



## Select Board /Assessors Meeting Summary

Jan. 24, 2024

6:30 p.m.

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

**Others present:** Town Clerk Mary Anderson, CEO David Studer, and Budget Committee members David Williams, Donald Grinnell and Joan Tognacci.

Wes called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

**Approve Summary of Jan. 17, 2024:** Motion to approve summaries by Kate, Mitch seconded. All in favor, motion carries.

### **Sign Treasurer's Warrants dated Jan. 25, 2024:**

P/R Warrant #7: \$7,752.26

A/P Warrant #8: \$9,265.33

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

### **Road Foreman Reports:** Written by Frank Jones Jr. and read by Wes

1/14: Frank checked roads, called drivers in to sand; all drivers attended safety training at the fire station

1/15: Frank met DigSafe on Vanner Road to fix ditch, put in salt, mixed up sand

1/16: Rotated cutting edges on P600, worked on P200 plow, called Rick to plow; P100 broke a bed chain; called Jimmy to help

1/17: Plowed snow (early morning); back in the morning to sand for buses; worked on P100 bed chain

1/18: Worked on P500, replaced step and fixed wing post; fixed P200 lights

**CEO Report:** Dave met with Washington Manor owner Ken Kroesser on Saturday. Repairs to the facility are nearly complete and Dave said he doesn't feel there will be a change of use under the expected new owners, because it will still be a residential facility. However, the Maine Fire Marshal's Office wants more information and is classifying it as a change of use. Dave said the topic could be put on the Select Board agenda if needed. Mitch stated town attorney Peter Drum considers it not to be a change of use.

A number of real estate agents have contacted Dave with questions about land use, including one about a Doe Mill Road property. He issued an internal plumbing permit and will inspect the work next week. Someone reached out to Dave about a potential three-apartment project on Vanner Road and he advised them to talk to the Planning Board and/or hold off on the project until after the March town meeting when new rules dictated by the state (LD 2003) are adopted. Dave suggested the property owner proceed with applying for 911 addresses and a driveway entrance permit in the meantime.

**Health Officer Report:** None.

**Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report:** A revenue share check of \$24,877.06 was received this week. The checking account balance is \$734,364. Mary signed Kate up for a webinar: Legislative Process A-Z.

A property tax stabilization reimbursement check in the amount of \$12,086.32 was received; Becky had reached out earlier in the week to say the state didn't set aside enough money to pay the full reimbursement to towns.

Town attorney Peter Drum clarified in an email that the proposed LD2003 guidelines must have a public hearing and public vote to adopt – the Planning Board should host the public hearing; and that the proposed trails ordinance can have a public hearing and vote at town meeting.

Max from Midcoast Council of Governments emailed about an upcoming grant application and asked for a letter of support from Select Board members. The grant could potentially offset some of the anticipated costs of the upcoming Comprehensive Plan update. The letter must be received no later than Jan. 31 to be submitted with the grant. Select Board members agreed to sign the letter.

**Broadband update:** None.

**Other Agenda Items:** Select Board members voted to extend the Large-scale Residential Development Ordinance moratorium for 180 days following a motion by Wes and second by Mitch. If the LD2003 guidelines are passed at town meeting, the moratorium will cease.

Mary shared carpet cleaning estimates for the town office from Rite Way Cleaning. The cost of cleaning the Bryant Room and hallways will be split with the library, costing the town a total of \$574.20 including the office. The cleaning is scheduled for the end of February, as the company said the radiant floor heat helps dry the carpets faster (there is no radiant floor heat in hall or office, but it is installed in the Bryant Room and library). Don suggested waiting until later in the year when there probably will be less salt and mud tracked onto the freshly cleaned carpets. Kathy Ocean, who is on the library Board of Directors, said the plan is to clean the carpets every year and noted each season has its problems.

**Other business:** None.

**Questions/comments:** None.

Kate made a motion to adjourn, Mitch seconded; meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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Don Grinnell called the Budget Committee meeting to order at 7 p.m. Budget Committee members present: Don, Kim Linscott (alternate), Kathy Ocean, Dave Williams, Joan Tognacci, Jesse Casas and Wendy Carr. Also present: Select Board members Wes Daniel, Kate Grinnell and Mitch Garnett; and Town Clerk Mary Anderson.

After some discussion, Jesse made a motion to recommend an amended total of \$506,806 for assessments. The recommendation is unanimous.

Kate noted the Select Board lowered its recommendation to 90 percent coverage of health insurance costs for full-time employees to match the Budget Committee recommendation. No additional vote is required. As well, some housekeeping changes that didn't change the bottom line were reviewed. Under miscellaneous accounts, an updated request of \$6,350 was received from Waldo Community Action Partners – an increase from last year's funding request of \$5,276. Dave made a motion to amend the Budget Committee recommendation, Joan seconded; motion carries unanimously.

To open discussion on the revenue portion of the budget, Kathy made a motion that was seconded by Jesse. The state rate for delinquent taxes for 2024 is 8.5 percent; anticipated revenues are \$658,150, both are unanimously recommended.

Don said he feels the budget wasn't slashed and he is happy with the recommendation, which is a slight decrease to the municipal budget for the Budget Committee. The Select Board recommendation is a slight increase. Overall, there will be a tax increase because of the school district and county budgets. The differences in recommendations are under the rollover accounts, where the Budget Committee cut a total of \$32,500. The undesignated fund is expected to be \$30,000 but if, after the audit, there is more money available, it could result in money added back to the budget. The Budget Committee will meet one more time, after the audit is complete, probably at the end of February. Budget Committee adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Don announced that the town is expecting to receive \$38,013 from FEMA for reimbursement for the December 2022 storm (already approved) and an additional \$188,548 FEMA reimbursement for the May 2023 storm (not yet approved).

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Grinnell