



**Select Board /Assessors Meeting Summary
August 25, 2021
7:00 P.M.**

Select Board members Present: Wes Daniel, Tom Johnston

Others Present: Peg Hobbs

Wes Daniel called the Select Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approve Summary of August 18: Motion to approve summary by Tom Johnston, Wes Daniel seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Sign Treasurer's Warrant dated August 25, 2021:

P/R Warrant #69 - \$4,862.52.

A/P Vendor Warrant #70 - \$202,352.66. (Includes a school payment as well as a payment to Knox County Regional Communications.

Motion to pay warrants by Tom Johnston, Wes Daniel seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Road Foreman Report: Written by Frank Jones Jr. and read by Wes Daniel

8/16: Washed trucks and loader, greased them. P200 would not start so called Travis, diagnosed as cam sensor issue.

8/17: Worked on making chutes for trucks for shoulder work on Youngs Hill Road. P200 repaired and running after cleaning of wires and pins.

8/18: Completed and installed chutes. P500 would not start and P300 fuel pump was leaking so Steven began removal.

8/19: Steven continued to work on P300 while David and Frank worked on Youngs Hill Road shoulders (used 63 yards of gravel).

CEO Report: None

Health Officer Report: None

Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report: Mary Anderson said the town received a \$16,689.13 revenue sharing check from the state this week. Assessor's agent Becky Adams met with the retiring Stan Millay Wednesday (today) as well as signing her one-year contract. The checking account balance is \$203,646.32. Mary continues to work on the grant application to Knox County, which is due by Tuesday, Aug. 31. Mary will drop off the application in person Tuesday afternoon. Foreclosure notices for unpaid 2019 taxes will be mailed Friday, Aug. 27. According to recently released census numbers, Washington has grown 4 percent since the last census, to 1,592 residents.

Wes Daniel indicated the grant application is all set and signed it.

Other Agenda Items: Select Board members appointed Bob deGroff as a full member of the Appeals Board, with a term to end May 1, 2026. Select Board members also signed the Municipal Valuation Return submitted by Stan Millay.

Questions and Comments: (Mitch Garnett arrived during this portion, following another meeting.) Peg Hobbs notified town officials that Chinese Mystery snails have been discovered in Washington Pond near the public landing. She, and others, already have been removing the snails for three days – the snails have been in the pond all year but nobody knew it is a highly invasive species. Peg said the snails are able to close up and store water inside for up to three weeks and can live without a body of water for that long; and females, when jarred, release between 25 and 100 live baby snails. She noted the initial plan was to bury the snails at the town pit but further research made it clear the snails must be dead prior to disposal in case other animals dig up and transport the snails elsewhere. Once a snail population is established in a body of water, it is impossible to remove completely; the snails are immune to chemicals; the most efficient killing method is pouring boiling water onto the snails; once dead, the snails emit a strong odor; the snails easily migrate to different bodies of water. Peg said it is probable the snails were deposited into the lake unknowingly in a boat's bilge water or someone disposing of bait in the pond. Tom Johnston asked how to safely collect the snails and Peg said a watertight contained must be used; the baby snails released by the females are not able to survive without water as the adults are. Peg suggested all waterfront property owners check shorelines and remove/kill the snails. Wes suggested Frank might be willing/interested in composting the snails rather than burying them at the town pit. Peg said as long as the facility is animal-safe that is an option and said she will speak with Frank. She said it is difficult to tell if the snails are dead because they do not open like a clam when boiling water is poured over them. Mitch asked if the snails were edible and Peg responded that her research has shown they are a delicacy in China.

Motion to Adjourn by Tom Johnston, Mitch Garnett seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Grinnell