



Select Board /Assessors Meeting Summary

Nov. 17, 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, Peg Hobbs, Steve Sawyer

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

Approve Summary of Nov. 10: Motion to approve summary by Tom Johnston, Mitch Garnett seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Sign Treasurer's Warrant dated Nov. 17, 2021:

P/R Warrant #95: \$4,710.17

A/P Vendor Warrant #96: \$218,834.72

The Accounts Payable warrant includes a payment to the school district as well as Union Ambulance service. Tom asked if the ambulance payment is more than originally budgeted. Mary said the number was an estimate and Union Town Manager Jay Feyler had to look back at the warrant to verify.

Motion to pay both 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

11/8: Put sanders in P100 and P200; put headgear on P100 and P500; worked on headlights

11/9: Patched Medolark Road; cut steel for loader bucket and Wes Daniel started to weld it in

11/10: Checked culverts and unplugged them from beaver construction and backed up leaves; worked on loader bucket

11-11: Worked in P100 brakes and loader bucket; Frank called Anderson Equipment to service the loader and called to order sander parts for P100

CEO Report: CEO Corey Fortin said he is almost finished with pit inspection reports, he still needs to add photos. He has reached out to Bill at George Hall & Sons to schedule pit inspections. Corey conducted a septic inspection for Willard Pierpont at the end of Round House Road. He's also working with a new attorney at Peter Drum's office so they both are caught up on outstanding violations in town, some of which were previously unknown to Corey. Mitch asked if Corey could forward correspondence between the lawyers and Corey to Select Board members and Corey said he would.

Health Officer Report: None

Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report: Town Clerk/Treasurer Mary Anderson said 147 courtesy letters were mailed Wednesday to alert property owners they have about six weeks to pay 2021 taxes if they do not wish to have their names printed in the annual report.

Mitch asked if the town has heard from Peter about Prescott Road. Mary state Eric Welzel emailed asking to be on the agenda in December and said Peter had not been in touch with his attorney. Mary emailed Eric back to let him know she would alert the Select Board members to his request and get back to him. Mary forwarded Eric's email to Peter, who wrote back that he would contact Patrick (Welzel's attorney) and that he has been in touch with him recently. Peter advised not to put the Welzels on the agenda; the attorneys are handling the situation.

Other Agenda Items: The September bank statement was approved and signed by Select Board members.

Peg Hobbs spoke about a planned 2022 parade and asked if the town is willing to take responsibility for it. Wes made a motion, seconded by Tom, that the parade would be town-sponsored; the motion was approved. Peg reminded Select Board members of the parade route – Prescott Memorial School to Bartlett's Garage on Bill Luce Road. She went over the safety guidelines provided by Maine Municipal Association and asked about enforcing the prohibition of alcohol by parade participants as well as spectators. Tom said that means the town doesn't promote alcohol use and Mitch added that there would not be sales of alcohol. Mitch said if someone is drinking alcohol on their own property during the parade, that is one thing, but if that person enters the public way it could be an issue. Tom asked if the parade has ended at the Village Church in the past. Peg said it has but the plan is to close Bill Luce Road and Route 220 for the parade – Roxanne Eggen is looking into what needs to be done. Tom said if there is an emergency, the parade could hinder the response from the Fire Station, but concluded regardless of the route the situation would be the same. Peg said there will be a plan in case of an emergency to allow fire trucks to get through. She said the end of the route is planned for Bill Luce Road to coincide with the Strawberry Festival and because it's downhill for marchers. Peg said she's been researching parade guidelines in the state and likes Canton's rules for height and length. Mitch suggested a maximum width as well. Peg said it might be limited to the width of a trailer. She said if there is thunder, the parade would be off, though she's not sure how to stop it if it's already in progress. Peg handed out information sheets to Select Board members and pointed out that the town of Raymond tracks the number of parade participants. She said the Parade Committee won't meet again until January, if Select Board members have any questions.

Peg also spoke as a member of the Recreation Committee. She said because of the setup in the gym at Prescott Memorial School, there will be no basketball this year. Mitch suggested an ice-skating rink as an alternative winter activity and Peg said she would look into it. There are only five members remaining on the Rec Committee.

The town received a contract from Pope Memorial Humane Society to accept domestic animals picked up by the Animal Control Officer. Wes said ACO Nicole Bissett has seen the contract and is happy with it. There are one-year and three-year options for the contract. Wes made a motion to enter into a three-

year contract with Pope Memorial Humane Society, Tom seconded; motion passes. Mary said she will let Pope know by mid-December as well as reaching out to Edgecomb (the town's current contract).

Tom said he has reached out to Consolidated Communications about downed poles in town. He also has contacted Maine DOT again about reducing the speed limit to 25 mph and asked where the reduction should begin on Bill Luce Road and Old Union Road. Wes suggested starting at the top of the hill on Bill Luce Road and before the Fire Station on Old Union Road.

Questions and Comments: Resident Steve Sawyer spoke to Select Board members about his neighbors at 193 Augusta Road, who have accumulated trash that is attracting rats. He said his cats can't keep up with the number of rats coming from the property and he wanted to be on the record with his concerns about the rodents as well as the leech field. Corey said he is aware of problems with the failed septic system. Tom said the courts are slow but the property is on the town's radar. Steve said it's been an issue for at least five years, when he broke up a dog fight inside the residence when only children were home. It is his understanding that the residence is rented or the occupants are squatting there. He's been talking with Nick Fortune (the neighbor on the other side) about the problems as well. Corey said he has sent letters but the residents will not allow him to set foot on the property and the most recent certified letters have been returned as undeliverable because the occupants and/or owner(s) refuse to sign for them. After Steve left the meeting, Mitch asked the exact location of the property – it is on Augusta Road, between Jackson's Salvage and Fortune Trucking. Tom asked if it is owner occupied (it is unclear), because if there are problems with the septic system, it falls to the property owner to fix. Corey said he would reach out to Health Officer Brian Alves again as well as contacting the state about the failed septic. He noted the property is one that he's discussing with the town attorney.

Other business: None.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Grinnell