



Selectmen's /Assessors Meeting Summary

March 10, 2021

7:00 P.M.

Selectmen Present: Wesley Daniel, Tom Johnston, Berkley Linscott

Others Present: Mary Anderson-Town Clerk, Corey Fortin-Assistant CEO, Frank Robbins, Traci Hoffman

Wesley Daniel called the Selectmen's Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approve Summary of March 3, 2021: Motion to approve summary by Tom Johnston, Berkley Linscott 2nd, All in favor, Motion's carried.

Sign Treasurer's Warrant dated March 10, 2021:

Payroll Warrant #20 - \$6,934.30

A/P Vendor Warrant #21 - \$7,902.21

Motion to pay warrants by Tom Johnston, Berkley Linscott 2nd, All in favor, Motion's carried.

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

2/28/2021: 12:00am to 3:30am & 11:00am-3:30pm – Called out to sand Frank, Steven and Greg; P-500 blew hy hose; Called back out to sand dirt roads Frank and Stephen

3/1/2021: 6:30am to 4:30pm- Worked on P-500 hy hose and washed off trucks

3/2/2021: 6:00am to 4:30pm- Called out for down trees; Tried to work on P-200 and P-400

3/3/2021: 6:30am to 4:30pm- Put up road posters and road signs; Worked on P-200 air compressor and P-400 exhaust.

3/4/2021: 6:30am to 4:30pm- Greg and Frank patched potholes on West Washington, Leigher, Calderwood and Nelson Ridge South Roads; Steven worked on P-200 air compressor.

CEO Report: Corey Fortin was present and had nothing new to report.

Health Officer Report: None.

Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report: Mary Anderson stated that the Workers' Comp audit came back and the town received a \$331 reimbursement; 83 Courtesy letters went out on Tuesday for 2020 unpaid taxes, 30-day notices will go out April 7; Tomorrow Mary and the Selectmen will meet with Marcus Ballou at 9:00am, regarding insurance; Mary did a Zoom meeting with Kevin from Transco regarding the copy machine. He would like to upgrade us in 18 months when the contract runs out. Mary asked for numbers; The bank balance is \$376,554.30; Mary ordered the Meeting Owl Monday from Amazon Smile.

Other Agenda Items:

Frank Robbins from Borrego Solar: Frank stated that he read that the Selectmen Summary from last week and saw that the Selectmen voted to adopt a .25 cents per sq ft for the acreage used for the project for the permit fee, which would mean that the project that Mr. Robbins is working on would have a permit fee of \$108,000. He stated that there are no set standards for fees. He shared a document that showed an example of several other towns permit fees. He verbally gave various examples of how other towns are pricing their permits. The Selectmen stated that they are currently reassessing the permit fees. Mary Anderson stated that Joan Hayward had a suggestion that there be an annual fee similar to the mining permits. Berkley Linscott asked Frank, what the advantage is to the town to host the solar farms because they are not able to be taxed as normal. Frank stated that there will be improved infrastructure between the solar farm and the tie-in to the grid. The Selectmen explained to Frank that the only place now where the town can tax the property is through the landowner because the property is leased. Wesley Daniel recognized Don Grinnell from the floor: Don stated that the Solar equipment is tax exempt and the land is taxed as raw land. Frank asked if the land has additional value with the array on it, Don stated that it would be assessed as if it did not have anything on it. Don read from his phone: "The Maine Revenue Service expanded the bill providing standardized valuation methodology. It provides much needed guidance to Municipalities on how to assess property tax on solar equipment to help prevent over taxation to the business and streamlines the process." Tom Johnston stated that our fee is close to what Waldoboro's fee is. Waldoboro's fee is .30 per sq ft of the modules and the size is 280,989 sq. ft. (\$84,000.) Corey stated that South Thomaston is looking into charging for the square footage of the panels and the space in the fence. Tom and Wes stated that they would like to take it under advisement. It was agreed to table the item for the time being. Frank stated that he just wanted to reiterate that the project is going to be closer to 3.8MW instead of the initially stated 5.2MW and at a certain point the viability of the project is at risk. Corey Fortin stated that he looked up the DEP's fees for a solar project and they are \$7,238 for processing fee and \$3,619 for a licensing fee. Frank ended stating that he is excited about doing the upcoming solar project and he has cats from Washington.

Don Grinnell: Don stated that he was contacted last week by Alicia at EMA a GIS Technician. She would like to provide better service to the Municipalities in the county. Don suggested to her that they do a culvert survey. He had another meeting and then a third meeting which led to the idea that Washington and Union, in conjunction, can use a summer intern to map the culverts using GIS mapping. Union has done it in the past with their cemeteries. There would be no cost to the town except maybe some mileage. The intern is provided by the Margret Chase Smith Foundation. It would happen from June 1-Aug. Jay would handle the coordination. Wesley Daniel made a motion to accept Don Grinnell's proposal and name him as the coordinator for the GIS mapping of the Culvert's this summer, Tom Johnston 2nd, All in favor, Motion's passed.

COVID-19 Policy for Sick Leave: Tom Johnston made a motion to accept the COVID-19 Policy for Sick Leave, Berkley Linscott 2nd, All in favor, Motion's passed.

Questions and Comments:

None

Motion to Adjourn by Berkley Linscott, Tom Johnston 2nd, All in favor, Motion's carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Hayward