



## Select Board /Assessors Meeting Summary

March 1, 2023

6:30 p.m.

**Select Board members present:** Thomas Johnston and Mitchell Garnett

**Others Present:** Recreation Committee member Peg Hobbs

Tom Johnston called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

**Approve Summary of Feb. 22, 2023:** Motion to approve summary by Mitch Garnett, Tom Johnston seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

**Sign Treasurer's Warrants dated March 2, 2023:**

P/R Warrant #17: \$8,162.89

A/P Warrant #18: \$5,553.70

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

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

2/20: Holiday: Presidents' Day

2/21: Jonathan and Frank worked on P100; Frank called Travis to help replace fan belt and worked on adjusting the clutch

2/22: Checked trucks and fueled them; worked on plows

2/23: Frank called in Jonathan, Ricky and Jason to plow

2/24: Frank called in Jonathan, Ricky and Jason to plow

2/25: Replaced headlight switch on P500; mixed up sand and fueled loader

**CEO Report:** None

**Health Officer Report:** None.

**Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report:** Jake from The First emailed to advise the interest rate has risen to 3.75 percent. Prescott School has OK'd use of the gym for Town Meeting on Saturday, March 25; setup will be March 24 at 6 p.m. Select Board members and Town Clerk Mary Anderson met with the auditors on Monday and it went well. The auditors will return sometime next week with a written report and to make final adjustments.

**Broadband update:** None.

**Other Agenda Items:** Peg spoke on behalf of the Lakes Association, which will post signs about invasive plants and snails at Crystal Lake and Washington Pond. A state sign will be used at Crystal and a specially designed sign about Chinese mystery snails have been created for Washington Pond but a size hasn't been decided yet. Peg will check with Wes about the sign company the town uses before ordering.

Speaking for the Recreation Committee, Peg said there is a five-year project in the works to create hiking and biking trails in town but she needs to know if the committee is allowed to raise money and if a separate account can be set up

for the funds. Several possible locations for trails were discussed, including town-owned property, existing snowmobile trails, discontinued roads and gravel pits. Mary will check with Maine Municipal Association and/or attorney Peter Drum about Peg's questions. In general, Tom and Mitch support the effort and Peg will return later in March to discuss further.

**Other business:** Select Board members signed a letter seeking to collect Personal Property taxes that are past due.

**Questions/comments:** None.

The meeting was recessed until Budget Committee convened at 7 p.m.

Budget Committee members present: Chair Donald Grinnell, Deborah Bocko, Kathleen Ocean, Sean Donaghy (alternate), Wendy Carr, Joan Tognacci (alternate) and David Williams (by phone).

Other present: Select Board members Thomas Johnston and Mitchell Garnett, and Town Clerk Mary Anderson.

Don called the Budget Committee meeting to order just after 7 p.m. and asked Tom to give an overview of the audit and any budget changes. Tom said the audit went well and it was suggested that additional revenue sharing funds be spent this year, which will allow for about a half million in the Road Maintenance Reserve Account to be spent on paving and leave \$200,000 in the account for any other emergencies. Auditors also recommended to Select Board members an increase in the pay of town office staff. Tom said he and Mitch determined an additional dollar per hour was warranted and he updated the budget worksheet to reflect the changes.

The bottom line, Tom noted, including the ambulance but not the school, the budget is down 4.4 percent for municipal and county. School budget numbers are not yet available. The planned excavator purchase will offset those budget savings, Tom said. The budget remains under the LD1 cap, Tom said.

Budget Committee members went through the budget worksheet in full to reaffirm the numbers and made no additional changes. Dave Williams made a motion to adjourn at 7:24 p.m., Wendy Carr seconded; all in favor, Budget Committee adjourned.

Tom made a motion to accept the warrant as written, Mitch seconded; all in favor, warrant approved and signed (Mary will take the warrant to Wes to sign Thursday).

Mitch made a motion to adjourn, Tom seconded; meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Grinnell