



## Lamoine Select Board

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

### Minutes – January 4, 2024

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, Gary McFarland; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, Attorney Tim Pease (Rudman & Winchell) and Surveyor Stephen Salisbury (Herrick & Salisbury).

**Agenda Review / Addendum** – The board agreed to move item 1 on the addendum to fifth on the regular agenda to accommodate those present.

**Minutes – December 21, 2023** – Larissa said she sent in some edits to Stu. Jo said she had a couple of punctuation edits. Gary moved to approve the minutes as edited. Jo 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

**Expenditure Warrant 16** – The board signed the warrant in the amount of \$163,934.26. Stu noted the largest expenditures were for the school, insurance, and the skating rink that has been ordered.

**Cash & Budget Reports** – Stu reported excise tax collections continue to be strong. Jo remarked that the percentage of the municipal budget expended nearly matches the percentage of the year that has passed.

**Excise Tax Quarterly Report** – Selectmen reviewed the report for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2023. He remarked that 2023 was the highest excise calendar year on record.

**Checking Account Reconciliation** – The board signed a statement expressing satisfaction with the December 2023 checking account reconciliation which was e-mailed prior to the meeting.

**Lien Foreclosure Update** – The board reviewed the list of 2021/22 tax liens that remain unpaid. Seven liens are due to automatically foreclose on January 20, 2024.

**Town Attorney** – The town received a letter regarding a rate increase from Acadia Law Group. There was no objection to the increase.

**MacQuinn Road Discontinuance** – Larissa said the board received information from Rudman & Winchell regarding the proposed road discontinuance. Attorney Tim Pease reviewed the process on how to do so. He said Hancock discontinued a portion of the road on their side of the town line last year. He said the purpose of discontinuing the through road is to deal with safety issues at Harold MacQuinn, Inc.'s industrial operations along the current road. He said they're asking the town to discontinue approximately 1,000 feet from the Hancock town line to the border of the MacQuinn property.

Mr. Pease said the meeting tonight constitutes the first step in the process. He said if the board signs the discontinuance order, that gets posted and a public hearing would be scheduled, and then a town meeting vote would be needed to finalize the process.

Surveyor Stephen Salsbury said nothing has changed since he met with the board several weeks ago. He outlined the proposed area to discontinue. He said the intent by MacQuinn is to place gates on either end of the road with limited access. Stu asked if the Fire Department would still be able to access the area through the gates. Mr. Salsbury said that was the plan.

Jo said one of the concerns stated in the letter from Mr. Pease was theft from the MacQuinn property. She asked if that has improved since the Hancock end was closed. Mr. Salsbury said the company has not yet installed a gate. Kathleen asked if there were plans to move the road. Mr. Salsbury said no. Stu asked if this constituted the required initial meeting. Mr. Pease said it does. He said the next step was to prepare the order and publish notice of the public hearing. He said they have an order drafted up. Stu asked if MacQuinn plans to pay for the public hearing ad in the Ellsworth American. Mr. Pease said that's correct. There was a brief discussion of when to hold that meeting, and it was agreed it would be the next Select Board meeting on January 18, 2024. Nathan asked if signage would be installed. Mr. Salsbury said that's correct, and there is some on the Hancock side.

Jo moved to approve the discontinuance order and to set a public hearing for January 18, 2024. Nathan 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 5-0. The board signed the order.**

**Lamoine Beach Boat Ramp** – Stu noted the town has received the go ahead from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to remove the existing boat ramp at Lamoine Beach and to replace it with signage promoting hand carried craft. Jo moved to authorize McMullen Landscape & Construction to remove and dispose of the ramp at the quoted price. Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

**Solar Projects** – Larissa noted there is nothing new to report on interconnection with Versant. She said she submitted the final report for the Community Action Grant and offered to file an addendum once we have resolution on the solar component of the projects. She said the state liaison was quite happy about that.

**Town Meeting [Budget Recommendations](#)** – The discussion revolved about whether to recommend continuation of the recycling program, and the future of the PERC/GRACE incinerator. Jo said she didn't think there is any good solution to the cost of recycling. She said she's not sure what the town will do and asked if the town could look for grants to make it more efficient.

Larissa said the grants she explored did not really meet that opportunity. Jo said the whole situation is frustrating. Kathleen noted the old method when Coastal Recycling was in operation was much less expensive.

Gary said sometimes it's less expensive to buy new materials instead of remanufactured items. He said recycling may not really be helping the environment. Larissa said if

towns don't support a recycling program, it may die. Kathleen said Lamoine is pretty much an outlier in the area as most other towns have stopped recycling. Nathan said cardboard is a renewable resource, and an incinerator creates electricity which takes some coal burden off power generation. He said if the town stops recycling, it can always go back, and he would like to give the citizens a break on the costs. He said he would like to see the town discuss it at town meeting. Discussion followed on what to recommend on the budget article, and the budget impact if recycling stops.

Kathleen moved to recommend \$0 on the recycling article. Nathan 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Nathan moved to recommend \$165,820 on the waste disposal article. Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Nathan moved to mirror the Budget Committee recommendations on the remainder of the budget articles. Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Gary moved to recommend passage of an amendment on the Donation Review Ordinance to increase the maximum recommendation to \$800 from the current \$700 as recommended by the Budget Committee. Jo 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

**Town Meeting Warrant** – Jo said she would like to see a resolve at the Citizen of the Year award to officially name the award after John Holt in the town meeting warrant. Stu said Mr. Holt's wife has agreed to present the award this year.

Stu said he hopes the warrant will be ready to sign at the next meeting.

**Lamoine Quarterly** – Stu said he's got two more pages to complete and will e-mail the complete version when that's done for review prior to publishing.

**Town Report** – Stu reported no progress yet on the town report. Larissa inquired about the department report submission deadlines. Stu said now would be good.

**Code Enforcement – Notice of Violation** – The board reviewed a memo from CEO Rebecca Albright regarding placement and occupation of an RV on Map 7 Lot 27 without a permit. Gary moved to authorize the CEO to utilize the town attorney on the matter. Jo 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

**Appointment** – Stu reported Oliver Curry has agreed to serve on [the Parks Commission](#). Gary moved to appoint Mr. Curry to fill out the remainder of the term that opened when Cathi Goebel resigned. Jo 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

**Request for additional hours at the [transfer station](#)** – The board reviewed a letter from Marc Gousse requesting the facility be open an additional day of the week, preferably on Wednesday. Nathan asked if there has been any problem at the facility with its current schedule. Stu said no, the transfer station is able to handle all the trash that people bring in. He said it appears to be more of a public convenience request. Kathleen said maybe the hours could be extended. Stu said perhaps the board could

discuss the situation with manager Bill Fennelly. Nathan said he didn't think adding another day open is needed and a brief discussion followed.

Stu said he would be glad to follow up with Mr. Gousse.

**Walking Visibility Purchase** – Jo said Iris Simon of the [Committee on Aging](#) wants to purchase reflective materials to encourage safe walking, and they plan to start promoting that at the town meeting. She briefly explained the visibility issues. She said Mrs. Simon would be glad to pay for the vests out of her own pocket up front and then be reimbursed when the committee gets the returnable proceeds from March 2024. She said they would like to get 50 of the reflective items.

Larissa said perhaps money could come from other funds, such as the Conservation Commission or Rec Committee. Here was a brief discussion of the reflective item and visibility on the roads. Jo said the Aging Committee would suggest a donation. The Select Board requested that a new fund be added to the list of funds at the next town meeting for the Committee on Aging. Stu said it won't be a problem ordering the reflective items from town funds and asked if the donations would come to the town office. Jo said that would be the idea.

**December 18, 2023 Storm Update** – Stu said that he met with a team from FEMA yesterday and reviewed a report prepared for the storm. He said there was some damage to the salt/sand shed roof, and D&S Builders has given an estimate of \$1,350 to repair it. There was no objection from the board.

Stu noted that Bloomfield Park has quite a mess of tree debris to clean up and he's asked Berry Cove Gardens to provide an estimate for that as well.

There was a discussion about the storm cleanup and general praise for the fire department, cleanup contractors, volunteers and Versant for the response. Stu said he hopes to have everything reported to FEMA by Monday.

**Other** – Stu said the town received a mailing from Efficiency Maine late today encouraging whole-building heat pump systems. He said he would attend a webinar on that next Tuesday. There was a discussion of the shortcomings of the heat pump installations on effective heating and it was suggested a ceiling fan might help in the winter. Stu said he also plans to check with Versant to see if maybe the 2<sup>nd</sup> service at the town hall was being billed on the fire department account.

The proposed meeting schedule had no significant conflict. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Select Board