



Select Board /Assessors Meeting Summary

June 29, 2022

7 p.m.

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

Others Present: Town Clerk/Treasurer Mary Anderson, Assessor's Agent Becky Adams, Code Enforcement Officer Corey Fortin, Mark Ouellette from Axiom Technologies, Broadband Committee members Sara Bullard and Valerie Jackson, and resident Logan Lattin.

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

Approve Summary of June 22, 2022: Motion to approve summary by Tom Johnston, Mitch Garnett seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Sign Treasurer's Warrants dated June 30, 2022:

P/R Warrant #52: \$4,502.52

A/P Warrant #53: \$33,624.52

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

6/20: Ditched and seeded Fitch Road

6/21: Ditched on Fitch Road

6/22: Ditched on Fitch Road; Greg Boynton came with the screen for winter sand

6/23: Took the holiday (Juneteenth)

CEO Report: CEO Corey Fortin said two more pit owners – Northeast Paving/Eurovia and Jake Barbour – have paid and he is scheduling inspections for those who have paid to date (Northrup, Bartlett and Vanner). He issued another building permit and a septic tank replacement permit. Otherwise, Corey has been answering questions. After the meeting, he was to meet with someone to help fill out a building permit.

Mitch asked about the status of Jackson's Salvage application and Corey said he expected it would be approved at the next meeting.

Health Officer Report: None

Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report: Town Clerk/Treasurer Mary Anderson said the town received its second ARPA payment on Monday for \$80,044.05. The one-year ambulance agreement from Union has been

received. Quarterly taxes have been paid. Interest rates from The First on the town checking account have increased to 0.40 from 0.30. The bank account with The First for broadband has been set up, but the TRIO account has not; the line of credit process is not yet complete.

Other Agenda Items: Tom made a motion to sign the ambulance agreement, Mitch seconded; all in favor, motion passes.

Mark Ouellette from Axiom Technologies updated Select Board members on the broadband project status. He has received approval from NTIA of the six-month budget as well as some initial funding to begin ordering materials.

Mark said there are concerns about staying within the budget because of materials cost increases. He is seeking another bid on the project from another Maine company and should know in a week or two which constructor bids lower.

Select Board members briefly discussed the 880 rules, which state municipalities are exempt from make-ready costs. Somerville and several other towns are challenging Consolidated Communications' make-ready costs. Mark said it is possible, to keep the process moving, to pay the costs under protest and seek reimbursement from Consolidated later. With a new process called one-touch make-ready, it is unclear who pays the make-ready costs (Axiom or the town).

As well, insurance costs were briefly discussed – Axiom's insurance will not be accepted by CMP or Consolidated so the town must provide its own liability, umbrella and workman's compensation insurances. Sara Bullard asked if the applications to CMP and Consolidated can move forward without the insurance settled and Mark said they cannot. Sara asked if ARPA money could be used for insurance and Mary said she would look into it.

Mitch asked about a few people on Route 220 toward Waldoboro who were excluded from the broadband application because they are considered served by Spectrum. Mark said it's still a problem – fiber can be run by the homes but the federal grant money can't be used to connect them.

A broadband informational meeting was tentatively set for Aug. 17.

Other business: Assessor's Agent Becky Adams presented options to Select Board members regarding the mil rate. Becky said a solar project is on her radar for next year, as it was not online as of April 1, 2022, and the rules remain unclear as far as state reimbursement. Tom made a motion to set the 2022 mil rate at .0156, Wes seconded; all in favor, motion passes.

Questions/comments: Logan Lattin expressed concerns about the ditching on Fitch Road. He owns two pieces of property and said the work is causing flooding of one of his properties. As well, Logan said the roadside clearing, in some areas, exceeded the allowable distance from the center line of the roadway.

Wes said he feels the ditching was done to maintain the culvert and catchbasin.

Logan asked if there is ever notification of ditching prior to the work and Tom said notification is not required. He noted oak trees shielding his backyard were also cut and wondered if there was any recourse. Tom said only if property value was decreased. In the meantime, Tom and Mitch will try to go to the properties to see for themselves. Tom said if Logan has a claim, he should submit it to the Town Office and it will be sent to the town attorney.

Mitch made a motion to adjourn, Tom seconded; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Grinnell