

November 25, 2024
BOARD OF ASSESSORS MINUTES

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

Guests: Trinity Smith (Mt. Blue TV/Daily Bulldog), Donna Perry (Sun Journal), Mike Booker (Fire Chief), Joseph Sage (Police Chief), Mark Holt (Sewer Superintendent), Debi Hutchins

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

2. Tax Abatement – Marin- M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to approve a tax abatement for \$66,180 in valuation, in the amount of \$1,455.96 in tax dollars for Philip Marin Jr. for the 2024-25 tax year. Vote 5-0-0

SELECTBOARD MINUTES

1. Minutes – October 7th & 21st, 2024 – M/M/S Gary/Tom to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2024 and October 21, 2024 Selectboard meetings. Vote 5-0-0

2. Old Business – No discussion

3. Curbside Recycling Pickup Schedule – Lee Ann spoke to the Board about the new program the State is proposing to reimburse the town for recycling. It will be important for the Town to know how much they are spending on recycling and to make sure everyone knows what and how to recycle. She also discussed a proposed new schedule for recycling pickup for the current Wednesday route. They would continue to have trash pick up on Wednesday but would have recycling picked up on Thursday. This would be to help eliminate the issue of recycling being put into the trash. Anything out on Wednesday would be put in the trash and any properly recycled material put out on Thursday would go in recycling. A notice would go out to everyone on the Wednesday route about the change. M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to change the recycling pickup schedule to Thursdays only. Vote 5-0-0 M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to begin the new recycling pickup schedule on December 11th and 12th. Vote 4-1-0. Gary opposed.

4. Police Department Acceptance of Grants – Homeland Security, Byrne JAG and Maine Bureau of Highway Safety – M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to accept a grant through MEMA and Franklin County EMA for \$22,475 to replace the current body camera system to a cloud based one. Vote 5-0-0

M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to accept an annual grant from Byrne JAG for \$3,107 to purchase 2 new desktop computers for the patrol office. Vote 5-0-0

M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to accept a grant for \$9,500 from Maine Bureau of Highway Safety for dedicated patrols for speed enforcement and overtime details as well as 2 new radar units. Vote 5-0-0. A 20% match requirement of \$2,375 will be covered by in-kind management.

5. Fire Department Acceptance of Donations Related to Pickup Truck – M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to accept a donation from Lowe’s for 2 toolboxes (approx. value \$1,000) to the FD for the pickup truck that was transferred to the FD from the Police Department and to accept a donation of a buff and wax (approx. value \$400) for the truck from Tony Festa of Festa’s Detailing in Farmington. Vote 5-0-0

6. Fire Department Wage Rates – Minimum Wage Increase – M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to accept the FD wage increase of 50 cents per hour for 2025 as proposed. Vote 5-0-0 M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to add the Lieutenant’s wage of \$750 to the Assistant Chief’s wages as he is covering those duties. Vote 5-0-0.

7. Sewer Abatements – Hutchins and Verrinder – M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to deny a sewer abatement requested by Deborah Hutchins for \$1,612.50. Vote 5-0-0 M/M/S Gary/Tom to approve an abatement of \$462.50 for Conrad Verrinder for the 2024-2025 billing cycle. Vote 5-0-0.

8. Livermore Falls Sewer Joint Reserve Account Request – French Drain Installation – M/M/S Gary/Tom to approve up to \$3,000 from the joint reserve account to complete an in-house project with assistance from the Livermore Falls Highway department to install a French Drain. Vote 5-0-0 Livermore Falls already approved this at their Selectboard meeting.

9. Small Community Septic System Grant Acceptance – Kent Mitchell and Ronda have been working with a resident to apply for a replacement septic system under the DEP’s Small Community Grant Program. The town has been approved for \$30,000. M/M/S Gary/Tom to accept the Small Community Septic System Grant and follow the grant’s timeline. Vote 5-0-0. Shiloh explained that the grant has a set bidding process. She proposed putting the project out to bid, having a public bid opening and then, depending on whether the bid needs to be awarded asap due to weather, having a special board meeting, or if there is not a rush, just putting it on the following Board agenda. M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to follow the grant’s bidding process. Vote 5-0-0

10. Budget Committee Members – Appointments – M/M/S Tim/Tom to reappoint Vicki McLeod, Charles Riekert, Mike Ventrella, Justin Merrill and to appoint Darryl Winter as a regular member to the Budget Committee with terms to expire 12/31/26. Vote 5-0-0 There are now 2 alternate positions open.

11. FEMA Storm Update – Shiloh gave an update on FEMA storm damage. Begin and Macomber Hill Roads are completed and open. The Hutchinson Road is being paved today. Guard rails will be going up and then they will pull the temporary bridge. Shiloh will have a spreadsheet for the Selectboard showing the costs and funds received. We have received a total of \$2,048,100 to date. Of the 17 FEMA projects we have 2 still open for June and 1 for December.

12. Franklin County Emergency Management Agency River Gauge Funding Proposal – Franklin County EMA requested funding from each municipality for a river gauge. They provided a letter and response sheet. Terry recommended checking box #2 on the form which says ‘Our town is unable to commit to funding the request without permission from the selectboard and would like to seek support from the Franklin County Emergency Management Agency during upcoming Select Board meetings’. Shiloh will send in the Board’s answer. Lee Ann said that she thinks if it is countywide then it should go through at the county level not through the individual towns. The Board agreed that more information is needed.

13. Other Business – Terry announced the upcoming dates of interest.

14. Executive Session – MRS Title 1, Ch. 13, Sect. 405 ss 6.A. Personnel – Compensation - Executive Session: M/M/S - Tim/Tom to go into Executive Session under MRS Title 1 Chapter 13 Section 405, Subsection 6.A. Personnel - Compensation. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry declared the Board out of Executive Session. M/M/S - Tim/Lee Ann to adjourn. Vote 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Raeleen M. York