



## Select Board /Assessors Meeting Summary

February 8, 2023

7 p.m.

Select Board members entered executive session per 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6)(A) to discuss a personnel matter at 6:30 p.m. and exited executive session at 6:55 p.m.

**Select Board members present:** Wesley Daniel, Thomas Johnston and Mitchell Garnett

**Others Present:** Town Clerk Mary Anderson, Code Enforcement Officer Corey Fortin, Broadband Committee Chair Sara Bullard, resident Donald Grinnell

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

**Approve Summary of Feb. 1, 2023:** Motion to approve summary by Tom Johnston, Mitch Garnett seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

**Sign Treasurer's Warrants dated Feb. 9, 2023:**

P/R Warrant #11: \$5,824.71

A/P Warrant #12: \$11,443.84

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. 29: Frank put in salt and mixed up sand before the rain

Jan. 30: Took day off as replacement holiday (Martin Luther King Jr Day)

Jan. 31: Frank called guys in to plow, washed off trucks

Feb. 1: Sanded dirt roads for ice; moved snow from the Town Office, Monument and Grange, took some snow back to the pit

Feb. 2: Worked on P200 bed chain – had to shorten it; Jonathan picked up seat for P200

**CEO Report:** This afternoon, CEO Corey Fortin submitted his write-up for the annual town report. Regarding a request to exceed tree-cutting limits in the shoreland zone, Corey and town attorney Peter Drum agreed if the cutting takes place, it will be a violation of town ordinance; however, the request has since been withdrawn.

A site visit for an upcoming public hearing on a CMP line expansion has been completed.

The owner of PBNJ Storage reached out to Corey after receiving a violation notice about the number of storage units onsite. Corey said he seemed agreeable to a proposed consent agreement and amending the site plan for the business with the Planning Board to store the units at least 50 feet back from the centerline of Route 17.

Planning Board has been very busy: There is a public hearing for CMP's project scheduled for Tuesday and upcoming meetings will address a preapplication for an event center on West Washington Road, a housing project proposal on Route 17 near Valley Road, composting business ScrapDogs and PBNJ.

Mitch asked if Corey had any new information about subdivisions, as it seems there are several lots in town being sold as such. Corey said he spoke with Ron Jackson today, and told him if he divides his lot again, it will be considered a subdivision. Ron asked if he could sell it and if the buyer could then divide it. Another landowner contacted Corey, and after some deed research, determining that owner would have to go to Planning Board.

**Health Officer Report:** None

**Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report:** The Town Office received a donated filing cabinet from Gibbs Library.

The checking account balance is \$640,462.

Town Clerk Mary Anderson shared her concerns about including a couple of articles on the annual town meeting warrant regarding broadband insurance. She said she feels residents might be disheartened to be asked for money for the project that's been presented as one with no cost to the town. As well, the cost could change and Mary said she would rather have a special town meeting if needed when there is more information. Tom said he prefers the issue to be presented at the annual town meeting rather than a special town meeting.

Mary said she continues to work on the town report, submitting items to the printer.

Wes asked Tom to put the revaluation rollover account on its own in the warrant, as it is a new request for money.

**Broadband update:** Broadband Committee Chair Sara Bullard said she agrees with Mary's suggestion to exclude any broadband funding requests from the annual town meeting warrant.

There will be an informational meeting March 15 about the broadband project with Axiom's Mark Ouellette and Lisa Leahey, representatives of Hawkeye Construction and Tilson, and ConnectMaine Authority's Kendra-Jo Grindle. Sara said the meeting will allow for an update on the project in advance of the annual town meeting. Another meeting is being planned for August that will be more festive and will notify people how to sign up for the service, which is currently projected to be completed in April 2024. The March 15 meeting will take place at 6 p.m. in the Bryant Room and will be streamed via Zoom. Sara said she has asked the broadband people to submit some information in advance and she would like to limit their speaking time to five minutes.

Sara will send an email update that will also let people know about the March meeting. She asked if she could include the chart recently sent by Axiom but Mitch requested the chart include Axiom's logo so it does not appear the town created the timeline chart.

National Digital Equity Center will help with the affordable connectivity program and classes; Sara continues to work with NDEC on those options.

There was some discussion about the August meeting and if it should be a weeknight or weekend day. Don suggested Axiom take the reigns of the event as much as possible and something like a bounce house for kids would draw more residents. Sara and Mary will look into town events in August to prevent as many conflicts as possible.

**Other Agenda Items:** Select Board members signed the November and December bank statements.

Wes made a motion to appoint the following ballot clerks through Dec. 31, 2024, Mitch seconded; all in favor, motion carries:

Mary Anderson, Cathy Blake, Sara Bullard, Elizabeth Grinnell, Katherine Grinnell, Stephanie Grinnell, Denise Hylton, Deborah Johnston, Clayton Lanphier, Marla Lanphier, Linda Luce, Mildred Melgard, Jacquelyn Metcalf, Kathleen Ocean, Sarah Reynolds, Deborah RoyRoberts, Lee Shane and Joan Tognacci.

**Other business:** Don Grinnell spoke about the Union Ambulance Service and the general state of emergency medical services in Maine. The consultant working with Union Ambulance, Kevin McGinnis, will present his findings Monday and can be available to present Wednesday in Washington. He stressed it will not take the place of any future informational meetings. Wes suggested that portion of the meeting begin at 6 p.m.; Jesse Casas will inform Kevin and Mary will let Budget Committee members know.

**Questions/comments:** None.

Mitch made a motion to adjourn, Wes seconded; meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Grinnell