



Lamoine Select Board

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Minutes – December 21, 2023

Chair Larissa Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:39 PM following the conclusion of a Special Town Meeting.

Present were: Select Board Members Larissa Thomas, S. Josephine Cooper, Gary McFarland, Nathan Mason (arrived 7:23 PM); Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon. Select Board member Kathleen Rybarz phoned and said she was unable to attend.

Prior to the start of agenda business, Larissa expressed her appreciation to the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department for its response to the major storm that hit on December 18, 2023, and to Stu and Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs-Lord for keeping the town hall open and for storm related posts on the town's Facebook page. She urged residents to check on their neighbors who've gone without power for many days. Stu said there were some exciting events on Monday as the fire department responded to 23 calls for help in less than 24 hours.

Agenda Review / Addendum – There were no changes to the printed agenda or addendum.

Minutes – December 7, 2023 – Jo moved to approve the minutes as written. Larissa 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0.**

Expenditure Warrant 15 – The Board signed the warrant in the amount of \$412,142.60. Stu noted the MDI Tuition bill is included in the school warrant, as well as the plowing bill and stipends for the firefighters.

Cash & Budget Reports – Stu said the amount expended for the year is very close to the percentage of the year passed. There were no questions regarding the reports.

Impending Tax Lien Foreclosures – Stu reported one of the 11 properties in danger of foreclosing has paid in full.

Audit – Stu reported the auditors have been here to do their annual inspection of the books. He said there is a charge this year for budget entry, as our system apparently is not compatible to the auditor's methods. He said he planned to work with the auditor to correct that.

Solar Projects – Stu said things seem to be moving along as he's signed several documents having to do with the interconnection. Larissa asked if it included both the school and salt/sand shed. Stu said it did. He said he noticed new utility poles on the ground across from the school as well, but he wasn't sure if that's part of the project. Larissa said it would be good to have an update for the final Community Action Grant report.

Postal Carrier Retirement – Jo moved to sign a certificate of appreciation to Carol Allen in recognition of her 22-years of delivering mail to Lamoine. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0.** Stu said there will be a ceremony at 8AM on December 28th at the Post Office. Jo and Larissa had said they plan to attend. Stu said on the 29th, Carol will make her last deliveries and the post master estimates she would be coming by the school between 11AM and Noon, and he would arrange a fire truck escort from Shore Road to Lamoine Corner for her.

Storm – December 11, 2023 – The heavy rains of December 11, 2023 washed out parts of the shoulder on Buttermilk Road. Stu said Richard McMullen’s crew was finishing up on that work this week. It was noted that Maine DOT was repairing a similar washout area on Douglas Highway near the Ellsworth City Line. Jo said the beginning of Marlboro Beach Road needs to have the shoulder repaired as well. Stu reported he submitted a FEMA form 7 for that storm.

PERC / GRACE – Larissa reported she attended the meet and greet a week ago in Brewer. She said she wrote up a report which was with the material on the table tonight. She said the new PERC owners seem like they know what they’re doing and seem trustworthy. She said they hope to get the incinerator up and running in about 7-weeks. She said the hold up is with the agreement with ISO New England and paperwork. She said they can operate with the existing equipment once they get approval.

Larissa said the idea of signing an interim contract was to transfer existing customers over to the new owners. She said there was discussion at the event about why the contract ends in July and whether rates would spike after that. She reviewed the plans for new equipment and recommended that the Board sign the interim agreement.

Jo asked about whether Municipal Review Committee members are being approached to sign with the new PERC owners. Larissa said there was supposed to be some new agreement the MRC members were supposed to sign soon. Someone at the meeting suggested GRACE talk to the members before that deadline. A brief discussion followed.

Stu said his only issue is there is no address on the interim agreement on where to send it. He said he can contact the Orrington Town Manager for that info. Larissa said the former owners reportedly have been withholding information about existing customers, but GRACE is getting assistance from the Orrington Town Manager. .

Jo moved to sign the interim agreement with GRACE. Gary 2nd. Larissa asked whether it would be better to wait for Kathleen and Nathan to be in attendance. After a brief discussion, a **3-0 Vote in favor** followed. Board members present signed the interim agreement.

Map 3 Lot 2 – Stu said agent Holly Taylor has agreed to market the surveyed 2 acres of the lot with the dwellings on it. He said the e-mail from her estimated the market price at \$174,500. Gary moved to proceed with putting that lot up for sale at the stated price. Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0.**

Budget Recommendations – The Board reviewed the minutes of the Budget Committee and its recommendations. Stu and Jo reported the only item that generated discussion was waste disposal and recycling. Stu reported the Budget Committee recommended keeping the recycling program, and said it will be up to the Select Board to make its own recommendation. Jo said it probably would be best to wait until the full board is present to make recommendations. She said she was very impressed by the Budget Committee members.

Draft Town Meeting Warrant – Larissa said she sent a couple of corrections in on the draft warrant. Stu said he's still expecting an article for MacQuinn Road.

Time Off Request – Stu said he plans to take next Tuesday and Wednesday off as comp days given the hours he's spent on the storm this week, and requested a few days in April for vacation. There was no objection.

Storm December 18, 2023 – Road Closures – Stu reported Berry Cove Road is still closed due to numerous trees over power lines. He said at one point there were parts of town that were technically inaccessible because of wires and trees in the roads. There was a discussion of the various roads that were inaccessible. Stu said the fire department used every traffic cone available and some barricades from the garage to mark downed trees and wires to the public. There was discussion about whether the town might need more cones.

Power Update – Stu reported Shore Road was restored this afternoon. He said Mill Road is still out along with Berry Cove and the Meadow Point area along with several other smaller outages around town. There was a discussion about the tidal action along the shore.

Fire Department Roof – Stu said initially it was thought, based on the number of shingles on the ground, that the entire roof would need to be replaced. He said D&S Builders gave an estimate of over \$31,600 to do that. He said owner Nate Dandurand went on the roof earlier today and determined the damage was not that bad and the estimate to repair is just under \$1,800. Stu said he's reported the latest to the town's insurer. Gary moved to have Stu do what's necessary to have the repairs done. Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0**

Fire Department Recognition – All parties agreed the response from the volunteers at the Lamoine VFD was awesome. Stu noted that the town does not have a public works department and the fire department acts as the de facto public works agency in emergencies. There was discussion about reimbursing the fire department corporation for that work. Gary moved to set up a system where the fire department would bill the town for such work at a certain rate. Jo 2nd, and suggested \$200 per incident. **Vote in favor was 3-0.**

At this point Nathan arrived at the meeting. He said he was glad the weather was warm during the storm. He said there was a lot of destruction and a lot of places had it worse than here.

Animal Sheltering Contract – Jo moved to renew the animal sheltering contract with the Small Animal Clinic. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Hancock County EMA Mitigation Plan – Stu explained that the county Emergency Management Agency has developed an updated plan. He said the only entry he could come up with for Lamoine was removal of the Lamoine Beach boat ramp. He urged the board to support the plan. Nathan moved to sign the resolve. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Other Matters – Community Action Grant Workshop – Larissa reported the Conservation Commission held a public workshop last week, and though attendance was low, it was productive. She said the leading issue was to request energy audits for the town hall, fire station and school and come up with building improvements based on those audits. She said the LCC will vote in January on whether to proceed with the grant application. She said they have the information necessary to re-enroll in the program to be eligible for the grant, and will submit that for Select Board review with an eye toward the February 2024 submission deadline.

Lamoine Quarterly – Stu said he hopes to get going on that shortly. There was a discussion about submitting articles from board members which Stu highly encouraged.

Rockweed Concerns – Larissa reviewed the action from the Conservation Commission on an e-mailed inquiry regarding rockweed harvesting. There was a brief discussion about such activity.

Payroll – Stu noted he will be doing payroll tomorrow as the normal payroll processing date would be Monday, Christmas Day.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Select Board