



Select Board /Assessors Meeting Summary
December 28, 2022
6:30 p.m.

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

Others Present: Town Clerk Mary Anderson, EMA Director Don Grinnell

Wes Daniel called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approve Summary of Dec. 21, 2022: Motion to approve summary by Tom Johnston, Mitch Garnett seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Sign Treasurer's Warrants dated Dec. 29, 2022:

P/R Warrant #108: \$9,213.13

A/P Warrant #109: \$8,954.08

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

12/18: Called out to sand

12/19: Replaced cutting edge on P600 wing and worked on P300; fixed fan relay on P600; plow is cracked again, Frank called

12/20: Replaced cutting edge of P500; plowed and fixed headlights; sanded dirt roads

12/21: Jonathan out sick; Frank and Steven made holes in snowbanks so water can get off the roads; checked culverts

12/22: Checked saws and tire chains; got trucks ready to go; pushed back snowbanks so water can get off the roads; called out to sand for icy spots

12/23: Called out for downed trees; called out to sand; fixed washouts

12/24: Fixed washouts and moved downed trees

CEO Report: None.

Health Officer report: None

Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report: Town Clerk Mary Anderson informed Select Board members that CEO Corey Fortin was home with a sore throat. The town received three state checks last week: General Assistance reimbursement of \$216.09, Revenue Share check of \$18,265.17, and a BETE reimbursement check of \$75,106.00. The checking account balance is \$1,013,203. Mary ordered a coffee dispenser requested last week by EMA Director Don Grinnell.

Mary asked Tom to speak about his recent conversation with Mark Ouellette of Axiom Technologies and said she thinks another meeting should be called to discuss the Broadband Project. Mitch sent along the pole attachment agreement to Mark and Mark recommended not signing it until it is clear where Somerville stands in its fight against the \$5 million insurance costs – Mary pointed out Mark has all along told Washington to keep its head down and move forward without fighting as Somerville has. Tom said if Somerville wins its fight, it will benefit Washington. Mary said she agrees with saving money if possible, but takes issue with Mark not keeping the town up to date on his plans when Washington has bent over backwards to secure everything Axiom, CMP and CCI have requested as part of the process. If Mark wished for Washington and Isle Au Haut to fight as well, it should have been coordinated from the beginning, she said. Tom said he wants to check back on emails from attorney Peter Drum about the Maine Claims Tort Act because Peter said it would not cover Washington but Somerville’s attorney holds the opposite opinion. Somerville’s leading force, Chris Johnson, has shared that information, but doesn’t have it in writing, Mary said. As well, Marcus at MMA declined to discuss another town’s plans when Mary asked about Somerville.

Tom said part of his discussion with Mark was about one-touch make-ready and how it might affect the project budget. Mark told Tom he is concerned about the rising costs of materials but Hawkeye Construction has agreed to come down \$50,000 and Mark will reduce management costs by \$30,000 for an extra \$80,000 in the budget.

Mary requested that Tom communicate with Mark in writing rather than by his preferred method of phone calls going forward.

Last week, Mary also emailed Mark to ask about money the town paid in the spring for broadband planning because he never submitted a planning report. Mark told Mary he must have done the work because it was included in the grant application and he thought he sent it, but since he did not send it, he will “put something together” for the town. Tom said Mark must have submitted something if he’s been paid.

Other Agenda Items: Select Board members signed a letter to Union Town Manager Jay Feyler stating the budget vote for Union Ambulance service will be moved to June rather than during the annual Town Meeting in March. The contract with the ambulance service will continue to run July to June.

Other business: Wes asked for confirmation of the pay rate for on-call Public Works employees. The rate was recently increased to \$20/hour from \$17.

Questions/comments: EMA Director Don Grinnell said he needs information for Form 7 by noon on Tuesday – the form reports storm damages, Public Works hours and truck hours. The information can be an estimate. Wes said he would ask Frank to meet with Don on Friday to go over the numbers.

Don also would like to be on the agenda next week for the updated Emergency Operations Plan.

Mitch suggested including Broadband on the agenda each week so everyone is updated with the same information.

Wes suggested starting at 6 p.m. on budget talks again next week, with the Select Board meeting to begin at 7 p.m. Mary will send updated documents to Budget Committee members after she closes the books for the end of the year; the next Budget Committee meeting is Jan. 11.

Don let Select Board members know he and Mary had a plan to send out a town-wide alert message if the warming center opened during the storm/power outages but power was restored to the majority of town before the center planned to open.

Mitch made a motion to adjourn, Tom seconded; meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Grinnell