



## Select Board /Assessors Meeting Summary

Aug. 2, 2023

7 p.m.

**Select Board members present:** Wesley Daniel, Mitchell Garnett and Katherine Grinnell

**Others present:** Town Clerk Mary Anderson, Code Enforcement Officer Corey Fortin, residents Corey Belcher and Carrie Burrige, and area business owner Robert Gagnon

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

**Approve Summary of July 26, 2023:** Motion to approve summary by Mitch, Kate seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

### **Sign Treasurer's Warrants dated Aug. 3, 2023:**

P/R Warrant #61: \$7,883.19

A/P Warrant #62: \$8,925.21

Motion to approve warrants by Kate, Mitch seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

### **Road Foreman Report:** Written by Frank Jones Jr. and read by Wes

7/24: Ditched on Mountain Road; cut brush (64 yards surface gravel)

7/25: Finished ditching for FEMA; started cleaning the ditch (56 yards surface gravel)

7/26: Ditched on Lenfest Road and cut brush; Steven and Jonathan hauled gravel to Mountain Road (144 yards)

7/27: Steven and Jonathan hauled gravel to Mountain Road (160 yards); Frank took a vacation day

**CEO Report:** Corey issued two internal plumbing permits and a replacement septic permit and have completed a few inspections. He continues to work on pit inspections. Corey noted that George Hall's people reached out to say they did not receive a pit inspection letter; Corey scanned his copy of the one sent by mail several weeks ago and emailed it.

**Health Officer Report:** None.

**Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report:** The town received a Veterans Exemption reimbursement check for \$1,588 and a Renewable Energy reimbursement check for \$20. Consolidated Communications has been sold to a Canadian company. There is a new process for LRAP (Local Roads Assistance Program) that is electronic; the application is due Nov. 1. Property taxes for 2023 were committed yesterday by Becky and Mary; Select Board members signed the certificate of assessment. More make-ready bills totaling \$46,946.60 from Consolidated have been received; Axiom will send payment to the town. Matt Streeter

with Maine Rivers conducted a stream survey of Calderwood Road today. Mary is taking time off: Thursday, Friday and Monday. A letter outlining unserved areas of Washington for the broadband project was signed by Select Board members and will be sent to Maine Connectivity – the organization is trying to get funding for the handful of homes excluded.

**Broadband update:** None.

**Other Agenda Items:** Robert Gagnon, owner of Elevation Station in Jefferson, asked Select Board members about the feasibility of medical marijuana retail stores in town. The current ordinance does not specifically state anything about medical marijuana. Robert plans to purchase 32 Augusta Road and open a medical retail location there but needs clarity on the town ordinance, or for the town to opt-in to medical retail sales.

Corey asked town attorney Peter Drum via text message for an interpretation of Washington's ordinance and Peter indicated by text that anywhere adult-use/recreational retail is allowed, medical retail would also be allowed. Robert said his licensing requires ordinances to specifically state that medical retail is allowed; however, he said there is a form from the Office of Cannabis Policy that could be signed by Select Board members as an alternative. The town has an ordinance titled Adult Use Marijuana Ordinance, and Robert asked how that came about. Kate said it was adopted at town meeting by voters. Select Board members agreed to check in with Peter for clarification on the intent of the ordinance. If changes are needed, it will take several months and another town meeting vote. Mitch suggested that Robert check in with the town office regularly for updates.

**Other business:** Wes noted that Select Board members met with EMA Director Don Grinnell on Tuesday morning and that meeting was followed by another with Frank and truck salesmen. Select Board members locked in a price for a new plow truck – with delivery at least two years away – but did not commit to the purchase at this time.

**Questions/comments:** Albert Jones Road resident Corey Belcher spoke about possible Public Works markings on the road that appear to indicate he would lose driveway width and undermine a tree. As well, internet lines to his house could be impacted by digging in the marked areas, Corey B. said. He asked Select Board members to assure him if his internet is damaged, the town will take responsibility.

Wes and Kate both said the markings show where not to dig. Wes added if the internet line is damaged, it would be fixed. Corey B. also thought additional areas of runoff might be created. Wes suggested Corey B. work with Frank and himself to address the concerns about digging and potential runoff.

The work being done is part of regular roads maintenance, Wes said. If Corey B. prefers to conduct his own maintenance, there is the option for Albert Jones Roads to be closed if there's a town vote to do so.

Communication will be key moving forward, Mitch said, so road residents and the town both are satisfied with the outcome.

In other business, Corey F. requested that his cell number no longer be given out to residents and that calls instead be routed through the town office. He's been receiving calls anywhere from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. from people expecting him to drop everything. Mary said she, Stephanie and Sarah also talked about how to work with Corey on scheduling appointments on Wednesdays. Kate agreed that Corey F. should set limits on his availability. Corey F. has agreed to check emails through the week and come to the office on a regular basis. His business cards and the town website will be updated to reflect the change in procedure. Kate suggested the procedure be reevaluated in a couple of months.

Kate made a motion to adjourn, Mitch seconded; meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Grinnell