to pursue both the salt/sand shed and school projects and to purchase the systems in five year, contingent on school committee approval. Larissa noted that it’s not clear if the solar electricity generated will be more than the town’s electrical usage. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0.** Stu said he would notify the school department.

Hodgkins Scholarship Committee – Jo moved to have the entire Select Board act as the committee. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0.** It was noted the application deadline is June 1, 2023. The Board will decide on scholarships at the June 15th meeting. Stu noted several applications have already been received.

Monarch Garden – Larissa explained plans by the Conservation Commission to locate a pollinator garden planter at the transfer station entrance by the salt/sand shed and a larger area of milkweed habitat across from the dumpsters. She said the town hall garden proposal had shifted to between the flagpole and the electronic sign, but that’s problematic because of buried cables. She said perhaps it can go on the south side closer to the tree line. She said Joanne Dodge would take the lead on installing the garden. Stu asked about weeding. Larissa said the Conservation Commission would take care of that. She said they would like permission to proceed. Jo so moved, Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0.**

Thank you to Frenchman Bay Conservancy – Larissa reported the Conservation Commission discussed the matter. She said the commission was uncomfortable with

crafting a letter as there was not consensus and there is concern this is not located in Lamoine. She said the commissioners are not comfortable with speaking on behalf of the town, and it would be better for the Select Board to do that.

Jo said she thought the letter was a great idea and doesn't mind sending a letter. Kathleen said it should benefit the Shellfishing community. Jo said Stu could draft something up. Larissa said the Board might want to wait until the deal is completed.

School Sprinkler System – Stu reported that he, Fire Chief Smith, School Board Chair Jones, Superintendent Liebow, and School Business Manager Higgins met twice with the sprinkler company, and they were joined by the Cold Spring Water Company at the 2nd meeting. He said the new portable classroom at the school is of a size that requires a sprinkler. He said that will add significant cost to the project, but at the same time the fire department has wanted a cistern to draw clean water from to fill fire trucks. He explained that pumping the water to the sprinklers and the fire department is doable and could possibly be best accomplished with an underground/basement installation near the fire station with piping to the portable. He said the School Committee meets on Tuesday and this will likely be on their agenda.

Lamoine Quarterly – Stu reported he's drafted up about 4-pages of the 8 page publication. He said it will not be ready by April 1st as he'll be on vacation the last week of March.

Goals – The members present opted to not discuss goals until all members are present.

LD487 Update – Kathleen reported she attended a session in Augusta that started late. She said the bill will have a study session next week. She said it appears the bill has morphed into a pilot study for Frenchman Bay and perhaps one other area of Maine would be added. She said the bill text has changed, and should would keep the board updated.

Parks Commission Resignation – Jo moved to accept the resignation of Lori Jordan from the Parks Commission with regret. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0.**

Health Insurance Update – Stu reported that he has changed his enrollment to single coverage as his wife is now covered by Medicare. He said the premium withheld from his pay at the last payroll was too much and Maine Municipal Health Trust has refunded the town, so there will be a payroll adjustment on his next check.

Next Meetings – The board will meet next on Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 7PM. No further meetings were scheduled until the board can meet in full.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Select Board