



Select Board /Assessors Meeting Summary

May 10, 2023

7 p.m.

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

Others present: Town Clerk Mary Anderson, CEO Corey Fortin, EMA Director Donald Grinnell, resident Peg Hobbs

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

Approve Summary of May 3, 2023: Motion to approve summary by Kate, Mitch seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Sign Treasurer's Warrants dated May 11, 2023:

P/R Warrant #37: \$6,469.71

A/P Warrant #38: \$129,364.64 (includes the excavator payment of \$109,590)

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

5/1: Jonathan and Frank put up barricades and cones for washouts and flooded roads: Old County, Mountain, Calderwood, Dorman, Prescott, Albert Jones, Fitch, Lenfest, Sprague, Skidmore, Leigher and The Firs. Frank called Ricky in to help start patching washouts: Prescott Road (14 yards), Old County Road at Mountain Road end (42 yards), Mountain Road (16 yards), Dorman Road (35 yards), Sprague Road (14 yards), and Albert Jones Road (35 yards).

5/2: Worked on Old County, Mountain and Lenfest roads: Old County at Liberty end (28 yards) and at Box 419 (56 yards stone, 32 yards gravel), Mountain Road at Box 95 (64 yards, and Lenfest Road (56 yards).

5/3: Swept Vanner Road at Route 17 intersection where driveway washed into road (Redemption Center); patched Mountain Road (72 yards total at three locations), Vanner Road (38 yards total at two locations) and Skidmore Road (28 yards)

5/4: Frank met with Kate and Mitch on Calderwood Road, which will be patched and closed to through traffic; Frank moved barricades from Public Works to Calderwood Road; tried to retrieve culvert that washed out on Old County Road but the water was too high

Don said the damage estimate from the rainstorm is about \$146,400 as submitted to Knox County EMA. The county threshold to declare a disaster is \$270,000, which should be met with claims from Washington, Union, Warren, Hope and Thomaston (all of which have submitted damage claims already). The state threshold is \$2.4 million and Don said he thinks that will be met as well, though there is no guarantee. He cautioned the town may not be reimbursed, or that reimbursement may not be received this fiscal year. Wes said that after paving, there is still \$190,000 left in the Roads Reserve Account (the account from which much of the emergency work funding is being taken; if reimbursed, money will be returned to that account).

CEO Report: Corey continues to work with citizens, providing guidance on building permits. He's issued permits for two garages (residential) and a camp expansion. Required paperwork for a marijuana growing operation on McDowell Road has been submitted to Corey and he forwarded it to town attorney Peter Drum.

Planning Board last night approved a 30-by-30 canvas storage building for Pike Industries as well as another application for storage units to be located at the corner of routes 220 and 126. Corey will attend courses May 22 and 23.

Health Officer Report: None.

Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report: The checking account balance is \$138,545.

The Union Ambulance budget informational meeting in Union on May 31 will serve as Washington's public hearing. Mary posted notice of the meeting today and it will be advertised in the Courier.

There is an RSU 40 school budget public hearing May 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Medomak Valley High School; notice of that meeting was posted by Constable Cynthia Bourgeois Tuesday.

Mitch asked if Mary has heard back from Peter Drum about the two ordinances discussed a few weeks ago. Peter is sick and has not responded.

Broadband update: None.

Other Agenda Items: Knox County is seeking to lock in heating oil prices below \$3 per gallon for the upcoming season; Wes gave authorization to proceed on behalf of the Town of Washington.

Select Board members signed the warrant and notice of election for RSU 40 following a motion by Wes and second by Kate; all in favor, motion carries.

Wes made a motion to appoint Lisa Sharp to the Recreation Committee, Kate seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

A plow on P600 will be replaced under warranty and the town has been offered the chance to purchase the used plow for \$1,500. Frank feels the plow can be used on another truck after some repairs. Wes suggested using money from the Road Maintenance Equipment Reserve account for the purchase. Mitch made a motion to take \$1,500 from the Road Maintenance Equipment Reserve account to purchase the plow, Wes seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Select Board members signed the February bank statement.

The ambulance budget warrant and notice of election both were signed following a motion by Wes that it is a true and valid warrant. Kate seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carries.

Other business: The town received a section 880 construction update from Central Maine Power Company. The project impacts only a few properties in Washington.

Members of the Grinnell family have met with Coffin Engineering in Augusta regarding the proposed Grinnell Woods Trail. Don said a right-of-way or easement will be required and recorded at the Registry of Deeds. Coffin Engineering will create a plan that includes GPS mapping of the trail and the deed will reference the plan (the trail location can be adjusted in the plan with agreement from both parties without having to record a new deed). Don has asked Coffin Engineering to submit an RFP quote so that the cost can be included in any fundraising efforts but he estimated the work will total around \$2,500. The Grinnell family will work with its attorney to prepare the deed prior to the March town meeting and flag out the proposed trail location for Coffin Engineering.

Peg intends to apply for grants for the project; there are two grant deadlines in September. Don suggested asking businesses to sponsor a portion of the trail to help with maintenance costs as well. Peg said she's set a \$3,000 fundraising goal between now and September. There will be educational materials and a donation jar at the Strawberry Festival along with a trail scavenger hunt and a raffle. Recreation Committee members Angela Stevens and Travis Perez also are offering flowers and eggs for sale at the end of their driveway to raise funds for the trail project. Peg will work with the town to post information on the town website as well.

Nanne Kennedy reached out to Mitch about a May 16 site visit to her property to assess storm damage; a state agency that deals with shoreland erosion issues and Damariscotta Watershed representatives will be there. He plans to attend.

Mitch shared information about a new undertaking by the Cemetery Committee. Members are meeting at Pierpont Cemetery on Saturday to begin GPS mapping of each stone that will include names, dates and photos. The project will create a database with help from Knox County GIS mapping. Don said he also plans to reach out to high school students to assist with the project.

Wes asked if anyone has been hired to begin cleaning stones and Don said not yet.

Questions/comments: Don shared meeting room flag etiquette and offered to remove and properly dispose of a faded American flag.

Peg asked if any Select Board members were able to attend a meeting at the boat launch. Stephanie attended as a resident, not a representative of the town.

Kate made a motion to adjourn, Mitch seconded; meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Grinnell