



Select Board /Assessors Meeting Summary

May 3, 2023

7 p.m.

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

Others present: Town Clerk Mary Anderson, EMA Director Donald Grinnell, Road Foreman Frank Jones Jr.; and Maine Rivers' Landis Hudson and Matt Streeter

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

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

Sign Treasurer's Warrants dated May 4, 2023:

P/R Warrant #35: \$7,306.32

A/P Warrant #36: \$13,459.27

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

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

4/24: Worked on the trailer, had to replace two tires; started to take off plow gear

4/25: Took the rest of the plow gear off; Travis Kilbreth came to work on P200 fan, needs a new fan hub (estimated cost \$1,900)

4/26: Put up signs at the lakes, five posts and signs (requested by Knox County Sheriff's Office); screened gravel the rest of the day

4/27: Greased P600 and P100, worked on making plow parts

CEO Report: None.

Health Officer Report: None.

Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report: Performance Paving sent its certificate of liability insurance.

Axiom's Mark Ouellette said ride-outs have begun and will take a few weeks to finish.

There have been some complaints that during meetings, the window shades aren't blocking enough light. Mary checked with the library to see if the cost of new shades could be split (estimated around \$200 each) and the board agreed to share the cost. Wes made a motion to approve the purchase, Kate seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

There will be an informational meeting about the Union Ambulance budget on Wednesday, May 31, at 6:30 p.m. at Union Town Office. Mary checked with MMA to confirm absentee ballots can be issued in advance of the meeting and MMA advised it is the voter's choice. She expects school budget ballots to be available the day after the public hearing, which is Tuesday, May 16, at 6 p.m. at Medomak Valley High School.

Wes and Mary will meet with Jake Miller from The First to sign the loan paperwork for the excavator; Mary said it can be picked up next Thursday.

Carolyn Yetto with Kofile, the records preservation company used by the town, stopped by the office and will begin preservation of marriage records from 1978 to 1997. The estimated cost, which is available in the budget, is \$5,900.

Mary faxed the new Town-owned Property Ordinance to the Sheriff's Office so it can begin any needed enforcement.

Wes suggested the Select Board meet at 5 p.m. on May 31 so board members can attend the ambulance information meeting in Union at 6:30 p.m. Mitch noted he will not be available that day for either meeting.

Broadband update: The Broadband Committee met prior to Select Board and Mitch attended – he said the committee would like authorization so spend up to \$500 from the remaining \$2,500 set aside for planning. Mitch made a motion to authorize up to \$500 for the August broadband festival, Wes seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Other Agenda Items: Select Board members signed the January 2023 bank statement.

Frank spoke about the Calderwood Road culvert and road condition, which both sustained significant damage in the recent rainstorm. He recommended closing the road. Mitch made a motion to close Calderwood Road based on Frank's recommendation, Wes seconded to add the closure is until the roadway can be made safe again for through traffic. Wes has already reached out to Bill Lane at Gartley & Dorsky Engineers but the Stream Crossing grant application process doesn't open until November so the road could be closed for some time. Don suggested a temporary repair to allow traffic to resume but noted that any FEMA funding received for the project will only restore it to its previous condition (meaning a larger culvert could not be installed unless the town pays a portion of the cost difference). Calderwood Road can still be accessed from both ends, just not all the way through, by emergency services, buses and mail delivery. The motion to close Calderwood Road carries with all in favor.

Maine Rivers' Landis Hudson and Matt Streeter also spoke of the Calderwood Road culvert as it relates to fish passage, which has been a project of the Alewives Committee. Landis said prior to the rainstorm and the resulting damage, she had planned to seek support for an Inland Fisheries and Wildlife survey of the culverts on Calderwood and Sprague roads. She said the Calderwood Road culvert appears to be more of a crisis situation at this point, and things tend to move slowly when seeking grants. She encouraged a parallel track of working with Bill Lane while Maine Rivers continues to look into options as well. The IFW survey wouldn't happen until July but will not cost the town any money. Matt cautioned about overlapping efforts such as engineering and said everyone should keep in touch; he also noted that even with the road closed, another similar rain storm will further damage and/or displace the culvert. Wes made a motion to allow the IFW survey, Kate seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

The town's damage report for December 2022 included some work intentionally put off until spring, but Don said he would like permission to deem the December storm work complete. In doing so, a new report for the recent storm would include damaged shoulders, etc., leftover from the December storm that would have washed out in the recent storm even if Frank had repaired them, Don said. Wes made a motion to deem the December storm work complete, Mitch seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Don, Frank and Select Board members will meet the morning of Tuesday, May 9, to go over storm damage from earlier in the week. There must be a form filled out, and a file for, each site of damage. Don said there are six sites on Old County Road alone and he estimated nearly 30 sites total throughout town. Town Office staff will work on collecting and printing photos of the damage. The Preliminary Damage Assessment will include estimates for repairs, including manpower hours, equipment and materials; each site with less than \$100,000 damage is considered a "small project."

Wes said he would like to take the money for this round of work from the Roads Reserve Account to keep the Road Maintenance Account from being drawn down too much. Don noted that FEMA should reimburse the town at 75 percent and the state will reimburse 15 percent, though the state takes much longer. Wes made a motion to take money from the Roads Reserve Account for manpower, equipment and materials used following the recent storm, Mitch seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Recently purchased signs for town-owned properties will be paid with ARPA funds after a motion by Wes, second by Mitch; all in favor.

Other business: Don complimented Frank for the quick actions on roads during the storm and said he was not aware of anyone who couldn't leave or access their property by the end of the day.

Questions/comments: Mitch asked about the rate on the excavator loan; Mary said she believes it is 4.74 percent, as quoted originally. Frank asked and Mary confirmed the payment won't be available until after next week's Select Board meeting when the warrants are signed.

Kate made a motion to adjourn, Mitch seconded; meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Grinnell