



**Select Board /Assessors Meeting Summary
April 20, 2022
7 p.m.**

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

Others Present: Town Clerk/Treasurer Mary Anderson, Alewives Committee members Brian Alves and Charlotte Henderson

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

Approve Summary of April 13, 2022: Motion to approve summary by Tom Johnston, Mitch Garnett seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Sign Treasurer's Warrants dated April 21, 2022:

P/R Warrant #32: \$4,354.64

A/P Vendor Warrant #33: \$162,910.13

Wes noted the A/P warrant includes a school payment of more than \$148,000.

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

4/11: Steven and David hauled gravel to Old County Road and Frank graded the west end

4/12: Went to flagger class

4/13: Fixed culvert on Old County Road and ditched; fixed the backhoe fuel tank plug

4/14: Hauled gravel to the rest of Old County Road

4/15: Frank graded Old County Road

CEO Report: None

Health Officer Report: None

Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report: Mary Anderson said the town received a General Assistance reimbursement check for \$251.93 for January expenditures. The checking account balance is \$190,496. Mary spoke with Jake at The First about a line of credit that'll be needed for cash flow purposes during construction of the town-wide broadband system. Jake suggested, because of the amount -- \$300,000 -- the town needs to retain bond counsel. Town Attorney Peter Drum confirmed that he is capable and willing to be bond counsel for Washington. Jake also said separate checking and savings accounts for broadband would be prudent. Mary checked with Mark Ouellette of Axiom Technologies about how money will be transferred to the town -- for example, during the pole licensing process, Washington will pay CMP and Consolidated Communications (from the line of credit), so she asked Mark how long it will

take for Axiom to reimburse the town using grant money. Mary also asked if the grant will pay for interest accrued on the line of credit.

Wes said bond counsel could cost around \$2,500. Mary said she will also ask Mark if the grant will cover that cost. Mitch said Mark should be able to share information about any attorney fees included in the grant and noted Mark told Select Board members last week that he could also send the project budget. He requested Mary remind Mark to do so.

Other Agenda Items: Select Board members talked briefly about the June referendum articles pertaining to Land Use Ordinance changes. Wes made a motion to scrap one change (permits for less than 240 square foot buildings and accessory structures), Mitch seconded; all in favor, motion passes.

Tom asked if the town should vote on the broadband line of credit in June. It was decided in favor and wording will be prepared for the next meeting. Mary later asked for clarification about moving forward with the line of credit and setting up separate accounts. Tom said voters have given permission to partner with Axiom but not to spend money. Mary urged Select Board members to include an explanation of the request so voters know it will be paid back by the grant. She said there needs to be a public hearing in May before the June vote. Tom suggested May 18 or May 25 and Select Board members decided on May 25, at 7 p.m. with the Select Board meeting taking place beforehand at 6:30.

Other business: Brian Alves said he was mistaken the week before when speaking about a culvert that would allow safe alewife passage – the culvert is located on Sprague Road (not Calderwood Road). He said the Sprague Road culvert is smooth and shallow and a study has determined a 25 percent loss of alewives at that spot. As a side note, he said there are positive negotiations regarding an upstream dam that could lead to a possible purchase.

Brian said he is not sure if the Sprague Road culvert has ever washed out; Frank said it has not. Brian said the culvert is considered undersized because it doesn't follow the natural banks of the stream, which backs water up behind the narrower culvert space.

There are grants available to replace the culvert and funding options to cover the town share of costs, Brian said. The grant application opens in August and closes in November, with grants awarded in February 2023. In the meantime, a lot of data needs to be collected for the application.

Tom said he feels the Calderwood Road culvert is more of a priority to replace, as the Sprague Road culvert was redone a few years ago. He cited a range of costs for culvert replacement, but Brian noted the "StreamSmart" design being considered costs less. Frank said an arch-style culvert has a wider footprint and on Sprague Road, that would mean extending onto people's property. Tom agreed the entire corner would have to be redesigned.

Tom suggested engineering the project, including costs, before applying for any grants. Mitch asked if Calderwood Road should be included with Sprague Road's grant application but Brian said he would be concerned that would be throwing too much into the application.

Brian said he would go back to his group to see about making the project(s) more cost effective for the town.

Tom made a motion to sign the broadband contract with Axiom Technologies. Mitch asked if all the requested changes had been made and Tom said the changes were there. Mitch seconded the motion; all in favor, motion passes. Mary said she would get the signed contract to Mark the next day to sign.

Wes said requested changes also were made to the Ambulance Service Advisory Board document provided by Union Town Manager Jay Feyler and it has been approved by Union's Select Board. There is nothing to sign, but Wes said Washington's two members and one alternate can be appointed at the next meeting. Tom said the only potential issue is that in future years, the ambulance budget won't be ready in time for Washington's town meeting in March so it may have to be on the June ballot. Wes said he would check with Jay about the timing. Tom also requested a new contract with the ambulance service that includes the cost and dates.

Questions/comments: None.

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

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Grinnell