



**Select Board /Assessors Meeting Summary**  
**December 14, 2022**  
**6:30 p.m.**

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

**Others Present:** Town Clerk Mary Anderson, Road Foreman Frank Jones Jr., Emergency Management Director Don Grinnell, and residents Dave Williams and Sarah and Andrew Masters

Wes Daniel called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Approve Summary of Dec. 7, 2022:** Motion to approve summary by Tom Johnston, Mitch Garnett seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

**Sign Treasurer's Warrants dated Dec. 15, 2022:**

P/R Warrants #104: \$5,032.10

A/P Warrants #105: \$129,498.28, which includes the Union Ambulance payment of more than \$117,000

Motion to approve 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

12/5: Worked on P300 lights; Travis came to put the EGR valve in P300

12/6: Travis finished putting the EGR valve in the P300; fixed the ditch on Youngs Hill Road and moved surface gravel

12/7: Put P500 plow in and took it apart, needs new pins and spring rods

12/8: Worked on P500 plow; checked culverts

**CEO Report:** None.

**Health Officer report:** None

**Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report:** Town Clerk Mary Anderson said she will be out of the office on Friday. The checking account balance is \$1,076,733. This week, the town received a \$3,000 check for a safety grant awarded to Public Works. Finally, the pole attachment agreement with CMP was received and we continue to work with CCI.

**Other Agenda Items:** Tom talked to Landis Hudson of Maine Rivers last week about a group grant application being put together by Maine Department of Marine Resources that could include \$1.2 million to replace the Calderwood Road culvert. The federal grant would pay 80 percent of the costs, and the town would pay 20 percent. DMR is looking for additional non-federal funding but needs to

know if the town supports the grant application. Tom noted the project could end up a bridge rather than a culvert replacement if the soils are marginal. Wes asked the dollar amount of the town's share; Tom said \$245,000, which covers everything from engineering to completion. DMR or Maine Rivers would handle the grant application process. Select Board members agreed to support the grant application. Tom made a motion to notify Landis the town supports the grant application; Mitch seconded, all in favor, motion carries.

Mitch asked Mary if there's a hold up with the CCI pole attachment agreement and Mary said CCI is just a little behind CMP in the process.

EMA Director Don Grinnell spoke about the updated Emergency Operations Plan that now includes changes suggested by Fire Chief Phil Meunier. He requested the Select Board approve the EOP by the end of the year if possible.

Don also requested permission to spend around \$100 on a two-and-a-half-gallon coffee dispenser to be used in situations similar to the recent all-day road closure during which personnel were on scene for as long as eight hours. He said he would also put together a weather resistant container to go with the dispenser containing coffee, cups, filters, etc. Wes said there is more than \$1,400 remaining in the EMA account. Tom made a motion to approve the request, Mitch seconded; all in favor, motion carries. Don said he would get information to Mary about the dispenser; and Mary said if Don wished to shop for supplies at Sam's Club, he could use the town credit card.

**Other business:** None.

**Questions/comments:** None.

Mitch made a motion to adjourn, Tom seconded; all in favor, motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Wes called the Budget Committee meeting to order at 7 p.m. Present were: Select Board members Wes Daniel, Tom Johnston and Mitch Garnett; Town Clerk Mary Anderson; Road Foreman Frank Jones Jr.; Budget Committee members Deb Bocko, Wendy Carr, Jesse Casas, Don Grinnell, Dave Martucci, Kathy Ocean, Joan Tognacci (alternate) and Dave Williams; and residents Nanne Kennedy and Sarah and Andrew Masters.

Don was unanimously elected chairman of the Budget Committee following a motion by Dave W. and seconded by Wendy. He asked for an overview of any budget changes to start.

Tom noted a typo on the CEO salary line that should be corrected to \$25,000. He said there are proposed payroll increases as well, due in part to turnover on the Roads Crew. The other big issue to address is paving – none was completed this year. Dave W. asked if there was a contract for the paving but Tom said it was an agreement. Dave W. asked if the plan for next year is to do twice as much paving to make up for the missed year and Tom confirmed that is the case.

As far as paying for paving, Tom also asked Budget Committee members to keep in mind the Calderwood Road culvert replacement, part of which could be funded by a grant but will still cost the town upward of \$200,000.

Wes asked Frank to speak about a quote he solicited from a smaller company, Performance Paving. Frank said the quote to shim and pave several roads on the 2022-2023 schedule totals more than \$500,000.

There is some money available that wasn't spent this year, Tom said, including \$100,000 in the Maintenance of Town Roads account and more in the Road Maintenance Reserve account. Wes said the reserve account has \$150,000 set aside for paving. Dave W., Wes and Don all said they would like to move that money into an account that'll specify it is to be spent on paving – there will be a Special Town Meeting December 28 at 7 p.m. to do so. Dave W. said he would like to see paving money set up as a rollover account at some point.

Don asked for more information about the Calderwood Road culvert and if the town could have the engineering done in advance. Tom said any work done before the grant, including engineering, will not be eligible for reimbursement.

Frank said the problem with the culvert is the band in the middle is coming apart, similar to the culvert on Bill Luce Road that caused a sinkhole.

Don asked about plans discussed last year to purchase an excavator rather than renting one. Tom pointed out there is still some ARPA money unspent but some of that could go toward an area of town the broadband grant won't cover for installation, or toward insulating the attic at the town garage, or as a partial down payment on an excavator.

Regarding an additional payment for equipment, Mary noted one plow truck will be paid off next year, another plow truck and a fire truck will be paid off in 2026, another fire truck will be paid off in 2029 and in 2032 the town garage will be paid off.

Don asked about rental costs for this year. Wes said the excavator rental cost the town between \$11,000-\$12,000. The purchase price quoted for the excavator only – without any interest – is about \$104,000 and does not include a trailer.

Jesse Casas spoke about Union Ambulance and its anticipated budget. He said other nearby towns are offering full-time positions, making it difficult to retain ambulance personnel. He estimated the budget will increase by at least 10 percent this year, even without adding full-time positions. The ambulance service currently is staffed by per diem workers.

Another added complication is differing fiscal years. Union and Appleton vote on budgets in June, while Washington votes in March. Tom suggested talking in March about moving the ambulance vote to June,

at the same time as the school budget referendum. Wes noted the change would not impact setting the tax commitment because the school budget numbers are needed for that as well.

A study currently under way is expected to recommend adding four paramedics to the roster, Jesse said. One full-time paramedic will increase the budget by 27 percent, while two full-time paramedics would increase the budget 47 percent. Based on the population of the three towns, another ambulance might be needed as well.

Jesse said he's been learning a lot, including that Union carries the full cost of the building, ambulance purchases, utilities and payroll management. Dave M. said Washington can't afford to purchase and operate its own ambulance and asked Jesse if there are alternatives. Jesse said there are not many. Don said if the service becomes independent of the municipalities, the structure of the Advisory Committee should be changed to voting members, like Tri-County Solid Waste Management Organization. Mitch wondered if changing from a municipal service might be more expensive and Jesse said it would be. Joan asked why the ambulance service doesn't make money from billing people and Jesse said reimbursements from insurance companies don't cover the full cost, which is why the three towns help pay for the service.

Don suggested the next Budget Committee meeting take place Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. and members concurred.

Jesse made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.; his motion was seconded by Joan.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Grinnell