



## Select Board /Assessors Meeting Summary

April 6, 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 meeting to order at 7 p.m.

**Approve Summary of March 30, 2022:** Motion to approve summary by Tom Johnston, Mitch Garnett seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

**Sign Treasurer's Warrants dated April 7, 2022:**

P/R Warrant #28: \$5,579.16

A/P Vendor Warrant #29: \$5,228.17

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

3/28: Checked dirt roads for mud spots; started to rebuild backhoe bucket

3/29: Worked on cutting out bucket and making new plate for it

3/30: Worked on bucket; marked Albert Jones Road turnaround with Wes; patched more mud holes

3/31: Made patches for corner of bucket and Steven welded on bucket; Frank had doctor's appointment

**CEO Report:** None

**Health Officer Report:** None

**Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report:** Mary said the TRIO issue that prevented updating the budget has been fixed.

Rebecca, an attorney for MMA, got back to Mary about a 5-acre property owned by three siblings that the town foreclosed upon and said the foreclosure should not move forward. Rebecca said the town could foreclose on one-third of the property if it wished to do so but she does not recommend that course of action. Instead, Rebecca recommended a single tax bill with all three owners' names going forward. Assessor's Agent Becky Adams is aware of the situation and concurs with a single bill.

Mary asked for permission to increase the 13-hour-per-week deputy clerk position to \$16 per hour from \$15.32. Select Board members agreed the increase is warranted.

Positions that expire on May 1, 2022, are being advertised and Stephanie reached out to current board/committee members via email.

Letters of interest have been received for the Broadband Committee from five already-sworn-in members: Sara Bullard, Misty Darton, Will Darton, Lee Shane and Valerie Jackson.

Mary will meet via Zoom with Jamie from The First about the Simple IRA plan tomorrow afternoon at 2 p.m.

Juneteenth has been added to the personnel policy as a staff holiday.

On the recommendation of Rebecca from MMA, Mary provided an updated 906 policy for Select Board members to sign. The policy allows tax payments to be used toward the oldest balance due first.

Mary has ordered a commercial bucket and mop for the town garage.

She continues to work on the town meeting summary. There is an Appeals Board/Planning Board training coming up and Mary reached out to one new Appeals Board member, who will not be able to attend.

The checking account balance is \$333,855.

Mary asked how Select Board members would like to proceed with the Land Use Ordinance changes. At town meeting, residents decided in favor of placing the changes on the June ballot. Tom said he thinks the two changes proposed by the Planning Board should move forward and the other two changes should be dropped – he said he changed his mind after hearing some questions posed by Norman Casas just prior to the meeting. Tom said he also thinks a definition of a temporary structure is needed. Mary noted Planning Board Chairman Steve Ocean would probably come to the Select Board after the next Planning Board meeting.

Mitch asked if Becky Adams has any new information about taxing solar arrays. Mary said there is nothing concrete as far as rules.

Tom asked about a truck payment of \$600. Mary said she would look but she thought it was a returned check. Later, Mary confirmed it was a returned check; Tom pointed out it was deposited into the incorrect account, Mary will correct in TRIO.

**Other Agenda Items:** Paving Bids. Tom asked for a deadline date for bids for McDowell Road from Liberty Road (Route 220) to Bill Luce Road; Wes suggested May 15. Tom said it should be a Tuesday so bids can be reviewed Wednesday evening at a regular meeting – the two closest dates are May 10 and May 17. Bids will be due May 17, and opened May 18 at the regular Select Board meeting at 7 p.m. Tom asked about the standards for McDowell Road and asked if the wording should be “equal to existing” and if bids should be by tonnage. Select Board members agreed to both. Paving must be complete by Oct. 1, with a proposed start date no earlier than June 15. Select Board members decided not to have a pre-bid conference. Tom said bid packages will be sent to: Wellman Paving, Pike, Northeast Paving, Hagar, All States Asphalt, FC Work, Crooker, P&B Paving and Vaughn Thibodeau.

Mitch asked about winter sand. Wes said he talked to Frank, who has talked to Greg Boynton already and will talk to Nathan Northrup. Wes said the process Greg uses results in two by-products: inch-minus and large stone; Greg is interested in purchasing the large stone (subtracting the cost from his bill) but has not named a price. Tom asked if there is large stone available for town use already and Wes confirmed there is. Tom asked if there are any other options. Wes said there is another, but that person typically isn't available until November. Mitch said it should be done sooner. Wes said by July.

Select Board members signed the March bank statement.

Mitch asked if he could join Mary for the Simple IRA Zoom meeting and Mary said he was welcome to do so.

Wes said Union Town Manager Jay Feyler sent a new draft of the Ambulance Advisory Board that increases Washington and Appleton's membership numbers to two members and one alternate. The proposal will go to the Union Select Board on Tuesday. Mitch asked about Appleton's status. Wes said Appleton is locked in because it did not opt out in time.

Select Board members signed the updated Personnel Policy (Covid-19 sick pay update and Juneteenth holiday addition).

Reginald Burns expressed interest in a vacant Appeals Board alternate position and Select Board members approved his appointment following a motion by Wes and second from Tom.

Select Board members talked briefly about the Broadband Committee. Members chosen are already on the Broadband Committee indefinitely. Tom asked if it should be a reappointment because he thought the former committee needed to be terminated and a new one created. Mary said the other six members of the Broadband Committee did not express interest in continuing with the process so they are considered expired and removed as members of the committee. Mitch said he thought the town meeting article established a new Broadband Committee. Mary pointed out that the Broadband Committee formed in 2020 did not have an established mission or end game. Mitch agreed there is a need for a long-term Broadband Committee. Tom said there is a lot to do in the next two years. Mary asked if Select Board members wished to have new appointment papers or if they are comfortable with the ones already signed. Mitch asked what the 2020 committee was called; it is the Broadband Committee. Tom said he was fine with leaving terms indefinite, and as members tire of the work, they will leave. Mary said she expects the Broadband Committee to regularly report to the Select Board and noted that Tom is one of the expired members and asked if he was OK with that. Tom said it was fine, if he decided to go to a meeting it would be as an observing Select Board member.

Select Board members signed the 906 policy.

**Other business:** Wes said an email about a bridge inspection on Youngs Hill Road culvert has been received but can be discussed at a later date once an official notification letter is received. The culvert belongs to the town and falls to the town to repair. Mitch said it looked to him like the issue lies in one of the joints.

Mary asked if Tom would get the paving bid packages to us for mailing and Tom said he would.

Wes said he has found out how close a road to winter maintenance simply by filling out a form and hosting a public hearing before making a final decision.

**Questions/comments:** None.

**Motion to Adjourn** by Mitch Garnett, Tom Johnston seconded; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Grinnell