



Select Board /Assessors Meeting Summary

Aug. 10, 2022

7 p.m.

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

Others Present: Town Clerk/Treasurer Mary Anderson

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

Approve Summary of Aug. 3, 2022: Motion to approve summary by Tom Johnston, Mitch Garnett seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Sign Treasurer's Warrants dated Aug. 11, 2022:

P/R Warrant #65: \$4,656.26

A/P Warrant #66: \$8,125.92

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

8/1: Cut brush and ditched on Sprague Road

8/2: Ditched and cut brush on Sprague Road

8/3: Cut dead trees and ditched on Sprague Road, which is all ditched and ready to seed

8/4: Cleaned out culverts on Dorman Road; moved some winter sand; fixed heater fan in P300 (burned out resistor)

CEO Report: None

Health Officer Report: None

Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report: Town Clerk Mary Anderson spoke about her efforts on broadband insurance: She received an email from the Isle Au Haut Select Board chair, who said that community is purchasing insurance as requested by the utility companies. A new quote that meets the requirements has been received for Washington: \$17,911.70. Mary prepared a Special Town Meeting warrant to authorize spending up to \$18,000 on insurance. Mark Ouellette from Axiom Technologies has confirmed the company will pay for insurance once it begins generating revenue. Mary will inform HUB the town is using another agency for the insurance.

Mark has confirmed Axiom will pay the application fees (\$875 and \$500) to the utility companies and Mary will contact him about getting that money soon. The deputy clerks have been working on scanning

voter signature card, refiling the permits file cabinet to correct misplaced documents and working on a safety plan for the office. More election information continues to come in for the November election.

Wes suggested talking about the Special Town Meeting. Tom said he's made numerous phone calls with little result, as he continues to wait for callbacks. He did confirm the insurance covers only the town (not Axiom or its contractors); he talked to MMA about the Tort Claims Act and it's never been adjudicated with a utility company. Tom said he thinks the town should move ahead with the Special Town Meeting. Somerville plans to challenge the make-ready fees and has support from the AG's Office; Tom wondered if Washington could pay the fees under protest and be refunded later. Tom made a motion to approve the warrant, Mitch seconded; all in favor, motion passes. The Special Town Meeting will be Wednesday, Aug. 24, at 7 p.m. in the Bryant Room. Tom said he will continue to reach out to PUC, CMP and CCI. Mary suggested Select Board members meet at 6:30 p.m. on the 24th.

Other Agenda Items: Select Board members signed off on the Community Self-Determination Program, which is paperwork needed for a grant application by Union Ambulance service to study how emergency services are provided in Appleton, Washington and Union.

Other business: Select Board members discussed locations where Public Works can get fuel: Jackson's and Maritime Farms. Tom said he was concerned about extra paperwork if fuel is purchased at Jackson's but Mary said Melissa takes care of the paperwork. Mitch said he thinks Jackson's offers a competitive price.

Questions/comments: Mitch asked about the status of the Roads Committee; Wes suggested talking about it at the next meeting but asked if a notice seeking new members could be put on the town website in the meantime.

Mitch also asked if the town has heard anything from attorney Peter Drum about the Welzel case and Mary said she has not but will reach out to Peter. Tom asked Mary to ask Peter about the Maine Tort Claims Act as well.

Mitch made a motion to adjourn, Tom seconded; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Grinnell