



Select Board /Assessors Meeting Summary

Nov. 3, 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

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

Approve Summary of Oct. 27: Motion to approve summary by Tom Johnston, Mitch Garnett seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Sign Treasurer's Warrant dated Nov. 3, 2021:

P/R Warrant #91: \$5,582.37

A/P Vendor Warrant #92: \$5,570.37

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

10/25: Worked on P500; Frank set up cones for road test for Ricky Linscott to practice.

10/26: Worked on chipper and saws; fixed lights and fueled up before storm

10/27: Called out for downed trees town-wide, chipped as we came upon them; P300 has a bad water sensor

10/28: Worked on P300 and P500, called for parts for P300; put P400 in shop

10/30: Opened shop, waited for gentleman to look at P400 for possible purchase

CEO Report: CEO Corey Fortin said he recently finished the Findings of Fact for CTL's firewood storage Quonset hut and Gavin knows his copy is at the Town Office to pick up. Corey has been working on gravel pit inspection reports and today checked in on three cases to see if violations still exist.

Tom asked if George Hall had paid his pit inspection fees and Corey said the company has done so. Corey will contact them to schedule an inspection. All other pit owners – with the exception of Pierpont – have paid. Corey said he thinks Pierpont is exempt because of its age. Tom asked if any inspection has ever been done of that pit and Corey said Willard was checking with Sukeforth (previous owner) about records. Corey said it is currently personal use only and he has received a septic design from Willard. His understanding is that it will be converted to farmland and a house will be built there. Corey said the intention is not to reopen the pit. Mitch asked if Corey is familiar with the town's pond ordinance, which regulates size. Corey said Willard has dug out ground between two small ponds to connect them but he

will check on the size restrictions. Willard told Corey he also consulted with the state DEP before connecting the ponds.

Health Officer Report: None

Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report: Mary Anderson said the open enrollment period is approaching (Nov. 15 to Dec. 15) for health insurance effective in January 2022 and she has passed that information along to Frank.

Voting went well Tuesday, with 559 state ballots cast. All three state referendum questions received a majority of yes votes by town voters. There were 506 town ballots cast for an addition to the Land Use Ordinance, which also passed by a large margin. Absentee voters who requested ballots before Oct. 21 did not receive the town ballots but those 50-someodd votes would not have changed the outcome, she noted.

The new-to-the-town copier was delivered last week and installed on Thursday.

The town plow truck advertised since spring has been sold for \$12,500 to Colin Bartlett from Houlton.

The checking account balance is \$1,240,605.53.

Mary has been watching a video on allowable spending for the American Rescue Plan Act funds received by the town and said fire department air packs and culverts were specifically addressed. She will watch the video again to get more details.

Jake at The First has been in touch with Mary about a town credit card and she expects to have paperwork for the Select Board members to go over next week. The current town card with Machias Savings Bank has Mary's name on it but this new card offered by The First to municipalities would only show the town name. Two people are required as town contacts to apply for the card but there are no personal credit implications, only the town is responsible. The current card is paid in full each month so interest does not accrue.

Tom asked about the appearance of the account balance sheets handed out by Mary at the beginning of the meeting and said the lines were missing. The copier settings will be adjusted.

Other Agenda Items: Wes said Mitch suggested installing another blinking light coming in to the village to try to slow traffic down. The cost of the light is expected to be \$499 and the money for the two other blinking lights was taken from the Materials and Supplies line. Wes said there is enough money remaining in that line to purchase the third light. Tom said the Roads/Snow account overall should be fine even if the Materials and Supplies line is exceeded. Wes made a motion to purchase the blinking light, Mitch seconded; all in favor, motion passes. Mary will order the light.

Questions and Comments: Tom asked what happened to the yield sign at the intersection of Bill Luce Road and Old Union Road. Wes said someone hit it, then stole it. Tom suggested the town post the area as 25 mph. Mitch asked if the 25 mph zone begins at the blinking light. Tom said that is not enforceable

and he would get in touch with Maine DOT, which he's been meaning to do anyway because there have now been five crashes on Liberty Road near Sweet Season Farm/Café. Mary said she recently reached out to Maine DOT as well about a getting sign installed near the home of an autistic child at the request of a parent, but she hasn't yet heard back.

Wes also mentioned the sale of the plow truck. He and Frank met with Colin on Saturday to look at the truck and Colin picked the truck up this morning, paying with a \$12,500 treasurer's check. Wes made a motion to put the money into the Plow Truck Replacement Fund per the article on the town meeting warrant. Tom seconded; all in favor, motion passes.

Wes said he would like to start in on the budget process next week and begin the meeting at 6 or 6:30 p.m. Tom suggested starting at 6:30 and moving to 6 p.m. as the process moves along. Mary asked if it is OK to make changes and pop in and out of the meeting, as the town office will still be open at 6:30.

Tom said the bond-holder for the Fitch Road bridge would like it released. He said he's inspected the bridge thoroughly and it looks fine. Wes made a motion to release the bond, Mitch seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Other business: Wes said there is a Zoom meeting about ambulance service scheduled for Monday, Nov. 29, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Grinnell