

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting – March 2015

March 10, 2015

Deputy Town Clerk Stuart Marckoon opened the annual town meeting at 7:55 AM at the Lamoine Town Hall.

1. To choose a moderator to preside over said meeting. ***It was moved and 2nd to select Harvey Kelley as moderator. Three ballots were cast and the vote for Mr. Kelley was unanimous. Town Clerk Kovacs administered the oath of office to Mr. Kelley. Mr. Kelley appointed Mr. Marckoon as the Deputy Moderator. Town Clerk Kovacs administered the oath of office to Mr. Marckoon. Kathleen DeFusco, Marion McDevitt, and Joan Broussard were appointed as ballot clerks by Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs and Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs administered their oaths.***
2. To elect the following Town Officers by secret ballot:
 - a. Selectman & Overseer of the Poor (2 positions, term to end town meeting 2018)
 - b. Assessor (1 position, term to begin July 1, 2015 and end June 30, 2018)
 - c. School Committee Member (1 position term to end at town meeting 2018)

The Voting results were as follows:

| Selectman (2 Elected) | Total Votes |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Cooper, S. Josephine | 107 |
| McFarland, Gary | 119 |
| Others | 5 |

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Assessor | |
| Jordan, Michael | 112 |
| Others | 3 |

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| School Committee | |
| Brann, Michael | 129 |
| Others | 1 |

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Total Votes Cast | 145 |
| Registered Voters | 1474 |
| Turnout Percentage | 9.84% |

Moderator Kelley certified the results, declaring Mrs. Cooper, Mr. McFarland, Mr. Jordan and Mr. Brann to be elected in their respective offices.

Open Town Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

Cynthia Donaldson was appointed and sworn in as Ballot Clerk by Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs

Ballot Clerk Cynthia Donaldson checked in 67 voters at the open town meeting.

Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs administered oaths to Mrs. Cooper, Mr. McFarland, Mr. Jordan and Mr. Brann.

Moderator Harvey Kelley called the open town meeting to order at approximately 6:05PM.

Mr. Kelly announced the results of the election from March 10, 2015.

Mr. Kelly established that he would operate according to the Maine Moderator's Manual.

It was moved and 2nd to allow non-voters/non-residents to speak at the moderator's discretion. The motion passed by a greater than 2/3rds majority on a hand vote.

Prior to the start of business:

The Lamoine Board of Selectmen presented the Citizen of the Year award to Marion McFarland.

The Lamoine Conservation Commission presented an award to Carol Korty.

3. To see if the town will vote to set the date that property taxes will be due in two equal payments on August 31, 2015 and February 29, 2016, and to fix the rate of interest at 7.00% to be charged on the unpaid amounts beginning September 1, 2015 and March 1, 2016 respectively, and to fix the rate of interest paid for overpayments at 3.00% per annum. **It was moved and 2nd to approve article as written. The motion passed on a hand vote.**
4. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to offer to sell any property automatically acquired by tax liens to the previous owner(s) for payment of all back taxes, fees and interest; should the previous owner declines to redeem the property after 30-days notice, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to advertise for sealed bids on same, and stating the lowest bid acceptable, and to execute, upon specific town meeting approval, a quit claim deed to the highest responsible bidder; and further to allow the Selectmen to authorize the Treasurer to waive automatic lien foreclosures when it is in the best interest of the Town. **It was moved and 2nd to approve article as written. The motion passed on a hand vote.**
5. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell and/or dispose of any property or fixtures deemed to be surplus and unusable to the Town and worth less than \$1,000 fair market value, under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable after advertising such items publicly. **It was moved and 2nd to approve article as written. The motion passed on a hand vote.**
6. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all funds from the money received from the State of Maine for registration of snowmobiles to the Frenchman Bay Riders Snowmobile Club for the purpose of maintaining their snowmobile trails, to be open for the use of the public at all times, and to authorize the municipal officers to enter into an agreement with the Club, under such terms and conditions as the municipal officers may deem advisable, for that purpose. **It was moved and 2nd to approve article as written. The motion passed on a hand vote.**
7. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the tax collector or treasurer to accept pre-payments of 2015/2016 and 2016/17 taxes not yet committed at 0% interest for overpayments pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506. **It was moved and 2nd to approve article as written. The motion passed on a hand vote.**
8. To see if the Town will vote to authorize expenditures to pay tax abatements and applicable interest granted by the Board of Assessors or the Board of Selectmen during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 in an aggregate amount not to exceed the property tax commitment overlay. **It was moved and 2nd to approve article as written. The motion passed on a hand vote.**

9. To see what sum the town will vote to raise and appropriate for the purposes of updating the Comprehensive Plan most recently passed by the Town of Lamoine in 1996. *(The Selectmen, Budget Committee and the Comprehensive Planning Committee recommend \$7,500.00)* **It was moved and 2nd to pass as recommended. The motion passed on a hand vote.**
10. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for its share of costs for enforcement and administration of the Frenchman's Bay Regional Shellfish Conservation Ordinance. *(The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$3,000.00)* **It was moved and 2nd to pass as recommended. The motion passed on a hand vote.**
11. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Administration and to set the salaries of the following elected officers whose salaries will be paid from the Administration Account of the General Fund, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to establish the rate of compensation for appointed officials.

| Position | Recommended Salary (Budget Committee & Selectmen) |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Selectman (Chair) | \$1,600.00 |
| Selectman (non-chair, 4 positions) | \$1,000.00 |
| Assessor (Chair) | \$1,600.00 |
| Assessor (non-chair, 2 positions) | \$1,500.00 |

(The Budget Committee & Selectmen recommend \$197,366.11 and the salaries as outlined above.)
It was moved and 2nd to pass as recommended. The motion passed on a hand vote.

12. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for capital projects and debt service payments. *(The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend a total of \$42,465.00 including \$41,465 for debt service payment on the 2013 fire-tanker/pumper truck, and \$1,000 to add to the Land Conservation Fund)* **It was moved and 2nd to pass as recommended. The motion passed on a hand vote.**
13. To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to explore the possible purchase of 49-acres (+/-) of property identified as Map 7 Lot 14 and located at the corner of Douglas Highway and Jordan River Road; and if deemed advisable, to enter into a purchase and sale agreement with the current owners with final purchase contingent upon approval and funding from a special town meeting to be called within 60-days of any purchase and sale agreement. It was moved and 2nd to approve article as written. **The motion passed on a hand vote.**
14. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Code Enforcement, including operations of the Planning and Appeals Boards, and to authorize expenditure of the state share of local plumbing fees to the Maine Department of Human Services. *(The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$18,775.00.)* **It was moved and 2nd to pass as recommended. The motion passed on a hand vote.**
15. To see what sum the Town of Lamoine will vote to raise and appropriate for the support of social service organizations listed below, which made written requests for funding from the Selectmen, and met the criteria of the Town Meeting Donation Requests Ordinance adopted November 7, 2000.

| Requesting Agency | Requested | Recommended |
|--|------------|-------------|
| American Red Cross – Eastern Maine | \$600.00 | \$600.00 |
| Community Health & Counseling Services | \$1,455.00 | \$600.00 |
| Child & Family Opportunities | \$600.00 | \$600.00 |
| Downeast Horizons | \$600.00 | \$600.00 |

| | | |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|
| Eastern Area Agency on Aging | \$250.00 | \$250.00 |
| Friends In Action – Community Connection | \$600.00 | \$600.00 |
| Grand Auditorium | \$600.00 | \$600.00 |
| Eastern Maine Home Care | \$579.00 | \$579.00 |
| Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County | \$600.00 | \$600.00 |
| Lamoine Historical Society | \$600.00 | \$600.00 |
| LifeFlight Foundation | \$600.00 | \$600.00 |
| Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry | \$600.00 | \$600.00 |
| Maine Coast Memorial Hospital | \$600.00 | \$600.00 |
| Open Door Recovery Center | \$600.00 | \$600.00 |
| Washington/Hancock Community Agency* | \$600.00 | \$0.00 |
| Women's Infants & Children | \$490.00 | \$490.00 |
| Total | \$10,084.00 | \$8,629.00 |

*The Request from the Washington Hancock Community Agency was received after the ordinance deadline due to a death. In past years the town has supported this request at \$600.00, but because of the ordinance deadline, the Budget Committee and Selectmen could not make a recommendation.

(The Budget Committee & Selectmen recommend \$8,629.00 as outlined above. The donation requests ordinance requires the Board of Selectmen to recommend no more than 5% of one mill, which is \$13,174.16)

It was moved and 2nd to raise and appropriate \$9,229.00 to include the \$600.00 for the Washington/Hancock Community Agency. George Smith made a motion to amend the requested and recommended amount for the Maine Coast Memorial Hospital to \$1200.00 for a total of \$9829.00. The motion to amend passed on a hand vote. The motion, as amended then passed on a hand vote.

16. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Maintenance. *(The Parks Commission, Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$11,778.00). It was moved and 2nd to raise and appropriate \$11,778.00. The motion passed on a hand vote.*
17. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for library services. *(The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$7,368.00. The Ellsworth Public Library has requested funding of \$7,368.00). It was moved and 2nd to pass article as recommended. The motion passed on a hand vote.*
18. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Public Safety Expenditures. *(The Budget Committee, Selectmen and Fire Department recommend \$65,615.50) It was moved and 2nd to raise and appropriate \$65,615.50. The motion passed on a hand vote.*
19. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$90,000 to purchase a new rescue watercraft, motor and trailer, using \$15,000 to be donated by the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., and to authorize the Selectmen to borrow up to \$75,000 over 5 years for the remainder. *(The Budget Committee recommends the town approve the purchase as proposed)*

MUNICIPAL TREASURER'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT
(30-A MRSA § 5404(1-A & 5772(2-A))
Town of Lamoine

1. Total town indebtedness:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| a. Bonds Outstanding and unpaid as of January 1, 2015: | \$376,016.64 |
| b. Bonds authorized and unissued: | \$0.00 |
| c. Bonds to be issued if this question is approved: | \$75,000.00 |
| Total | \$526,016.64 |

2. At an estimated maximum interest rate of 3.5%, the estimated cost of this bond issue will be:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Five(5) Years (2015-2020) | |
| Principal: | \$75,000.00 |

| | |
|----------|-------------|
| Interest | \$7,875.00 |
| Total | \$82,875.00 |

3. Validity. The validity of the bonds and of the voters' ratification of the bonds may not be affected by any errors in the above estimates. If the actual amount of the total debt service or the bond issue varies from the estimate, the ratification by the electors is nevertheless conclusive and the validity of the bond issue is not affected by reason of the variance.

It was moved and 2nd to pass article as written. Paul Hodgkins asked where the rescue watercraft will be stored. George Smith said at the fire station and the new one will replace the old one. The motion passed on a hand vote. It was noted there was an addition error in the total of the town indebtedness. The correct total figure should be 451,016.64.

20. To see if the town will raise and appropriate \$17,265.00 for repayment of year 1 of the bond if approved in article 19 above (\$15,000 principal and \$2,625 interest). *(The Budget Committee and Selectmen recommend approval)* **It was moved and 2nd to pass article as written. The motion passed on a hand vote.**
21. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Road Maintenance. *(The Budget Committee and Selectmen recommend \$167,675.00.)* **It was moved and 2nd to raise and appropriate \$167,675.00. The motion passed on a hand vote.**
22. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for major road projects including repavement of the western portion of Buttermilk Road. *(The Budget Committee and Selectmen recommend \$120,000.00).* **It was moved and 2nd to raise and appropriate \$120,000.00. The motion passed on a hand vote.**
23. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for waste disposal including operation of the Lamoine Transfer Station, shipment to the Penobscot Energy Recovery Company, recycling contractor, monitoring of wells around the former landfill, and to authorize the Selectmen to continue the contract of disposal of septic sludge. *(The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend \$100,640.00)* **It was moved and 2nd to raise and appropriate \$100,640.00. The motion passed on a hand vote.**
24. To see which revenues the Town will vote to appropriate for inclusion in the non-education portion of the budget to offset local property taxes.

| Revenue Fund | Amount | Fund Total |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| General Fund | | |
| Interest on Real Estate Taxes | \$8,500.00 | |
| Automobile Excise Taxes | \$295,000.00 | |
| Watercraft Excise Taxes | \$3,500.00 | |
| Administration Fees | \$450.00 | |
| Tax Lien Charges | \$3,500.00 | |
| Agent Fees | \$5,700.00 | |
| General Assistance Reimbursement | \$1,750.00 | |
| Interest on Investments | \$6,500.00 | |
| Rental Income – Cell Phone Tower | \$13,800.00 | |
| Undesignated Fund Balance (Surplus) | \$40,000.00 | |
| | | \$378,700.00 |
| Road Fund | | |
| URIP Program (State Funding) | \$24,000.00 | |
| Use of Road Fund | \$0.00 | \$24,000.00 |

| | | |
|--|------------|---------------------|
| <i>Code Enforcement Fund</i> | | |
| Local Plumbing Fees | \$2,000.00 | |
| Code Enforcement Fees | \$7,000.00 | |
| | \$3,500.00 | \$12,500.00 |
| <i>Code Enforcement Fund Transfer</i> | | |
| <i>Other Funds</i> | | |
| Local Animal Control Fees | | \$2,000.00 |
| Total Offsets to Local Property Tax | | \$417,200.00 |

*Municipal Revenue Sharing will also reduce the tax commitment and is not included in the above figure. (The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend the revenue figures listed above.)

It was moved and 2nd to pass article as recommended. The motion passed on a hand vote.

25. To see if the Town will vote to continue the following funds:

| Fund Balance Account | Balance as of 6/30/14* |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Code Enforcement Fund | \$29,303.63 |
| Fire Truck Reserve Fund | \$1,464.12 |
| Road Assistance Fund | \$78,158.22 |
| Education Capital Fund | \$9,610.57 |
| Animal Control Fund | \$3,672.36 |
| Revaluation Reserve Fund | \$106,571.10 |
| Insurance Deductible Fund | \$6,551.38 |
| Harbor Fund | \$18,988.56 |
| Cable TV Channel Fund | \$38,171.66 |
| Parks & Recreation Fund | \$8,889.01 |
| Capital Improvements Fund | \$54,609.61 |
| Land Conservation Fund | \$6,361.39 |
| Veterans Memorial Fund | \$5,495.88 |
| Conservation Commission Fund | \$1,008.01 |
| Flag Display Maintenance Fund | \$388.67 |
| Allen & Leurene Hodgkins Fund | \$22,422.43 |

*Note that most funds are part of continuing operations, so the balance of 6/30/14 does not reflect any appropriations, expenditures or revenues for the current fiscal year.

(The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend continuing the above funds)

It was moved and 2nd to pass as recommended. The motion passed on a hand vote.

26. To see if the town will vote to close the RSU 24 Withdrawal fund and transfer the June 30, 2015 fund balance of \$12,943.48 to the Education Fund. **It was moved and 2nd to pass article as written. The motion passed on a hand vote.**

27. To see if the Town will authorize expenditure of funds from the Harbor Fund for improvements at the Harbor area as suggested to and approved by the Board of Selectmen, and to authorize the Selectmen to set the compensation of the Harbor Master and Deputy Harbor Master to be paid from the Harbor Fund. Expenditures are not to exceed available amounts in said fund. **It was moved and 2nd to approve the article as written. The motion passed on a hand vote.**

28. To see if the Town will authorize expenditure of funds from the Cable TV Fund for operation of Lamoine's Cable TV channel as suggested to and approved by the Board of Selectmen, and to authorize the Selectmen to set the compensation of the Cable TV Operations Manager. Expenditures are to be deducted from and Revenues are to be added to the Cable TV fund.

Expenditure amounts are not to exceed available amounts in said fund. **It was moved and 2nd to approve the article as written. The motion passed on a hand vote.**

29. To see if the Town will authorize expenditure of funds from the Veterans' Memorial Fund as recommended to and approved by the Board of Selectmen for the purposes of maintaining the memorial, not to exceed the available amount of the fund. **It was moved and 2nd to approve article as written. The motion passed on a hand vote.**

30. To see if the Town will authorize expenditure of funds in the Conservation Commission Fund as recommended to and approved by the Chair of the Conservation Commission for commission projects, said funds not to exceed the available amount of the fund. **It was moved and 2nd to approve the article as written. The motion passed on a hand vote.**

There being no further business to transact, Moderator Kelley declared the town meeting adjourned at 7:12PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kovacs, Town Clerk