



Lamoine Select Board

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Minutes – May 8, 2023

Chair Larissa Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.

Present were: Select Board Members Larissa Thomas, S. Josephine Cooper, Gary McFarland, Kathleen Rybarz, Nathan Mason (arrived 7:15 PM); Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Jennifer Kovacs-Lord, and Richard McMullen.

Employee Reviews – Executive Session – Gary moved to enter executive session pursuant to [1 MRSA §405\(6\)\(a\)](#) to conduct employee reviews with the Town Clerk/Tax Collector and Administrative Assistant. Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0 at 6:38 PM. Out at 7:02 PM.**

The open meeting began at 7:02 PM.

Agenda Review / Addendum – Gary moved to place the snow plowing bid higher on the agenda. Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Minutes – April 24, 2023 – Jo moved to approve the minutes as written. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Expenditure Warrant 24 – The Board signed the warrant in the amount of \$354,506.92. Stu noted \$330,000 was for the school department

Cash & Budget Reports – Stu noted that excise increased \$21,000 today as Versant registered their vehicles.

Checking Account Reconciliation – The Board signed the statement expressing satisfaction with review of the checking account reconciliation that had been e-mailed last week.

Snow Plowing Bid – Contractor Richard McMullen said plowing has been challenging since COVID due to the economy but things are getting better. He said he's had trouble getting parts for truck repairs and labor. Larissa read the bid from Mr. McMullen as follows:

Year	Bid	Per Mile	School
2023/24	\$217,558	\$9,756	\$7,000
2024/25	\$221,909	\$9,951	\$7,000
2025/26	\$225,347	\$10,150	\$7,000

Years 4 and 5 are negotiable.

Mr. McMullen said he based the bid for the town's contract on the contract he's had with the State of Maine to plow Route 184. He said it's up a lot from the contract that started 5-years ago. He said the state contract he held kind of supplemented the town contract. He said he's had to spend a lot of extra money the past three years.

Larissa said inflation is a reality. Mr. McMullen said he likes to run newer equipment, but it's a lot more expensive to maintain. Kathleen noted the cost of fuel has risen sharply. Jo said McMullen has done an excellent job plowing the roads, doing high quality work and is very responsive to the weather. She said the town has been very fortunate. Mr. McMullen said he was really on the fence about whether to submit a bid. Larissa said she appreciates the excellent work. A brief discussion followed regarding the cost per mile. (Nathan arrived toward the end of discussion)

Gary moved to accept the bid from Mr. McMullen. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Athletic Field Maintenance – Nathan opened an estimate from Mr. McMullen on maintenance to the athletic fields at the school. Mr. McMullen said it involved applying fertilizer and Turface to the fields. A brief discussion followed. The estimate was \$2,250 per fertilizer application. Nathan moved to accept the estimate for this year along with a soil test and to come up with a plan to keep the fields up to par. Mr. McMullen said he could come up with a plan. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.** Larissa asked if Mr. McMullen preferred to go year by year or to have a long term agreement. Mr. McMullen said year by year was fine.

Town Hall Steps – The Board reviewed the proposal submitted by American Concrete/Shawnee Steps. Gary moved to accept the proposal that included the exposed aggregate steps with heat mats and railing installed. Nathan 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Appeals Board – Superior Court Appeal – Stu reported that the only item delivered was a court form by Terry Towne appealing the March 13, 2023 decision by the Board of Appeals. He said there was no request for any action by the Town at this time, nor any detail of the appeal. He reported the Board of Appeals finally got the minutes of the meeting out this morning, and findings of facts have been drafted. He said the Board will meet to finalize those findings and conclusions of law. He said Town Attorney Pileggi will not be able to represent the Town because he represented the Code Enforcement Officer before the Board of Appeals. He said Mr. Pileggi forwarded a couple of recommendations for an attorney to use. Kathleen moved to approach the attorney identified in Ellsworth as the first choice when the time comes that one is needed, and if they are not available to seek service from the second attorney identified. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Town Meeting Warrant – May 24, 2023 – The Board requested to add an article to deal with increasing the road budget to the amount needed to fund the increase in snow plowing. Stu drew up the article in the [revised warrant](#). Kathleen moved to accept the new article. Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0** Jo moved to sign the revised warrant. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.** The Board signed several copies of the warrant. Stu reported Joe Marshall has agreed to be the moderator.

Appointment – Jo moved to appoint Nancy Pochan to the [Committee on Aging](#). Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Stu reported the chair of the Recreation Committee wished to meet with the prospective candidates at their next meeting before having the Select Board appoint them to the committee. Jo said the Select Board should monitor the situation.

Returnables – Nathan moved to award proceeds of the returnables to the Lamoine Grange for May 2023. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Memorial Day – Jo apologized for failing to communicate with Gary who had taken the lead for many years on arranging for the Memorial Day ceremony at the Veterans' Memorial. She said the Lamoine 150! group offered to help this year, and the plan was to ask a few town Veterans to speak at the ceremony for about 5-minutes. She said she asked Gary for suggestions and should have started months ago. She said she got a list of veterans and would like to have a simple ceremony. She said it's difficult to find a color guard. Nathan said he'd ask his son whether he might be interested in speaking. Jo said the Lamoine School would check for a trumpeter to play taps, and Gary will contact Hubene Brodie about making a wreath again. Jo said the list of veterans is quite interesting. Gary said many have likely committed to other events that day. General discussion followed regarding the ceremony and the gardens around the town hall.

Larissa reported that the Mayor's Monarch Pledge subcommittee will be revamping the town hall gardens and planting milkweed along the edge of the property. She said they would break ground in about a week.

Heat Pump Update – Stu reported Dave's World will start installing heat pumps at the town hall tomorrow, then next week at the fire station. He said the school project is still on for June. Larissa asked if the rebates are in hand. Stu said the installation has to be complete first.

Land Purchase – Jo moved to approve the purchase and sale agreement with the Heirs of John Smith for Map 3 Lot 2. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0, the Board signed the Purchase and Sale Agreement.**

Solar Projects – Stu reported that Revision Energy was still working on the application to Versant to hook into the grid. He said he supplied the heating fuel use figures to Tina Meserve of Revision as Dave's World was not sure how much electricity the heat pumps would use.

Facilities & Infrastructure Committee – Nathan said four of the Select Board members were at the last meeting a week ago. He said they will discuss the land purchase at their next meeting, and perhaps make a recommendation on what to do with the existing dwellings the town would acquire if town meeting approves of the purchase.

Committee on Aging – Jo said the committee will meet Friday with the Girl Scouts to talk about a talent show on June 2nd at the Grange. She said there will be a guest speaker from Healthy Acadia as well.

Animal Control Officer – Stu reported that Daniel McKay of Trenton is now on the job and that as of tonight, he will resign as the Interim Animal Control Officer.

Cistern Project – School & Fire Station – Stu reported the project is progressing. The front portable classroom at the school will have to be moved. There was a brief discussion about the location of the pump room.

Comprehensive Plan Review – Kathleen reported that a former Comprehensive Planning Committee member has offered to work with her to compile a list of tasks that need to be done. Larissa asked if this should be postponed until after the land purchase town meeting. Kathleen said this should happen in the next couple of months.

Transfer Station Injury – Stu reported a workers comp claim was filed and denied by MMA Risk Management. He said he would like to [advertise for a longer term fill in](#) person. Gary moved to authorize Stu to advertise. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Employee Contracts – Stu reported he had updated contract information to acknowledge the upcoming years for both he and Jennifer Kovacs-Lord prepared to sign. He said this is the final year upcoming for his contract, and Jennifer will be in the 2nd of three years for her contract. Jo moved to sign the acknowledgements. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Hancock County Planning Commission Board – The Select Board reviewed an e-mail conversation regarding a request from the HCPC to have representation from Lamoine on their board. Larissa noted that Lamoine is not a member, and having representation would imply involvement the town does not have. Jo said this should be referred to the Planning Board. Nathan and Gary agreed.

Code Enforcement Matters – Stu reported that CEO Albright has sent a letter to the owner of a building that is quite dilapidated requesting that it either be removed or made un-dangerous. Kathleen asked if went by certified mail. Stu said it was sent first class.

Stu also reported that the owner of a property that CEO/LPI Albright identified as having a failing septic has not been cooperative. He said he would recommend that the town attorney be consulted to guide her through that. Kathleen moved to authorize attorney use. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Other Matters – Stu reported the “widow-maker” tree at Bloomfield Park has been removed. Nathan asked Stu to check out some recently fallen trees on Walker Road that Versant did not cut back from the road after removing the top from utility lines.

Next Meetings – The Board will meet next on May 22nd. The special town meeting will be on May 24th. Larissa said she is out of town for that week. The Hodgkins Scholarship will be discussed beginning at 6PM on June 12th. Stu noted the Parks Commission had planned to meet on June 12th. There was a discussion about meeting

outside in executive session for the Hodgkins Scholarship while Parks meets inside. Stu said he would contact the Parks Commission chair.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Select Board