



## Select Board /Assessors Meeting Summary

Nov. 10, 2021

7 p.m.

**Select Board members Present:** Wes Daniel, Tom Johnston and Mitch Garnett

**Others Present:** Code Enforcement Officer Corey Fortin, Town Clerk/Treasurer Mary Anderson, EMA Director Don Grinnell

Wes Daniel called the Select Board/Assessor's meeting to order at 7 p.m.

**Approve Summary of Nov. 3:** Motion to approve summary by Tom Johnston, Mitch Garnett seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

**Sign Treasurer's Warrant dated Nov. 10, 2021:**

P/R Warrant #93: \$5,615.54

A/P Vendor Warrant #94: \$2,835.54

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

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

10/31: Frank was called out for flooded roads and downed trees town wide

11/1: Patched washouts and fixed the ditch on Vanner Road, took 14 yards; Mountain Road washout took 98 yards; started on Old County Road, used 28 yards

11/2: Worked on Old County Road; put P400 wing in the body and took it to Town Office; put a water level sensor in P300

11/3: Put plow gear on P300 and P200; worked on lights and made a battery box for P500

11/4: Painted P500 body, started to put lights back on

**CEO Report:** CEO Corey Fortin said he continues to work on pit inspection reports and is about half done. Otherwise, he's been working with the Planning Board.

Tom asked about the Planning Board meeting the previous evening. Corey said the meeting was about the proposed event barn on West Washington Road and town attorney Peter Drum was present. Peter explained to the board that the event barn fits the town ordinances under "commercial enterprise" but Corey said some members still were not comfortable with the explanation. He said the board has pushed decisions back another month. Peter also advised the board not to waive any requirements. The applicant has been asked to provide a site plan drawing for the next meeting. Corey said the board also talked a little about Maine Audio Visual but has not yet heard back from the owner. Someone from

Peter's office reached out to touch base again about three ongoing cases of violations and Corey will return the call.

**Health Officer Report:** None

**Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report:** Mary Anderson said the town received an \$82 revenue sharing check for burn permits this week. A Planning Board webinar will be attended by Erick Anderson, Kim Fellicetti and Corey Fortin. There is an EMS forum on Nov. 29 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom – Union Town Manager Jay Feyler asked that the meeting information be shared with residents. Mary has moved \$20,000 and \$20,000 from the town checking account to the Fire Truck Replacement and the Public Works truck replacement accounts, respectively. The third solar flashing light has been received.

**Other Agenda Items:** None.

**Questions and Comments:** Wes asked if the other Select Board members wanted to meet at 6 or 6:30 p.m. for another budget workshop next week. They decided on 6 p.m.

Wes said Frank still has money left in the culvert account and wants to purchase some. Tom said he thinks Frank should buy as many culverts as he can, as the cost of everything is going up and items are more difficult to find.

Tom noted the street light at the corner of Augusta and West Washington roads is out. Mary will contact CMP about the light.

**Other business:** EMA Director Don Grinnell spoke about a tabletop exercise planned for Monday, Nov. 22, at 7 p.m. in the Bryant Room of Gibbs Library. He said the exercise typically lasts two hours and will involve fire department members, town officials/staff, the town Animal Control Officer and others. Conducting the exercise are members of Knox County EMA office and by participating, the town remains NIMS (National Incident Management System) compliant. Don said it is tailored to the town with familiar names and addresses and could include such events as power outages or winter storms – all based on things that have happened. The Hill and Gully Snowmobile Club also is an important part of the exercise, as it is part of a mutual aid agreement. Don specified it is not a test, and said it is a discussion.

Regarding the upcoming budget, Don said he would like the Budget Committee to receive a briefing about extra money the town has applied for/received and what it can be spent on. Wes said Select Board members have just begun the budget process but said he thought a meeting could be arranged with the Budget Committee in mid-December. Mary said she would again listen to a video with MMA guidance about spending federal and state grant money related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Tom suggested Mary try to find a list of allowable expenditures. Mitch said he believes there is a contact person with MMA the town could reach out to with questions. Wes noted it appears there will be no money coming from Knox County in the near future but said he and Mary will attend a meeting of Midcoast Municipal Association on Nov. 19. Don said the budget committee hoped to have its first

meeting in mid-December and hoped to talk to Select Board members before then. Wes agreed that not much of the budget would be ready by then. Tom asked if town approval is required before spending any of the grant money. Mary said she does not believe so but said it might be best. Tom said another spending wrench to consider is broadband. Mitch said there is more money coming for broadband even if the town doesn't receive the planning grant or the NTIA grant, both of which have been applied for already. Awards for those broadband grants will be announced next week and in mid-December. Don also said a federal infrastructure bill should bring more money to the state and if the town is ready, it can jump on any opportunities. Don asked if the MMA contact person/expert might agree to join in a Budget Committee meeting via Zoom. Mary said she would look into that option. Select Board members agreed to meet with the Budget Committee on Dec. 15 at 7 p.m., with the Select Board meeting to begin at 6:30 p.m. that evening.

**Motion to Adjourn** by Mitch Garnett, Tom Johnston seconded; in in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Grinnell