



Select Board /Assessors Meeting Summary

June 15, 2022

7 p.m.

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

Others Present: Town Clerk/Treasurer Mary Anderson, Code Enforcement Officer Corey Fortin and Broadband Committee members Sara Bullard, Valerie Jackson, Lee Shane, Misty Darton and Will Darton.

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

Approve Summary of June 1, 2022: Motion to approve summary by Tom Johnston, Mitch Garnett seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Sign Treasurer's Warrants dated June 16, 2022:

P/R Warrant #48: \$4,694.55

A/P Warrant #49: \$4,944.37

Motion to approve by Tom Johnston, Mitch Garnett seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

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

6/6: Chipped brush on Fitch Road

6/7: Chipped brush six-tenths of a mile on Vanner Road with the chipper head on the excavator

6/8: Frank took the chipper head back; Steven and David worked on chipper and saws; Travis Kilbreth came to work on P200, still waiting for parts

6/9: Fixed the washout on Vanner Road; started the ditch the pit road

CEO Report: Code Enforcement Officer Corey Fortin said he's recently updated information and addresses for gravel pit owners. Letters have been sent out for inspections and Betsy Vanner already has paid. So far in 2022, Corey has issued 10 plumbing permits (five septic and five internal) and five building permits. He's been fielding questions about future plans for a number of property owners.

Health Officer Report: None

Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report: Town Clerk/Treasurer Mary Anderson said the checking account balance is \$108,911. Monday is a holiday (Juneteenth) so the office will be closed. A total of 240 residents voted in Tuesday's election and counting wrapped up around 10:30 p.m.; everything on the town ballot passed, as did the school budget.

Other Agenda Items: Wes summarized a letter from the state about fuel. Gas prices should be locked in and updated by July 1; however, the price of diesel for 2023 can't be locked in at this time. The state is committed to keeping fuel rates as low as possible, the letter said.

Select Board members signed a quitclaim deed for a plot in Marr Cemetery.

Broadband Committee Chairman Sara Bullard directed Select Board members to an email from Mark Ouellette, Axiom Technologies, outlining the next steps in the broadband process now that a line of credit has been approved by voters. She noted Mary has the paperwork needed for Consolidated Communications as well as Central Maine Power Co. Sara said Mark would like to attend the June 29 Select Board meeting to discuss contesting make-ready fees, as Somerville is planning to contest as well.

Sara and Mary talked about the possibility of using ARPA funds to pay some of the initial application fees to CCI (\$875) and CMP (\$500). Mary said there is enough money left after purchasing air packs for the fire department to pay one application fee, but not both. There is some concern about using the line of credit for those fees, which would cause interest to begin accruing. It is unclear if the broadband grant will repay interest on the line of credit. Mitch suggested using the non-refundable \$25 deposit collected by the town during the broadband sign-up phase to pay back any interest.

Sara also spoke about getting information out to the public about broadband in advance of the sign-up phase, something along the lines of a mailing or yard signs.

Misty said she would like to focus on the affordability and reaching out to those with lower incomes who could qualify for a discount in the monthly fees – she said, in working with Susan Corbett, it appears a significant chunk of Washington's population would qualify for the Affordable Connectivity Program.

There will be two informational meetings this summer with Axiom but the dates have not been set. Sara said she hopes for a mid-August meeting.

Other business: Wes made a motion to go into executive session per 1 MRSA 405(6)(A) to discuss a personnel matter; Tom seconded. Select Board members entered executive session at 7:44 p.m. Wes made a motion to exit executive session at 8:02 p.m., Tom seconded.

Questions/comments: None.

Tom made a motion to adjourn, Mitch seconded; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Grinnell