



Select Board /Assessors Meeting Summary

January 11, 2023

6:30 p.m.

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

Others Present: Town Clerk Mary Anderson, CEO Corey Fortin, Budget Committee members Dave Williams, Kathy Ocean and Don Grinnell

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

Approve Summary of Jan. 4, 2023: Motion to approve summary by Tom Johnston, Mitch Garnett seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Sign Treasurer's Warrants dated Jan. 12, 2023:

P/R Warrant #3: \$7,715.09

A/P Warrant #4: \$7,162.14

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

Jan. 2: Holiday

Jan. 3: Chipped brush on Youngs Hill, Mountain, Lenfest, Old County, Fitch and Hopkins roads.

Jan. 4: Chipped brush on Vanner, Calderwood, Leigher, Sprague, Skidmore and McDowell roads – brush was from trees downed Dec. 23.

Jan. 5: Called in the guys to help sand for ice (both morning and evening)

Jan. 6: Checked roads for ice; mixed up sand; Frank called the guys in

Jan. 7: Checked roads, Frank had to slush some of them

CEO Report: CEO Corey Fortin has completed a number of plumbing inspections in the past week. The Planning Board met the prior evening to discuss pre-applications from CMP and ScrapDogs. Corey said he, and possibly some Planning Board members, will do a site visit to the CMP project – access to the area is challenging. Initially, the Planning Board gave ScrapDogs the go-ahead without having to apply for a site plan review as commercial agriculture is allowed under the Land Use Ordinance “by right”; however, upon investigating further, Corey found a definition in the sludge ordinance that indicates a site plan review may be needed. He is working with Chair Steve Ocean to make a final determination on whether to bring the application back to the Planning Board.

Health Officer report: None

Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report: Town Clerk Mary Anderson has completed the quarterly tax collection report. The checking account balance is \$815,489.

Kate Grinnell has taken out papers for Select Board and Mary spoke by phone with someone interested in school board.

Mileage reimbursement has increased. Mary will complete W2s and 1099s this weekend.

Broadband update: Mary asked for the OK for Sara Bullard to submit a list of questions to Axiom's Mark Ouellette and it was given. Tom asked if Mark would answer the questions in person; Mary said she would ask after answers are received via email if Select Board members want to speak to Mark in person. Mitch said he called Mark and left a message Tuesday but hasn't heard back yet.

Other Agenda Items: Following a motion by Tom and second by Mitch, Select Board members signed the updated Emergency Operations Plan.

Lynn Carroll gave an overview of the cloud backup system she recommends and why it would be a faster recovery time than the current backups. She said the current system could be corrupted by ransomware without anyone knowing but the cloud-based system scans for ransomware and removes it. The monthly cost is around \$115 with a three-year commitment.

At the Select Board members' request, Deputy Clerk Sarah Reynolds checked with neighboring towns to see what those towns use for backing up town information. The information was given the Select Board members prior to the meeting.

Wes made a motion to go ahead with the cloud-based storage, Mitch seconded; all in favor, motion carries. (Funding was approved last week in the amount of \$1,400 per year.)

Other business: Tom said he spoke again with Landis at Maine Rivers and confirmed Washington will not apply for any grants this year. He said he believes that any money spent upfront can't be used as part of the grant match if the town applies next year but Landis also is looking into that. Should the Calderwood Road culvert fail before the Spring 2024 grant process, it would be replaced on an emergency basis.

Wes said a man with a heavy equipment trailer for sale will bring it by Public Works on Friday. He asked for authorization to purchase the trailer if it is what the town needs. Tom made a motion to purchase the trailer if it meets expectations, Mitch seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Questions/comments: Don Grinnell said FEMA representatives will be in Washington tomorrow (Thursday). Don will call Wes and Frank when they are on the way; the representatives want to assess the worst washouts and downed trees from the Dec. 23 and 24 storm.

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

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Grinnell

Chairman Don Grinnell called the Budget Committee meeting to order at 7 p.m. Budget Committee members present were Dave Williams, Jesse Casas, Kathy Ocean, Wendy Carr, Deb Bocko, Sean Donaghy (alternate) and Dave Martucci. Also present were Select Board members Wes Daniel, Tom Johnston and Mitch Garnett; and Town Clerk Mary Anderson.

Don opened the meeting by going over the document types and process used by the Budget Committee. Dave W. asked about the bottom line percentage change and Tom said it's roughly a 5 percent decrease overall, mostly because of projected higher state revenue sharing.

The yearly assessments were briefly discussed, as there are few changes the Budget Committee and Select Board can affect. Wes noted the vote on the ambulance service will be moved to June and be voted on at the same time as the school budget. Jesse spoke about the advisory committee for the ambulance service and said the cost will increase this year but said he doesn't know what the increase will be yet.

Select Board members have not yet made a recommendation for legal fees in the budget but Tom said expect it to be at least \$10,000. The town currently has paid all outstanding legal bills from town attorney Peter Drum. Kathy made a motion to budget \$10,000 for legal fees, Dave M. seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Mary spoke about the increases in the Office Administration line – the largest jump being the cost of TRIO (computer program used for all counter transactions), which has increased as it does each year. Dave M. made a motion that was seconded by Jesse to approve the Select Board recommendation of \$54,684 for office administration.

Dave M. made a motion to approve \$172,800 for salaries and stipends as recommended by Select Board members, Wendy seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

After some discussion, Dave W. made a motion to decrease by \$5,000 the line for truck fuel under Maintenance of Town Roads, Jesse seconded. Following more discussion, the Budget Committee voted 5 in favor of the motion and 1 opposed (one member did not vote).

For the overall area of the budget, Dave W. made a motion and Jesse seconded to recommend the amount of \$413,624 for Maintenance of Town Roads. It was approved unanimously.

Paving is part of the Maintenance of Town Road but is listed separately on the budget worksheet. Budget Committee members requested the wording on the town meeting Warrant include all of the funding sources for paving under one article. Dave M. made a motion to recommend raising and appropriating \$200,000 for paving, his motion was seconded by Dave W. and approved unanimously. A

total of \$450,000 will be set aside for paving – the remaining \$250,000 will come from Road Maintenance Reserves.

Budget Committee members unanimously recommended \$4,000 for General Assistance (motion by Dave W., second by Dave M. and Jesse); \$84,065 for Public Safety (motion by Dave M., second by Jesse); and \$58,300 for Utilities and Building Maintenance (motion by Jesse, second by Dave M.); and \$600 for Boards and Committees (motion by Dave W., second by Dave M.).

There was some additional discussion of other budget lines but no votes were taken. The next Budget Committee meeting will be Feb. 1 at 7 p.m.

Dave M. made a motion to adjourn, Jesse seconded. Budget Committee meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.