

SELECTBOARD MINUTES

January 24, 2022

Present: Terry Bergeron, Chair; Tim DeMillo, Vice Chair; Tom Goding, Gary McGrane, Lee Ann Dalessandro, Shiloh LaFreniere, Town Manager; Raeleen York, Deputy Clerk

Guests: Abby Cramer (Mt. Blue TV), Donna Perry (Sun Journal), Mike Booker (Fire Chief), John Johnson (Public Works), Cindy Bennett, Al Landry, and Esther O'Brien Nolin

1. Pledge of Allegiance – 6:00 pm - Tim led the pledge.

2. Minutes – January 10, 2022 – M/M/S Tim/Tom to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2022 Board of Assessors and Selectboard meetings. Vote 5-0-0.

3. Old Business – No discussion.

4. Transfer Station – Recycling- Discussion was held considering bringing single sort recycling back at the Transfer Station. The proposed budget would not be enough if this is to be done in full because additional manpower would be needed. They could likely take cardboard without increasing the budget but if the Board's intent is to go back to recycling at the facility, then they would need to increase the budget that is currently being reviewed in the budget meetings. The Selectboard decided to leave things as they are for now, not increase the budget, and possibly consider cardboard at a later date.

5. Holland Strong Tennis Court Project – The Selectboard will discuss recommendations with the Budget Committee at Monday's meeting on January 31st.

6. Fire Department – Alternate Per Diem Budget – M/M/S Lee Ann/Terry to discuss with the Budget Committee on January 31st an increase of \$32,239 to the Fire Department budget proposal to add a per diem employee. Vote 5-0-0.

7. ARPA Funds – The town currently has \$244,500 in the ARPA account and anticipates another \$244,000 to come next fiscal year. In many towns the Selectboards decide what projects they want to do. The Selectboard would like the budget committee involved in making these decisions. The general public is not really aware of these funds and how they can be used. The Selectboard wants the funds to benefit everyone in town. Department heads are currently putting out some ideas to Shiloh. Gary asked that someone come in and do a presentation on how ARPA funds can be used. Shiloh said that MMA has someone that could come. If a town receives less than \$10 million in ARPA funds, they can be used for any government services. The budget committee will be notified when the Selectboard is discussing ARPA funds so that they can attend those meetings. Shiloh will look at setting up a presentation for an upcoming Selectboard meeting.

8. Aerial Photography – M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to purchase the 6" resolution aerial images as part of the orthoimagery program that the county is doing for \$10,000 using ARPA funds. Vote 5-0-0.

9. Delinquent Tax Rate for 2022-2023 – M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to set the interest rate at 4% on delinquent taxes to be voted on at Town Meeting. Vote 5-0-0.

10. Safety Mission Statement – M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to approve the annual Town’s Safety Mission Statement. Vote 5-0-0.

11. Community Solar – The laws have changed regarding community solar and there may be a reduced risk to the consumer. The Selectboard would like to have a couple of presentations on these at future meetings and Shiloh will set those up.

12. Chisholm Square Monument – M/M/S Tim/Tom to approve considering replacing 2 light posts at the Chisholm Square Monument under ARPA funds (rather than putting in the budget). Vote 5-0-0. This will be discussed at future meetings on ARPA projects. Cindy Bennett asked that the Selectboard keep the appearance of the monument as close to the original as possible.

13. Other Business – Spruce Mountain Grant – Ron Jacques has asked for a letter of support from the Selectboard for a grant he is submitting for capital improvements. M/M/S Gary/Tom to sign a letter of support for the Spruce Mountain grant. Vote 5-0-0.

Cindy Bennett told the Selectboard that the Highway Department is doing a wonderful job on the sidewalk near her house now.

Terry announced upcoming meetings and events.

14. Executive Session – MRS Title 1, Ch. 13, Sect. 405 ss 6.D. Union Negotiations (All) - M/M/S Tim/Tom to go into executive session under MRS Title 1, Ch. 13, Sect. 405 ss 6.D. Union Negotiations (All). Vote 5-0-0. Terry declared the Board out of executive session. M/M/S Gary/Tom to adjourn. Vote 5-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Raeleen M. York