



Select Board /Assessors Meeting Summary
March 27, 2024
7 p.m.

Select Board members present: Wesley Daniel, Katherine Grinnell (arrived at 7:03 p.m.) and Mitchell Garnett

Others present: Town Clerk Mary Anderson, CEO David Studer, residents Sara Bullard and Andrew Eggen

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

Approve Summary of March 21, 2024: Motion to approve summary by Mitch, Wes seconded. All in favor (Kate not present), motion carries.

Sign Treasurer's Warrants dated March 28, 2024:

P/R Warrant #25: \$9,467.40

A/P Warrant #26: \$16,830.25

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

3/18: Sanded for ice

3/19: Chipped brush on Leigher Road

3/20: Chipped brush on Leigher Road and put plows back on trucks

3/21: Plowed (Frank, Steven, Jonathan and Ricky)

3/22: Frank put in salt; put wing on P600 and mixed up sand

3/23: Frank called in Steven, Jonathan and Ricky (also Jason at noon) to help with downed trees and ice

CEO Report: Dave issued a plumbing permit as well as a building permit this week; he also fielded a number of additional inquiries. Wes and Dave both went to check out the work done on Calderwood Road and did not find anything egregious after taking measurements. Dave noted that CMP also is working in the area and has easements to cut trees and brush.

Dave and Wes also stopped by a problematic Waldoboro Road property and spoke with a woman who is a relative of the owner. She said she believes the camper being used for bathroom facilities is pumped out once per month and she has called around for a septic design plan. Before he took the interim CEO job in town, Dave had designed a septic system for the property but she was not aware there was a plan drawn up for a prior owner. Dave said he feels the biggest problem at the property is improper disposal of septic waste on the ground, which should be addressed first with installation of a septic tank. Town attorney Peter Drum still has not contacted Dave about the problems with the property.

However, Wes spoke with Peter, who has the flu, and was promised some action would be taken by next week.

Sara and Andrew are neighbors on either side of the property. Both said there have been ongoing problems with trash and loud music as well as a revolving door of residents in the past four years. The woman present on Wednesday was asked to have the pumping company contact Dave; and she texted the property owner to contact Dave as well. Dave said he feels confident the woman could be the turning point for solving some of the problems with the property.

Sara asked what options the neighbors have going forward. Mitch suggested calling the Sheriff's Office to report problems; however, Andrew said when he last contacted the Sheriff's Office about the septic waste being dumped on the ground, the officer told him it wasn't a crime. While he said he hasn't witnessed any dumping for a few weeks, Andrew noted the area – which is 20 feet or closer to his well/drinking water supply – still shows evidence of activity. He said he will continue to monitor and take photos if possible. It was suggested that the property occupants may have shifted from daylight dumping to a later time to avoid being seen. Andrew wondered if the property owner should be involved rather than the current occupants and Wes said the owner is ultimately responsible.

Dave said he would write another letter outlining what needs to be completed within 30 days, as the one sent prior wasn't followed up on. This new violation letter will start the process again.

Sara asked why the septic tank/system is the first step when there is no running water or bathroom facilities and Dave explained that he can't issue an internal plumbing permit until there is somewhere for the waste to go. While Dave said use of the camper is not ideal, it is better than dumping waste on the ground.

Select Board members agreed that Peter ultimately dropped the enforcement ball and Wes will reach out to him again early next week, repeatedly if needed. Sara asked if it would benefit the neighbors to make a complaint with the state and Mitch said he thinks it would give them more standing should they decide to take any civil action.

Andrew praised Health Officer Brian Alves for his efforts and Dave said health officers can sometimes have more authority to take action.

Sara and Andrew both said they would like to have proof that the camper waste tank is being pumped regularly and if it is not, they would like the town to request the owner to have a port-o-potty on site. Dave said he could design a composting toilet as an option.

Health Officer Report: None.

Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report: A revenue share check of \$7,958.96 was received. The checking account balance is \$238,042. Prescott School secretary Mary Ledger has asked that setup for town meeting on Friday night happen at 6 p.m. so the door isn't propped open unnecessarily; Matt Kopishke will help set up audio equipment that night as well.

EMA Director Don Grinnell emailed to say payment from FEMA for the December 2022 storm has been issued and should be received soon. Select Board members previously agreed to pay Don a percentage of the reimbursement for his hours of effort so he will receive \$1,465.64 and \$47,389.33 will be returned to the Roads Reserve account.

Personnel for town meeting has been set, with Walter Metcalf opening the meeting on Friday for elections and Dave Martucci taking over as deputy moderator for town meeting on Saturday. Fire Chief Phil Meunier will lead the Pledge of Allegiance both days.

Broadband update: None.

Other Agenda Items: Thacher Carter from Maine Farmland Trust contacted the town to see if there is interest in any programs intended to encourage farmland in municipalities. He will be invited to speak with Select Board members as well as the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

Select Board members signed the January 2024 bank statement.

Other business: One application has been received for the open CEO position. Dave spoke with Wes prior to the meeting and said while he does not want to be the full-time CEO in Washington, he is willing to train a new person as well as serve as an alternate CEO. Wes will contact the applicant to arrange an interview; Dave will attend the interview as well.

Questions/comments: None.

Kate made a motion to adjourn, Mitch seconded; meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Grinnell