



Select Board /Assessors Meeting Summary

April 13, 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, Alewives Committee members Brian Alves and Charlotte Henderson, Washington Lakes and Watershed Association President Jeff Grinnell, Broadband Committee members Sara Bullard, Lee Shane, Valerie Jackson, and Misty and Will Darton, and resident Joan Tognacci.

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

Approve Summary of April 6, 2022: Motion to approve summary by Tom Johnston, Mitch Garnett seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Sign Treasurer's Warrants dated April 14, 2022:

P/R Warrant #30: \$4,631.52

A/P Vendor Warrant #31: \$5,925.72

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

4/4: Steven welded backhoe; David and Frank put up new street signs and fixed some of the ones that were knocked over

4/5: David had a doctor's appointment; fixed some of the sign holders for the top of the post; washed P300 and fixed flat tire

4/6: Took off plows and wings; took the sander out of P100; started to haul gravel to Old County Road for grading (70 yards)

4/7: Hauled gravel to Old County Road (98 yards)

4/8: Frank checked for washouts, had some water over the roads

4/9: Frank checked for washouts; there are some but can be fixed when grading

CEO Report: CEO/LPI Corey Fortin handed up an updated list of plumbing (3) and building (2) permits issued so far this year. He said he sent out letters last month to several property owners with an excessive number of vehicles and/or amount of junk, as well as Tim Jackson. Tim was at the Planning Board meeting the night before and wants to expand his junkyard with a 200-by-200-foot area for overflow or staging that will not be used for long-term storage.

Following up on letters sent, Corey met with Will Cassis regarding a property he owns at the corner of routes 220 and 105. There is a plan to install a fence to screen “keeper” vehicles. Another meeting – with Andrew Thompson – was postponed because of the weather. The remaining property owners who have not reached out to Corey will receive another violation notice.

Corey spoke with Colin Clark regarding the town’s Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, which has some issues that need to be resolved. Colin is expected to issue a conditional order to extend the review timeline, after Corey emails to request a hold on the review.

Otherwise, Corey has been taking calls and emails about new projects as well as conducting site visits and completing inspections. He’s been playing phone tag with town attorney Peter Drum regarding the ongoing Welzel case but is supposed to meet both at the property soon.

Tom said a property on Liberty Road that received a violation notice has closed the business and some of the vehicles have been removed. He asked Corey about another property on Augusta Road but Corey said that one is still in Peter Drum’s hands.

Health Officer Report: None

Town Clerk/Treasurer’s Report: Mary Anderson said paving bids went out Friday. The town received a BETE check for \$8 and a General Assistance reimbursement check for \$475.62. Seventy-two 30-day notices were mailed today. Mary has been in touch with Wendy Galvin regarding purchasing salt. Mary has hired Sarah Reynolds for the 13-hour-per-week deputy clerk position and she is expected to start working in the office at the end of April.

Peg Hobbs has declined to remain a member of the Budget Committee but Deb Bocko will accept the open position. Joan Tognacci has requested to be an alternate Budget Committee member.

Wes said he talked to Frank about purchasing salt and it was decided to purchase 1,000 tons.

Other Agenda Items: Brian and Charlotte spoke about a culvert on Calderwood Road and requested, if the culvert is to be replaced, that Select Board members consider replacing it with a larger-sized one to allow for safer alewife passage. Brian said the replacement is not critical or timely but a larger culvert would prevent washouts of the road, which would help not only alewives but residents as well. Several organizations, including Nature Conservancy and Maine Department of Marine Resources, may have funding available for the project but Brian said the committee request is for Select Board support to get the ball rolling with the state for replacing the culvert with a larger one.

Tom asked if the current culvert is deep enough in the stream for alewife passage and Brian said it is. Tom asked about another “blockage” upstream and Brian said there is a verbal agreement that he hopes will be in writing soon. Brian said he would return to the Select Board in a month once more information is gathered.

Broadband Committee Chair Sara Bullard spoke about the proposed contract between the town and Axiom Technologies. She had sent an email with information to consider, particularly a change to Axiom paying the town a flat amount of money versus a per-subscriber fee that was previously discussed. She urged Select Board members to get an application in to the Public Utilities Commission as soon as possible and Tom said he called the PUC the day before and that is in motion. Applications to CMP and Consolidated Communications also are ready to submit once the PUC application is approved.

Tom said he did not see a deposit included in the contract either, which had been discussed in the past. Axiom has collected \$99 per connection to gauge interest but its President Mark Ouellette has said there could be no deposit required.

Lee said she feels the flat rate paid to Washington in years 2 through 12 should be negotiable as part of the four-year review process. Select Board members agreed a flat-rate is mutually beneficial and to request negotiation as part of the four-year review process.

A nonrefundable deposit of \$25 per connection was ultimately decided upon, with the money being put into a town account (Axiom will collect the fees) to cover insurance of the system before its activated.

Several other questions came up as well and Sara urged Select Board members to meet with Mark via Zoom to discuss contract changes as soon as possible. She stepped out and called Mark to arrange a Zoom meeting the next day with Select Board approval.

Town attorney Peter Drum will be sent the contract to review before Select Board members sign it.

Joan Tognacci asked if a response has been received from David Allen at Maine DOT regarding the speed study in the village. Tom said he was told it was almost done months ago but he would check in. Joan and Tom also briefly talked about placement of the stop/yield signs.

Jeff Grinnell spoke about the Lakes Association effort, led by Kathleen Gross, to gain approval for a floating dock at the town's public landing. He asked for support from the Select Board to submit a pre-application inspection request. Jeff also asked Mary to look into insurance and how it might be impacted by adding a dock system. Tom made a motion to support the Lakes Association pre-application inspection, Mitch seconded; all in favor, motion passes. Jeff added the costs would be split 75/25 if the grant is approved, and he estimated the cost for the dock system at around \$5,000. Mitch asked if there is any news about stocking Washington Pond and Jeff said that's next on the agenda for the Lakes Association.

Other business: Wes said there is dog kennel at the Public Works facility that Frank would like to have. Select Board members agreed he could remove it.

Questions/comments: Wes noted the next meeting agenda should include the articles to be placed on the June referendum ballot and winter sand.

Motion to Adjourn by Mitch Garnett, Tom Johnston seconded; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Grinnell