

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Meeting
NOVEMBER 23, 2021
MEETING TIME—5 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Attendees:

Town Officials: 1st Select Board member, John Rzasa (JR), 2nd Select Board member, Gerald Lilly (GL), 3rd Select Board member, Allan Moeller, Interim Town Administrator, Lisa Hewitt.

General Public: Allyson Hepler, Gary Blau, Steve Hewitt, Melanie Gaczi, Dave Probert, Judy Getchell, Judy Tunkle, Paul Tunkle, Stephanie Holmes, Amanda Pendleton, Jeff Holmes, Peen Lilly

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by JR

3. APPROVE & SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- A. Change made to 6 D. Department Updates under Roads by AM – minutes reflected AM reported all roads have been graded, this has been revised to reflect they have not all been graded.
- B. Approved and executed with above modification 3-0

4. APPROVE & SIGN PRESENT WARRANTS

Approved and executed 3-0.

5. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS -

- A. The next regular Select Board meeting will be Tuesday December 07, 2021, at 5:00 PM at Pownalborough Hall.
- B. Guest Speaker Allison Hepler –
 - i. Invited by JR to discuss CMP and increase. Discussion on increase in which Allison Hepler stated the bill was divided into two areas – delivery and supply. We are seeing an increase in the supply rate by CMP but Versa is lower. Explained this increase is partly due to closure of Maine Yankee in 2000 which has caused CMP to go out for bid on the supply. Also there have been natural gas increase and ½ of CMP is natural gas. Also mentioned by the residents it is due to the closure of the Keystone pipeline and fracking.
The increase is not only affecting Maine but also all of New England. Allison also gave an example of the increase in terms of bill going from \$101 to around \$130. Allison provided that even though this increase CMP did go with the most competitive bid. She advised to “ride it out” during the winter and look for alternatives next year like solar which will be more available (on-line) around July. Discussion on solar alternatives and where they are located took place.
JR questioned about PUC and what they did. Allison offered they did open the bid up. Discussion of terms and how managed.
JR also mentioned the governor supports the ‘corridor’ even though she sent and letter requesting stoppage of the project - is this increase somehow a pay-back? Consensus of meeting was the timing was impeccable.

General discussion was how other towns, such as Biddeford and Houlton, as well as counties are seeing not as large an increase. Some of this is due to long term contracts in which some years you make out and other years you do not.

Question raised on whether the legislature is concerned and are they doing anything for their constituents. Allison offered they are paying attention to those that cannot pay and if the Town receives any calls from residents needing help to advise they should call CMP and work with them.

- ii. Allison brought up Route 27 and the deterioration of the roads. AM agreed and said there was a lot of traffic on that road and would like to see good shoulders. Discussion on the rating of the road and R-27 being a HCP-4 rating which means every 7 years it gets a 'light' paving. Allison said it would be good to see an upgrade to 3 or 2 based on traffic. AM offered a 3 would be a thicker coating and would be done every 10 years, but still would not have shoulders.
- iii. Allison brought forth a Housing Commission study was done in union with MMA on the housing infrastructure and shortage. Although the results have not been released yet, she notes this will have a big impact on small towns in accommodating affordable housing. An example was any one dwelling may have the right to put in an accessory dwelling (eg – single residence can add an in-law apartment). She mentioned there are and would be many moving pieces to this.
- iv. Allison announced that she will no longer be representing Dresden or Richmond after the next election.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Insurance Claim—Pownalborough Hall Roof Leak
 - i. Awaiting invoice from George Dorr
 - ii. Need to schedule cleaner, ServPro
 1. AM clarified that George is to provide quotes for clean up. Lisa has not heard from George and offered to call.
- B. Judi Tunkle spoke on behalf of the Restorative Justice non-profit. She requested to use the Pownalborough Hall for meetings, in which the Select Board asked to get more information at the last meeting. Judi came to speak at this meeting and offered –
 - i. This is a national organization with her concentration on Lincoln County
 1. It would not be just Dresden residents
 - ii. Generally it was youths making bad decisions
 1. Not violent in nature, just do not need to go to jail for their offense
 - iii. Brings the youth and person harmed together in a 'circle' which could be as small as 6 or larger (up to 20) depending on the harm done
 1. People at the meeting would consist of the support person, harmer, harmed, mentor, facilitators
 2. Talks would be on why what was done was done and how to restore
 - a.
 - ~~iv. This would not be weekly meetings, maybe meet 6 times a year~~
 - v. Meetings would be varied times and last for approximately 2 hours
 1. Rarely scheduled in the evenings so there should not be any interruption to other committees that need to meet (i.e. Planning Board)

GL made a motion to allow the use of the Pownalborough Hall. JR said the only caveat would be if there was any damage they would be responsible to pay. Judi understood this and agreed.

Passed by Select Board 3-0.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. RSU #2 – Review and Exploratory Committee Member Appointment(s)

i. Amanda Pendleton

ii. Stephanie Holmes was added at the meeting

Lisa gave background on interaction they have had with the committee in general and recommended they be appointed as they have great value to add.

Appointments passed 3-0

Oaths administered prior to executive session.

8. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

A. Transfer Station

GL offered things were going well and that there have been positive comments on the clean up. GL said he also talked with Patsy (Swap Shop) and she said there was no ill intention on her part – she is just that way. She added the Swap Shop does not have enough work to do but will reach out as needed to the other volunteers. They are also taking things to the Salvation Army.

B. School Report

JR said Jeff Bickford usually provides updates but saw he was not there. Lisa said he was in the Town Office and said there was not much to report at this time.

C. Town Office

i. Foreclosure Notices have gone out – Lisa said they went out on the 19th (Friday).

ii. Abatement for Bryant Property – Lisa gave background on the abatement and why the different signature blocks.

Select Board approved the abatements 3-0 and executed.

iii. Town Administrator/Treasurer posting

Lisa reported on the various papers and cost. Also added there have been candidates for the Town Administrators position. Added there is nothing to date on the Town Clerk position. Allison said Wiscasset just recently hired a town clerk and they found the individual on Indeed. Lisa explained to the board this was a web-based site that applicants can search for various jobs. She offered to look into it for the Town Clerk position.

iv. Cunningham Security

1. Add/Deletes on account

Lisa offered in the packet were a list of changes and this reporting was information only.

v. Cleaning Scheduled

1. 12/13/2021 – 4 hours

Lisa offered the fee is \$35/hour and she would be at the Town Office during the cleaning.

D. Roads

i. AM reported the paving of Blinn Hill was held up due to weather but now complete. Mentioned there were changes to the driveway entrances as well.

~~Next week the shoulders would be done by Tim Ouellette. There are 4 miles of road and parts have a good drop off.~~

ii. Dave Probert asked about the two new dump trucks he saw at the Transfer Station. AM offered they were Sea-Breeze trucks. Discussion on the trucks being bigger and how beneficial they will be. Also comment on mailboxes and AM offered with the design of the plows there should not be as much damage as prior with the older plows.

E. Fire Department

No updates, but Lisa asked if an invoice is received if it would be acceptable by the board for the Fire Chief to approve by way of email. She would email invoice and print his reply and attached to invoice. The Select Board said this was acceptable.

F. Water Department

No updates.

9. CITIZENS BUSINESS

A. Broadband - Paul and Judi Tunkle got in touch with Wiscasset as did Allison Hepler. Wiscasset has a committee and are trying to get surrounding areas to join in the initiative to get widespread broadband.

Allison offered that Kristen Thorpe writes grants and the Town should get in touch with her as it would be advantageous if more towns applied.

There was discussion on where the internet was and the areas that did not have it. Amanda Pendleton offered that with the internet coverage to be accurate the Town needed to create data points. This can be done by people doing tests on their computer – this establishes a baseline. She could not recall the site but would get it to Lisa and asked if perhaps it could be put in the Communicator. Lisa offered that was doable and would post to the Dresden web-site also.

Paul Tunkle asked if he and Judi could be the representatives for broadband with Wiscasset and other towns. JR thought this a good idea and the Select Board requested they move forward.

Stephanie Holmes did say there were alternatives to cable and she currently used Verizon through her phone – the charge was \$50/month, but there is not cable.

General discussion pursued on who provided, the slowness and lawsuit brought against Spectrum.

10. OTHER GENERAL BUSINESS

No other General Business

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by AM to enter into Executive Session at 6:08 PM

A. Personnel Discussion

Executive Session ended at 6:43

12. ADJOURNMENT

Called people back in. With no one coming back to the meeting there was a motion to adjourn which was passed at 6:49.

Approval of minutes for November 23, 2021

John G. Gosa Board

Michael Kelly of

Arran Moller SR Selectman