



Lamoine Select Board

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Minutes – September 7, 2023

Chair Larissa Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Present were: Select Board Members Larissa Thomas, Gary McFarland, S. Josephine Cooper, Nathan Mason, Kathleen Rybarz; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon

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

Minutes – August 21, 2023 – Larissa said she sent a few minor typographical edits to Stu. Gary moved to approve the minutes as edited. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Expenditure Warrant 7 – Stu thanked the board members for signing the warrant the previous week. He said most of the \$1,257,742.93 warrant was a transfer into the investment accounts.

Expenditure Warrant 8 – The Board signed warrant 8 in the amount of \$142,393.33. Stu reported approximately \$116,363 was for the school department.

Cash & Budget Reports – Larissa asked if there was anything new on the PERC incinerator. Stu said media reports said there were 31 people laid off and a foreclosure auction is planned this month. Jo asked about expenditures for the athletic fields. Stu said there have been none yet this fiscal year as the work was completed in FY 22. A brief discussion followed. Stu reported the investment accounts have lost a bit of money as the investment company sells off low yielding products in favor of better yields. He said he hopes the September report will have a positive result.

Checking Account Reconciliation – The Board signed the statement expressing satisfaction with the checking account reconciliation for August 2023 which was e-mailed prior to the meeting.

Cash Flow Report – Stu said he prepared a cash flow report based on the past couple of years for First Wealth Management and placed it in the packet for review.

Paving Update – Stu reported B&B Paving plans to do the Lamoine project in late September or early October, combining work with some work on MDI.

Mill Road – Stu said he had Perry Fowler clean out a culvert inlet on Mill Road after it nearly flooded. He said Perry observed beaver activity which caused the clog, so the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife has been called and a beaver trapper got back to the town and will hopefully relocate the critters.

Buttermilk Road – Stu said the homeowner at 440 Buttermilk Road is planning to re-do her driveway and wants a new culvert. He said he looked at the culvert, and while it is functioning properly, there is some rotting and will need to be replaced relatively soon.

He suggested offering to purchase the new culvert while having her contractor install it. Gary moved to approve the suggestion. Nathan 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Pole Permit – Mill Road – Stu reported that the Code Enforcement Officer was approached by the property owner affected by the proposed Versant poles and on Tuesday signed the permits which are really a function on the Select Board. He recommended formally approving the permit. Nathan so moved, Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0, Larissa signed the permit.**

Map 3 Lot 2 – Stu reported Herrick & Salsbury is willing to survey the lot, but said if two lots are delineated, then it would become a subdivision. He said the recommendation is for one house lot to be split out. He also reported the mobile home tenant is leaving on September 17th, and requested that the security deposit be retained in lieu of the rent. He said the power will be turned off the 18th. Nathan suggested checking the dwelling for water dependent issues to be drained prior to winter. Stu said he would do so. He said there are several appliances in good shape in the mobile home.

Gary moved to have one lot surveyed out. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Complaints – The Board reviewed reports regarding situations on Needles Eye Road and Douglas Highway. Stu suggested contacted the Department of Health and Human Services on both matters. He reported the Code Enforcement Officer visited the Douglas Highway location today and found potential serious health issues. There was no objection to contacting DHHS. Larissa thanked the CEO for work on a challenging situation.

Returnables Request – The Board received a request from Ellsworth based Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry for the returnables. A lengthy discussion regarding the program's policy ensued. Jo proposed adding the words "based in Lamoine" to the policy. Gary moved, and Nathan 2nd and noted that the awarding of proceeds is at the discretion of the Select Board. After further discussion the motion passed on a **5-0 Vote**.

There was no action taken on the request by Loaves & Fishes, but there was a good amount of praise for the work they do for the region. It was noted the town supports Loaves & Fishes with an annual appropriation approved by town meeting.

Staff Vacation – It was noted that Stu will take a couple of vacation days on September 28 and 29th, and tax collector Jennifer Kovacs-Lord will take vacation the week of October 16th.

Solar Projects – There has been no recent update from Revision Energy.

Cisterns – Stu said he's not heard anything new recently on the cistern projects at the school and fire station.

Fire Department Interior – Stu reported the fire trucks are now back inside the building as the floor is hardened and the interior walls painted.

Comprehensive Plan Implementation – Larissa said that work is on hold until the Planning Board can get its feet under them. Jo said it should stay on the agenda. She noted the City of Ellsworth is working on its plan and that has become quite complex.

Recreation Committee – Stu said the soccer program starts this weekend. He said the committee has purchased on-line registration software. He said he spoke with Brett Jones about possibly utilizing the athletic director at the school to assist with the town’s rec program. That led to a lengthy discussion regarding the role of the Recreation Committee, utilizing volunteers or hiring help, programming through the YMCA, a discussion of the athletic director’s responsibility at the school, and the feasibility of hiring a recreation director.

Appointment – Parks Commission – Gary moved to appoint Karen Davis to the Parks Commission to fill the vacancy that expires in June 2024. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Conservation Commission Opening – Larissa reported the Commission discussed a shared appointment that would be filled by a summer only resident when she is present and a resident who is only available in the winter. She said it would be good to engage part time residents, and the summer resident has been involved with the Commission informally. She said the possibility has not been discussed with the other person. There was a discussion about alternate and associate members filling vacancies. Stu suggested that the Commission talk it over then present a proposal to the Select Board.

Technology Committee Opening – Jo suggested doing some public relations on the openings. Nathan said high school students need community service hours and that might be a possibility.

Public Hearing – General Assistance Ordinance – Nathan moved to set September 21, 2023 at 7PM as a public hearing on the annual update to the General Assistance Ordinance. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0**

Stale Check Order – Jo moved to approve an order to address checks that have been issued but have never been cashed as follows:

The following outstanding checks are greater than 1-year outstanding and therefore declared stale. Please approve the following actions:

Chk#	Date	Amount	Payee	Close to GL#	Account Name
13421	4/24/2022	\$135.16	Jennifer Sargent	3-21-01	COVID Relief Fund
13585	7/12/22	\$84.39	Cari Friedland	1-01-20.03	Credit 23/24 tax
13686	9/1/22	\$40.29	Catbird LLC	3-01-01	General Fund

Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Lamoine Beach Boat Ramp – Larissa asked Stu for a brief summary of the situation. Stu said nearly 10-years ago the town requested the Bureau of Parks and Lands remove ramp as the concrete has deteriorated and rebar is sticking up and posing a hazard. He said the Bureau responded quickly by e-mail and indicated the ramp would be removed in 2014. He said that never happened. He said he followed up about 3-years ago and got no response. He said he's composed a letter to the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry asking for action. Kathleen moved to sign the letter after a couple of spelling corrections. Nathan 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0, the Board signed the letter.**

Maine Municipal Association Convention Delegate – None of the board nor Stu planned to attend this year's convention so there was no interest in naming a voting delegate for the annual meeting.

Clear Skies Resort Request – The town received an e-mailed request from the developers of Clear Skies Resort to withdraw the application earlier in the day. The request also included a request for an application fee refund. Gary moved to refer this to the [Planning Board](#) which meets on Monday and the town attorney will be present. Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Other – Stu said he plans to try to pick up some trash illegally dumped along the former landfill access road tomorrow. Nathan cautioned not to pick up a small sofa alone if it's too heavy. There was a brief discussion about limiting access to the road.

Next Meetings – The board will hold regular meetings on September 21, October 5 & 19, November 2 & 16 and December 7 & 21.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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