



## Select Board /Assessors Meeting Summary

Sept. 15, 2021

7:00 P.M.

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

**Others Present:** Code Enforcement Officer Corey Fortin, Town Clerk Mary Anderson

Wes Daniel called a public hearing on updated General Assistance Ordinance appendices A-H to order at 7:00 p.m. There were no comments. Tom Johnston made a motion to close the public hearing at 7:01 p.m., seconded by Mitch Garnett. Wes Daniel opened a public hearing on a Remote Participation Policy for the Select Board. Tom Johnston said he does not think the policy is necessary. There were no other comments. Mitch Garnett made a motion to close the public hearing at 7:02 p.m., seconded by Tom Johnston.

Wes Daniel called the Select Board meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Approve Summary of Sept. 8:** Motion to approve summary by Mitch Garnett, Tom Johnston seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

**Sign Treasurer's Warrant dated Sept. 15, 2021:**

P/R Warrants #75: \$21,910.58 and #76: \$3,229.50

A/P Vendor Warrant #77 - \$5,212.89

Mitch Garnett asked why there were two payroll warrants and Town Clerk/Treasurer Mary Anderson explained the original warrant (#75) split the stipend for Deputy Fire Chief but she later discovered it should not have been split based on the December 2020 resignation date of Steve Olmsted and subsequent appointment of Dean Batlis as deputy. The second warrant (#76) corrected the error to disburse the full stipend to Dean Batlis. 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

9/6: Labor Day holiday

9/7: Put P300 gear box back together and shortened the bed chain

9/8: Put up signs at the boat landing on Washington Pond; worked on winter sand (500 yards)

9/9: Put up winter sand (560 yards); Rick Linscott came in to go over trucks and drove for four hours; picked up steel for P500

**CEO Report:** CEO Corey Fortin said he issued a permit to Ron Jackson to rebuild his office building; to America's Wood Co. for a sawdust building; and to Richard Leigh to allow a camper to connect to his septic. Pike Quarry was inspected. Corey also checked on the solar project at 576 Waldoboro Road and

inspected a septic installation on West Washington Road. He recently spoke with Gavin McLain at CTL after discovering older permits for the office and proposed Quonset hut (the company recently applied and paid for a new permit for the office) had already been issued. Mary will issue a refund for the office permit. Corey said town attorney Peter Drum has been in contact with Planning Board Chairman Steve Ocean and recommended Maine Audio Visual and a proposed event barn on West Washington Road both undergo the site plan review process.

Wes asked if the Select Board needed to discuss Ron Jackson's plans. Corey said he's repeatedly told Ron the new garage must go before the Planning Board because of its size but Ron has indicated he will move forward before that happens as the Planning Board likely would not address Ron's application until November. Wes wondered, if no action is taken, would the Select Board be setting a bad precedent? Tom asked if the previous structure (destroyed by fire last month) was in compliance with all setbacks, etc. Corey said it was in compliance and Ron has contractors standing by to begin work. Wes said he feels if work proceeds prior to a permit being issued, Ron should be levied double fines and still be required to go through the Planning Board process. Tom agreed and noted if the Planning Board does not approve the permits, Ron will have to remove the new garage structure and rebuild according to town ordinances. Corey reasserted that he issued the office permit for less than 200 square feet. Tom mentioned all four of them – three Select Board members and Corey – will see Ron in a few weeks for his junkyard inspection and said he thinks the junkyard permit should be a conditional one until the garage and a fence are restored to the town's satisfaction.

Mitch said he and Corey were talking about the Land Use Ordinance and that the Select Board might want to consider adding a few sentences that would allow a business that burns down to rebuild with CEO approval rather than waiting for Planning Board approval. Wes asked if the ordinance update could be voted on in November. Mary said as long as there is a public hearing and proper notice given, yes. She said if Corey puts together the wording, she can run it by Maine Municipal Association.

Tom asked about another solar project in town, at Sukeforth's. Corey said the company hopes to begin construction before the end of the year but no permits have been issued yet. He said the same construction company is building both projects so he doesn't think there will be any objection to the town fees.

**Health Officer Report:** None

**Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report:** Mary Anderson said the checking account balance is \$167,989.29. Most stipends were paid this week. Fire extinguishers were inspected today at the fire station, town office and library. Mary emailed Leticia at Knox County to inquire about the culvert study but had not heard back. She said Miranda came in to ask about closing down part of Bill Luce Road for the annual Trunk-or-Treat event and redirecting traffic through Wade Bartlett's parking lot (Wade already agreed). The Parent-Teacher Group also would like to place a bouncy house inside the fence away from the pond for the event. Tom asked what type of insurance would be needed for the bouncy house. Mary said she would work with Miranda to find out. Tom made a motion to approve closing the road, Wes seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

**Other Agenda Items:** Select Board members signed the August bank statement.

Mary informed Select Board members that Travis Perez checked for holes where rodents might be entering the town office and library and was able to seal up several holes as well as setting bait traps in areas the rodents are frequenting.

Wes called for a vote on the General Assistance Ordinance updates. Tom made the motion to approve, seconded by Mitch; all approved, motion carries.

Wes called for a vote on the Remote Participation Policy. Mitch made the motion to approve, Wes seconded. Mitch asked if the policy was for every board/committee or just the Select Board. Mary said this policy applies to the Select Board only. If other boards/committees are interested, each must adopt its own policy. Tom said he believes the town was advised by an attorney to avoid broadcasting meetings and objected to there being no sunset provision for the policy. Wes said it can be rescinded or amended if needed. Mitch noted there are specific reasons included in the policy that would allow for remote participation. Wes said Knox County uses remote participation. Tom responded that does not make it (the policy) right. The vote was Mitch and Wes in favor, Tom opposed.

Tom said Randy from Dirigo Engineering has been in touch with Midcoast Conservancy about stream crossing grants. He said he suggested to Randy that the Calderwood Road bridge be included in the application and said some grant money could be used toward engineering. If the grant is received, the town has up to two years to complete the project, or it has to return the grant money.

**Questions and Comments:** None.

**Motion to Adjourn** by Mitch Garnett, Wes Daniel seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Grinnell