

Select Board Meeting
February 7, 2023

1. Call to Order – 6:00pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Doug Norman, Chair led the Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call – Doug Norman, Chair, Mark Bradstreet, Sandra Otis-Anderson, Steve Tanguay and Linda Payson all present.
4. Announcements –
 - a. Manager Gillway reviewed the rules regarding the open to the public comment segments of the meeting.
 - b. Members of the newly created CERT team were introduced by Emergency Management Director Paul Biddle who gave a brief overview of the program. Public Safety Officer Todd Boisvert presented each member with a certificate and Town Clerk Eric Glidden administered their oaths.
 - c. Almon Bud Rivers was recognized for his years of dedication to the town as the Emergency Management Director.
5. Acceptance of Minutes- Motion: Sandra Otis-Anderson made a motion to accept the minutes as written for the January 17, 2023 select board meeting, Second: Linda Payson Vote 5-0-0
6. Acceptance of the agenda – James will be adding three items to the 11th hour. Motion: Linda Payson made a motion to accept the agenda with the additional 11th hour items. Second: Sandra Otis-Anderson Vote 5-0-0
7. Public Comment - Rolf Olson and David Italiaander spoke about the importance of holding informational meetings regarding the proposed Wind Port.
8. Old Business
 - a. Water District Appointment – Larry Clark has expressed his interest in being reappointed to continue serving on the board of directors for the water district. Motion: Mark Bradstreet made a motion to table the consideration of this reappointment until the February 21, 2023 board meeting. Second: Linda Payson Vote 5-0-0
 - b. Tax Due Date – Motion: Linda Payson made a motion to set September 7, 2023 as the due date for taxes with interest beginning to accrue on October 12, 2023 Second: Sandra Otis-Anderson Vote 5-0-0
 - c. Interest Rate for 2023 Taxes – Motion: Mark Bradstreet made a motion to set the interest rate for over due taxes at 5%. Second: Sandra Otis-Anderson Vote 5-0-0
10. New Business
 - a. Open Seat on School Board – Motion: Mark Bradstreet made a motion to post the open seat on the school board Second: Doug Norman Vote 5-0-0
 - b. Wastewater System Commitment – The wastewater commitment is not yet ready. There is an audit agreement which needs to be addressed. Motion: Doug Norman made a motion to give the town manager authorization to sign the wastewater audit commitment. Second: Mark Bradstreet Vote 5-0-0
 - c. Vote on Expenditure Articles
 1. Warrant Article 17- To see if the town will vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate up to \$250,000.00 dollars from surplus to fund items within the 2023 municipal budget that would otherwise be raised by taxes. The Select Board will be authorized to set up the actual dollar amount up to the \$250,000.00 dollar amount after the audit is complete. Motion: Linda Payson made a motion that Article 17 be approved as written. Second: Doug Norman Vote 5-0-0
 2. Warrant Article 18 – To see if the Town will vote to add \$120,000.00 to the budget to enhance the Ambulance Services for the Town of Searsport. Funds for this addition to come from surplus. Motion: Mark Bradstreet made a motion to approve Article 18 as written. Second: Linda Payson Vote 5-0-0
 3. Warrant Article 20 – To see if the Town will vote to fund repairs and improvements to the Municipal Tennis Courts up to \$10,000.00 to resurface the courts and to replace one court with two Pickle Ball Courts. Motion: Steve Tanguay made a motion to approve Article 20 as written. Second: Sandra Otis-Anderson Vote: 5-0-0
 - d. Acceptance of Annual Warrant – James outlined 3 changes that have been made since the last meeting.
 1. Article 16 Cemetery lot sales has been renumbered and moved to be with the other money articles.
 2. Article 21 To see if the town will vote to accept the following streets and ways located within the town as public ways: Sandy Ridge Lane, Serenity Lane and Our Way and to take any and all actions required to accept the streets and ways. The additional language was added to this article because MMA requires that you better describe the property to be accepted by the town. The actual footage of those three roads has

now been defined with the latitude and longitude and approximate lengths of each section of the existing roads.. That will be all that the town will be accepting if the article is approved, not the roads in their entirety.

3. Article 22 reflects the vote of the Select Board for the Out of House Accounts and the Budget Advisory's plan for the Out of House Accounts. It will be up to the moderator to present and accept a plan. There is a difference in the two amounts. Both opinions will have to be brought out at the town meeting.

4. Article 25 The language of the changes in the land use ordinances is now highlighted to bring clarity to what the vote is on.

Motion: Mark Bradstreet made a motion to accept the warrant articles for the annual Town Meeting to be held on March 7, 2023 as presented. Second: Steve Tanguay Vote 5-0-0

5. Historical Society Refreshments at Annual Town Meeting – Motion: Sandra Otis-Anderson made a motion to approve the Historical Society's offering of refreshments at the annual town meeting. Second: Linda Payson Vote 3-0-2 Doug Norman and Mark Bradstreet abstained.

11. 11th Hour

a. Library Repairs: The bathroom at the library is leaking and needs to be repaired. Also the floor in the bathroom needs to be replaced due to water damage. The estimate to make the necessary repairs is \$5,000.00. The Library reserve fund is currently at \$46,905.00. Motion: Linda Payson made a motion to approve up to \$5,000.00 to be taken from surplus to do the necessary repairs. Second: Doug Norman Vote 5-0-0

b. Computer Purchase: The previously approved dollar amount of \$8,000.00 to purchase new computers for the town office and public safety building is not enough to cover the actual purchases needed. The quote did not include the programs that will need to be on the computers. The new quote for 11 computers with the necessary programs is now \$11,931.00. The computer reserve account currently has \$15,000.00 in it. Motion: Mark Bradstreet made a motion to appropriate up to \$12,000.00 from the computer reserve account for the purchase of 11 computers with the necessary programs for the Town Office and Public Safety building. This vote will replace the previous vote of \$8,000.00. Second Linda Payson Vote 5-0-0

c. Wastewater Pump: There are currently backup pumps for all of the pumps in the system with the exception of one. The request is to purchase one Hasa 30 volt single phase pump. This pump lives on Trundy Road and services Sprague Energy. If the current pump fails the entire system will fail. The total cost is \$5,280.00. Motion: Mark Bradstreet made a motion to appropriate \$5,280.00 to purchase the Hasa pump. Second: Linda Payson Vote 5-0-0

12. Correspondence

a. An article was received from the Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management regarding the decision to advance the State's Lease for floating Off Shore Wind research in the Gulf of Maine. The article outlines that it has passed it's first hurdle with no other competing interests.

b. Received correspondence from Wild Renewable Energy. They have been approved for a 5 Mega Watt Solar Project located on the West side of town on the upper part of Serenity Lane. Because of capacity, they are backing down to about half. They do however plan to continue with their project.

c. There were safety inspections done previously that found 5 problems at Public Works, 2 at the Library and 18 at the Fire Department. A letter was recently received that all of the noted problems have been remedied.

13. Treasurer's Warrant. Motion: Mark Bradstreet made a motion to accept the Treasurer's warrant pending signatures by the Select Board. Seconded: Linda Payson Vote 5-0-0

14. Town Manager's Report – James read his report

15. Select Board Reports

Mark Bradstreet thanked the Public Works crew for all their hard work.

Linda Payson is impressed with the removal of hats for the National Anthem. She thanked the town crew.

Sandra Otis-Anderson congratulated all the new CERT team members and Bud Rivers for his dedication to the town. She mentioned the Senior Drop in next Wednesday at the Community Building from 9-2.

Steve Tanguay reminded folks of the upcoming Shellfish Committee meeting on Thursday the 9th with a time change to 5:00 pm. He thanked the public works crew.

Doug Norman thanked Paul Biddle for his continued work as the EMA director and the CERT team.

16. Public Comment and the Viewing Public Comments.

Jeremy Ward regarding the filing of a grievance.

Sabrina DeTurk regarding informational meetings for the Wind Power Port. She also expressed her interest in serving on the School Board.

17. Executive Session: James Gillway read the points for two confidential matters to be discussed : M.R.S.A. 1 / 405(6) (F) Confidential – (General Assistance Matters and Poverty abatement requests and M.R.S.A. 1/ 405 (6) (D) Labor negotiations. This is not on the agenda but has been agreed to by the Union.
Mark Bradstreet made a motion that the select board exit regular session and enter into executive session at 7:18 pm. Seconded: Linda Payson. Vote 5-0-0
Mark Bradstreet made a motion to end executive session and return to the regular session at 7:48 pm. Second: Linda Payson Vote 5-0-0
18. Decisions from Executive Session
Motion: Mark Bradstreet made a motion in the case of WP-2301 to fund 100 gallons of fuel oil from the Jenny Lawrence fund and in the case of WP-2302 to fund up to \$755.00 for repairs from the Jenny Lawrence fund and in the case of WP-2303 to fund up to \$400.00 for necessary work from Jenny Lawrence. Second: Sandra Otis-Anderson Vote 5-0-0.
Motion: Steve Tanguay made a motion to add .75 cents to each hour worked for Rhonda Nichols at the library. Second: Linda Payson Vote 5-0-0
Motion: Doug Norman made a motion to give George Kerper an 8% increase for his work on the video. Second: Sandra Otis-Anderson Vote 5-0-0
19. Adjourn – Motion: Sandra Otis-Anderson made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 pm. Second: Linda Payson Vote 5-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted

Janine F. Laveway
Board Recorder

APPROVED: 2/21/2023