



Lamoine Select Board

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Minutes – October 5, 2023

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

Present were: Select Board Members Larissa Thomas, Kathleen Rybarz, Nathan Mason, S. Josephine Cooper, Gary McFarland; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, Fire Chief George “Skip” Smith, and Town Clerk/Tax Collector Jennifer Kovacs-Lord

Agenda Review – The Board agreed to move the addenda item of meeting with the fire chief up on the agenda.

Minutes September 21, 2023 – Larissa said she submitted a few minor edits to Stu. Jo noted one typo. Nathan moved to approve the minutes as edited. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Expenditure Warrant 10 – The Board signed the warrant in the amount of \$185,808.10. Stu noted the top spending lines were school expenses, turnout gear for the fire department and painting the fire station interior.

Cash & Budget Report – Stu said paving bills will likely be on the next expenditure warrant. Otherwise there is nothing unusual in the report.

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

Recognition of Town Clerk/Tax Collector Jennifer Kovacs-Lord – The Board presented Jennifer with a certificate noting her 20-years of service to the town as of September 29, 2023. Larissa said Jennifer greets everyone that comes in the door in a friendly manner and effectively takes care of business. She said no one feels like they’re interacting with a bureaucracy when they come in and people trust Jennifer. She said she fears that there’s a risk that doing a good job is taken for granted. She asked Jennifer how things have changed over 20-years. Jennifer answered that there are more people with lots more to say. Cupcakes were passed out and there was a brief discussion about Jennifer’s career.

Meeting with Fire Chief – Chief George “Skip” Smith gave an update on the fire truck purchase approved by town meeting two years ago. He said he spoke with the manufacturer, K & T Equipment. He said they’ve had trouble getting a truck chassis ordered from Colwell Diesel which submitted the only bid. He said the chassis has been kicked out of the International assembly line three times since 2021. He said the price has now gone up from \$107,000 to \$119,000 for the chassis, so he needs some direction.

Larissa asked if town meeting approval is needed. Stu said it would be if the truck is over budget. He said the final price could be figured out in time for the annual town meeting.

Chief Smith said he needs to meet with Colwell Diesel. Jo said she didn't think they would pull the plug on the truck project. Chief Smith said they've looked at other chassis and all have similar production issues and are more expensive than the International. Gary moved to authorize Chief Smith to place the chassis order. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.** Nathan asked how the town will come up with the extra money to fund the increased costs. Chief Smith said the Fire Department corporation can cover the extra amount for the chassis. A brief discussion followed.

Appointments – The Board signed the appointment form for Sabrina Jordan to the Conservation Commission.

Stu recommended the town hire Katie Dandurand as the fill-in tax collector/clerk. Gary said he knew Katie and her work in Tremont and highly recommended her. Jennifer said Katie previously worked for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and knows what she's doing. There was a brief discussion about her availability and pay rate. Gary moved to appoint Mrs. Dandurand as assistant tax collector, assistant town clerk and assistant excise tax collector. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Kathleen moved to approve Brian Devisme as an alternate member of the Recreation Committee. Jo 2nd. Nate asked if that brings the committee up to full membership. Stu said that was correct.

Town Meeting Date – Nathan moved to set March 5, 2024 as the annual town meeting election date, and March 13, 2024 as the open town meeting date. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.** The Board signed the form affirming the order.

Map 3 Lot 2 – Stu reported a canoe that belonged to the family and stored on the lot has been given away by the family. He said he's e-mailed Herrick & Salsbury accepting the survey estimate, and we should hear something soon.

Waste Disposal – Stu reported the PERC auction is now scheduled for late October. He said there's nothing new to report yet.

Comprehensive Plan Implementation – There was nothing new on this matter.

Lamoine Beach Boat Ramp – It was noted the Parks Commission is meeting on Monday.

Solar Projects – Stu reported Revision Energy sent an update just before the meeting saying that the interconnection application from Versant was rejected. He said Revision is supplying additional data to Versant and that has worked in the past with other similar projects.

Lamoine Quarterly – Larissa said she had some edits and e-mailed them. Stu requested that any edits be sent prior to 11AM tomorrow because he'd like to get this to the Ellsworth American.

State Valuation – Stu noted the proposed state valuation for 2024 is up 23% from the current year. He said the figure of \$448,350,000 is already 8% higher than the town valuation completed in 2023. There was a brief discussion about property sale prices.

Excise Tax Report – Stu said he was a bit surprised that the first quarter of the new fiscal year saw a sharp increase in excise tax collections. It was noted the number of registrations processed was up sharply, too.

Other Business – **Paving** – Stu reported that Lorimer Road, Maxwell Avenue and Marlboro Beach Road were paved earlier in the day and Needles Eye Road will be paved tomorrow. He said an e-mailed complaint about the work came in during the afternoon hours.

Hodgkins Scholarship – Larissa passed around thank-you letters from scholarship recipients.

CTV System – Stu reported there have been some issues with the CTV system that he hopes he was able to fix earlier this week (after the meeting adjourned it was discovered the audio was not working). The video input was showing only color bars (the video was back to normal for this meeting).

Next Meetings – The Board will meet next on October 19, November 2 & 16, December 7 & 21 and January 4 & 18, 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Select Board