



Lamoine Select Board

606 Douglas Hwy
Lamoine, ME 04605
(207) 667-2242
town@lamoine-me.gov

Minutes – December 7, 2023

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

Present were: Select Board members Larissa Thomas, S. Josephine Cooper, Kathleen Rybarz, Nathan Mason (arrived 7:17 PM); Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, Committee on Aging member Iris Simon and Orrington Town Manager Christopher Backman. Select Board member Gary McFarland had called prior to the meeting saying he was unable to attend.

Agenda Review / Addendum – Larissa said she would like to move the item on the postal carrier recognition and the first item from the addendum to higher up in the meeting to accommodate those present. There was no objection.

Minutes – November 16, 2023 – The board members present signed the warrant in the amount of \$228,197.05. Stu said the bulk of the expenditures was for the school department.

Cash & Budget Reports – There were no questions regarding the written reports.

Checking Account Reconciliation – The Board members present signed the statement acknowledging satisfaction with reconciliation of the checking account for November 2023 which was e-mailed prior to the meeting.

Impending Automatic Foreclosure Notices – Stu reported he sent out notices to 11 property owners whose 2021/22 liens have not yet been paid. He said the deadline is January 20, 2024.

Recognition of Postal Carrier – Larissa said it was suggested the town ought to recognize Carol Allen as she retires from delivering the mail in part of Lamoine. Iris Simon said Ms. Allen has been a rural route driver for 22-years. Larissa said she's great at her job, and perhaps because her route traverses much of the town, it would be nice to give her an escort at the end of her route. Jo asked when her last day is. Mrs. Simon said December 30th. Jo said the Historical Society has a book with postal references in it that might be an appropriate gift. Mrs. Simon said it would be nice to have some sort of celebration with a certificate from the town. She said the post office tracks the trucks along their routes and where they go, so perhaps that could be coordinated with her boss. Jo said a certificate is a definite. Stu said he could e-mail the postmaster. Kathleen suggested that maybe the celebration would be better for Friday the 29th as often a different person drives on Saturday. Mrs. Simon said she likes the parade idea. Larissa said maybe there could be a contingency plan worked out with the postmaster.

PERC Incinerator – Larissa said the Board was provided with a draft agreement with the apparent new owners of the PERC plant by Orrington Town Manager Christopher Backman. Mr. Backman introduced himself and said he was not representing GRACE, the new owner of the PERC facility, but just facilitating the conversation. He said he has been dealing with the auction of PERC all summer long and is now well educated on

Waste to Energy operations. He said the purpose of the interim agreement is to allow GRACE to take over from PERC.

Larissa asked if the proposed agreement came from the new owners. Mr. Backman said he provided it to ease delivery. He said the Town of Orrington owns property next to PERC and wants to use the electricity for an industrial park, so he has a vested interest in seeing the PERC facility resume operations. He said that having an agreement with GRACE will allow trash to continue to go to the Juniper Ridge Landfill under a bypass agreement. He said the interim agreement is at the same price as PERC.

Mr. Backman explained that GRACE is working on transferring a federal permit from PERC so they can begin operating the incinerator again. He said the state will allow them to operate under the old license. He said there is about 10-thousand tons of trash waiting to be burned, and some of it is moving to Juniper Ridge. He said they hope to be able to turn on the incinerator soon.

Larissa asked how long it would be before GRACE could start accepting trash again. Mr. Backman said no one knows. He said they're running wood chips into the trash mix in order to provide a stable fuel.

Stu noted that the town has not received any notice from PERC that they are ending the contract. Mr. Backman said the facility is still licensed to ESOCO Corporation. Jo asked if a switch is required. Mr. Backman said the new owners will have a meet and greet from 9AM to 1PM at Jeff's Catering in Brewer on Thursday December 14th and the town is invited. He explained they hope to install new technology which is a gasification process. He said that would leave the end product as a fine ash which can be sent to a concrete plant, and rubber from tires would be turned into asphalt, and nothing would be landfilled. Stu asked if that would qualify as 100% recycling. Mr. Backman said it should, but he was not sure.

Mr. Backman asked if there are transport cost concerns. Stu said the town's contract with Pine Tree Waste (Casella) has run out, and the Board is waiting for a new contract proposal. A brief discussion followed.

Mr. Backman said the GRACE plant would eventually qualify as a PFAS remediation facility because of the very high temperatures used to incinerate trash. A brief discussion followed.

Larissa asked if GRACE planned to have any priority list of towns to come off the bypass to the landfill. Mr. Backman said that would depend on how much floor space is at the plant and how much a town contributes for tonnage. He said GRACE is still working out the logistics.

Jo said it sounds interesting, and she liked the viable products, but she's a little nervous because there are lots of moving parts. A brief discussion about the planned technology. Mr. Backman said GRACE is building facilities in Florida and Arkansas. Stu

asked how urgent it was for the town to sign. Mr. Backman said it was not urgent. Larissa asked if Mr. Backman could e-mail the details of the meet and greet.

Stu said he would advise the Select Board to take the interim agreement under advisement and maybe attend the meet and greet. Stu, Larissa and Nathan said they might possibly attend.

Special Town Meeting December 21, 2023 – Stu said he added articles to fund removal of the Lamoine Beach Boat Ramp and to transfer funds for the additional fire truck costs from undesignated fund balance to the warrant. Larissa asked if the remnants of the boat ramp could be used as rip rap to stabilize the road onto Marlboro Beach. Stu said crushed ledge was already being placed there. There was a brief discussion of the boat ramp removal cost. Nathan said he has a concern about the cost increase for the fire truck chassis. He said it's not right to charge taxpayers for the extra cost when the town had accepted a contracted price from the bidder.

Jo moved to sign the warrant for the special town meeting. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0 (Mason abstained).** The board members present signed the warrant.

Nathan said the board should write a letter to International protesting the chassis cost increase.

Appointment – Parks Commissioner – Nathan moved to appoint Emerson Whitney to the Lamoine Parks Commission, term expiring June 30, 2024. Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Fire Truck – Stu reported that Chief Smith has made sure the chassis has been reordered and could arrive as soon as February.

Ice Rink – Stu reported the Recreation Committee is also meeting this evening. There was discussion about insurance communications from Maine Municipal Association.

Dredge Spoils – Stu said yesterday's communication with Harold Brown seems to indicate that the proposal to place dredge spoils in a gravel pit has ended.

Marlboro Beach Road Washout – Stu praised quick response and repairs from Perry Fowler to the storm a week and a half ago to the newly paved section of road.

Map 3 Lot 2 Marketing – Stu asked the board how it wished to market the property now that the survey is complete. Kathleen said a realtor would be appropriate. Stu said Masiello had originally marketed the property when the town bought it and is well familiar. Nathan said it would be good to contact the realtor and get a baseline market value. Kathleen so moved, Nathan 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.** A brief discussion followed on what to do with the funds once the property sells.

Contract – Hancock County Planning Commission – Larissa asked about the \$5,000.00 grant from the state to implement LD2003. Stu said the town has received

the funding. He said the Planning Board met with Hancock County Planning Commission this month, made a couple of tweaks to the contract and recommended approving. Jo moved to sign the contract. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Building & Land Use Ordinance Amendments – Stu said the Planning Board communication was an FYI to the Select Board. He said the Board would meet on December 19th to come up with formal proposed changes. He said there was no proposal in the communication for changes to the land use table. Kathleen explained more about the Planning Board discussion. Nathan said the word “glampground” is a made up term and found it interesting that it would be defined.

Animal Control Contract – Stu recommended approval of renewing the contract with Hancock County for an Animal Control Officer. Nathan so moved, Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.** The Board signed the contract.

Solar Project – Larissa said she hoped the latest communication with Revision Energy is a sign that the interconnectivity agreement with Versant is moving along. Stu said Revision recommended sending an affidavit to Versant. Nathan moved to sign the affidavit. Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Town Report Cover – Stu showed the board his proposed cover for the 2023 Town Report which includes a picture of a beautiful rainbow over Lamoine Beach Park taken by Mary Ann Perlman. The cover was OK with the Board.

Citizen of the Year – The Board reviewed a memorandum from Stu on a proposed renaming of the award to the John S. Holt Citizen of the Year award, and a suggestion for the recipient to be announced at the 2024 town meeting. Nathan moved to approve both. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Other – **Conservation Commission Workshop** – Larissa reminded the Board that the Conservation Commission would hold its workshop on the Community Action Grant/Community Resilience project on Wednesday at 7PM. She said she would send Stu the reminder to e-mail out.

Request for Funding – Larissa said she (and two other Select Board members) got a mailing from the Maine Community Foundation requesting funding for the Lewiston/Auburn Response Fund and another initiative. Nathan said that should go through the donation review process. Stu said it appears to be an individual mass mailing and not a request specifically from the town.

Budget Workshop – Stu said the only change thus far was a request from Eastern Area Agency on Aging that was received earlier in the day but was mailed on time. He said the Recreation Committee was working on its budget tonight. There was discussion about the public safety budget and electricity use vs. heating fuel use now that heat pumps are installed.

Stu noted the step defroster worked well this week. There was a brief discussion on the heat pumps at the school and not working particularly well in very cold weather.

It was noted a new subdivision plan is before the Planning Board for the end of Seal Point. Stu noted that the town has had its first three million dollar property sales take place in the past couple of months.

The board briefly reviewed future meeting dates and there were no known conflicts.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Select Board