



Lamoine Select Board

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Minutes – May 16, 2024

Vice Chair Gary McFarland called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM

Present were: Select Board members Gary McFarland, Kathleen Rybarz, S. Josephine Cooper, Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon, Code Enforcement Officer Rebecca Albright and Facilities Maintenance Director Michael Hodgkins. Select Board members Nathan Mason and Larissa Thomas had informed the board prior to the meeting that they were unable to attend.

Executive Session – Gary moved to enter executive session pursuant to [1 MRSA §405\(6\)\(a\)](#) for the purposes of employee performance reviews. Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0 at 6:31 PM. Out at 7:04 PM**

Regular Meeting

Present were the Select Board members and Administrative Assistant above along with Planning Board Alternate applicants Ian Heyse, Amy Richards, Karen Davis and Brett Jones.

Minutes – May 2, 2024 – Stu reported Larissa sent very minor corrections to the minutes which have been incorporated. Kathleen moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0.**

Expenditure Warrant 26 – Stu reported the bulk of the expenditures were tuition at MDI High School and the new roof at the salt/sand shed. The board signed the warrant.

Cash & Budget Report – Stu noted that he moved \$200,000 from investments to cover the warrant.

Planning Board Alternate – Jo remarked that towns are always looking for people to get involved at the local government level and thanked the four in the audience who have offered to serve. She said it's a challenge to make a selection, and there was a brief discussion about whether an appointment should take place with two Select Board members absent. The Board asked the candidates to introduce themselves.

Brett Jones said he used to serve on the Planning Board and is currently an Appeals Board member. He said he does rentals and property development and deals frequently with matters the Planning Board deals with. He said the topics interest him, and in the interest of good governance the Appeals Board has worked on a unified ordinance. Kathleen asked if an appointment to the Planning Board would affect Mr. Jones' other positions in town. Mr. Jones said if he was on the Planning Board, he could not serve on the Board of Appeals, but it would not affect his roles on the School Committee or the Facilities & Infrastructure Committee.

Amy Richards said she's lived in Lamoine for 5 years now. She said she became interested in serving local government after attending the town meeting on the

“glamping” issue last August. She said she has renovated a lot of homes and wants to get more involved with the town.

Ian Heyse said he lives on his late father’s former property and has a small child. He said Lamoine is a special place and he wants to become a deeper part of the community. He said he studied ecology and land use and has experience with code. He said he knew John Holt who encouraged him to offer to serve on the Planning Board. He said he believes there should be more diversity on the board, and a female should be a strong consideration. He said he’s part of a younger generation than those currently serving, and that generation should also have a voice. Jo asked if Mr. Heyse were not chosen for the Planning Board, might another board be an option. Mr. Heyse said the Planning Board is most in line with his experiences and interests.

Karen Davis gave a review of her background which she had presented at the previous meeting. She said she and her husband are currently converting a barn into a guest cottage, and they intend to stay here for the rest of their lives. She said she is interested in keeping Lamoine beautiful and encouraging small business.

Jo asked Ms. Richards if there was some area that the Planning Board deals with that interests her. Ms. Richards said she saw there was an opening. She said she works at the MDI Biological Lab as an assistant to the president and has experiences organizing and taking meeting minutes.

Jo asked about the process of choosing an appointee. Gary said he’d like to have the full board decide. Stu noted there will be a Board of Appeals position opening on July 1st too if any of the candidates are interested in a similar position. Jo said she doesn’t want to turn anyone willing to serve away. Gary said the missing Select Board members can review the telecast and the full board could decide on the appointment at the next meeting.

Mr. Jones asked if there will be a board chairs meeting sometime. Jo said that’s a hope. Mr. Jones said the new Superintendent of Schools starts on July 1st and it would be good to have a meeting after that date. It was noted the next Select Board meeting is June 6th.

Towne v. [Code Enforcement Officer](#) – Stu noted that the latest court filings are in the Select Board packets.

[Conservation Commission](#) – It was noted that Larissa was not yet ready with the Community Action Grant. There was a brief discussion about the Brownfields program. Stu said there seems to be some communication issues about what that program entails. Mr. Jones noted that the new 4,000 gallon cistern is in place for the portable classroom at the school.

Heating Fuel – Stu said the significant decline in heating fuel use after the heat pump purchases seems like it’s of little value to put heating fuel out to bid. There was a brief

discussion of electricity cost vs. fuel costs. Jo moved to utilize the same company currently in use for heating fuel. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0.**

Road Discontinuance order – Kathleen moved to sign a road discontinuance order for a portion of MacQuinn Road. Jo 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0.**

Public Hearing Date – Road Discontinuance – It was noted the previous meeting set June 6, 2024 as the public hearing on the MacQuinn Road Discontinuance.

Draft Town Meeting Warrant – The Board reviewed the draft of the warrant. Stu noted that one of the board members should probably serve as the moderator.

Solar Project – Stu reported the new roof on the salt/sand shed is likely done by now. He said the D&S Builders crew started Wednesday morning. He said the plan was to install the solar panels either late this month or early next month.

FEMA – Stu reported a team from FEMA met with him earlier in the day regarding the January storm damage. He said the process seems extremely complex but he is working to supply the information they're requesting.

CTV System – Stu explained that an internet speed upgrade is sorely needed for the new CTV system to work properly. He said he's making arrangements with Charter Communications for that, but it's requiring a few other things. He said they're suggesting a bundled digital phone system and there are several to choose from. Jo moved to authorize Stu to pick a phone system. Kathleen 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0.**

Stu said Spectrum no longer supports e-mail hosting. He said he's working with the Ellsworth American company that hosts our website on migrating to a new e-mail host as well.

Waste Disposal – Stu reported that Lee Worcester of Eastern Maine Recycling in Southwest Harbor very graciously visited to discuss the recycling situation. He said Mr. Worcester advised waiting until the Municipal Review Committee in Hampden is up and running before asking for proposals. He said that could save a lot of transportation cost.

Expiring Appointments – The Board reviewed the list of appointments that expire on June 30, 2024. It was noted that an Appeals Board member and Recreation Committee member have chosen to not continue. He said one Technology Committee member would commit to only one more year. He said he's not been able to reach a few others on the list.

Condolences – Board members signed cards to the families of Rachel Smallidge and James Gallagher who passed away in the past few days.

Memorial Day – Gary reported they've lined up Marc Gousse to speak, Nick Holt to offer a service, and Nathan Mason IV to lay a wreath at the memorial. It was noted that Girl Scout Kasey Jordan did remarkable work removing moss from the brickwork at the

memorial. Stu said the younger scouts plan to plant flowers along the walkway. The ceremony will be at 10AM on Monday, May 27th. Stu said he would attempt to spread the word electronically and to local media. It was noted the Memorial Day Parade in Ellsworth is canceled due to lack of participation.

Neighborhood Library – Stu reported the Ellsworth Library would install the facility on May 30 or 31. After a brief discussion, the board felt it would be best located behind the ramp leading to the front door.

Other – School Committee chair Brett Jones noted the special town meeting for the school budget is on Tuesday the 21st at the school. He said the school board met with the new Superintendent Ellen Halliday last night. He said she's interested in getting out to meet the residents. He said this will be the first time in a long time that the school can do some long term planning with a Superintendent. He also noted the new portable classroom is finally functioning as planned.

Mr. Jones said the Facilities & Infrastructure Committee last met with a contractor from Blue Hill who gave some guidance on how to come up with figures on projects. He said the committee is contemplating offering three scenarios to the town. He said meeting attendance has been a challenge and they had to cancel the last meeting. He said he hopes to schedule new meeting soon.

Jo reported that the Committee on Aging has received a grant from AARP for the walking project. She said it's \$2,500 and more will be known later.

Jo said a working committee with Lamoine's Little Children is planning a garden project, possibly at the Lamoine Baptist Church, and a grant may be available for that. She said there are a lot of ideas, and that may get under way next spring. She said the project goal is to promote social connections. A brief discussion followed.

Stu reported that Lamoine's Little Children plans a dedication at Lamoine Beach on Saturday at 10AM. He also noted that the Fire Department conducted hose and ladder testing yesterday and had an excellent crew on hand to assist. He said the department sent a couple of members to help extinguish a forest fire in Franklin later in the day, and early this morning the department responded mutual aid to Ellsworth for a fire at K&B Automotive.

Upcoming Meetings – There was a brief discussion of the informational meeting on the proposed Building & Land Use Ordinance amendments on Monday. There will be a [public hearing](#) on the same on Monday the 20th. There is the [special town meeting](#) on May 21st for the school budget. The Select Board meets next on June 6, 2024 at 6PM, and again on [June 20th for a special town meeting](#) first, then the board meeting. The July meeting will be on July 18th, the August meeting on the 8th, then back to the 1st and 3rd Thursdays in September. Stu said he would have warrants ready to sign every couple of weeks in between meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Select Board