

Selectmen/Assessor's Meeting Minutes  
April 7, 2015

**Board Present:** Greg Grotton, Lyle Cramer, Elmer Savage, James Justice and Sara Moore.

**Also Present:** Jay Feyler, Joseph Patricia and Constance Canavan.

1. **Call Selectmen's Meeting to order:** by Chair at 6:30PM.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** given by all who wished.
3. **Public Comment:** Constance Canavan wrote a letter to the Board of Selectmen which was read by Sara Moore regarding a Late Fee charge to license her dogs. Ms. Canavan drove by the Town Office in March and saw the Register the Dog License Sign. She came into the office with her paperwork and expected to pay the regular Fee. She was told by one of the Deputy Clerks there would be a late fee charged. It was explained to her that dog licenses are due by December 31st. The State of Maine extends a grace period until the end of January. Ms. Canavan explained that in November and December she was busy closing up her house so she and her dogs could travel out of State to care for a close relative. She has always tried never to be late with payment of taxes, dog registrations or registrations of vehicles. She spoke with Sally Moore who offered to look into the matter for her and suggested addressing it at this meeting. Ms. Canavan was troubled that no recourse was offered and no consideration for any situation or extenuating circumstance people may be faced with. Are the people collecting registration fees able to consider deviating in the process of collection by those in authority or is the decision up to the clerk at the window. Ms. Caravan question is under extenuating circumstances when someone is not here can the Fines be waived? Jay said no it's a State Law and we absolutely have to charge it. Jim asked as a Board we can't override that? Jay said no. Greg said he is sorry it happened to her especially while you were away taking care of someone. According to Jay our hands are tied. That would be something we should talk to our Legislators about since it is a State thing and they probably haven't thought of to introduce a bill under extenuating circumstances the fee could be waived. Ms. Canavan asked why the sign was still up out front when she got back indicating to register the dogs? Jay said one of the reasons was we couldn't get to it the snow was up so high and everything was frozen solid

for a good month. Sally said if she had her way she would not have to pay the fine but we don't have our way. Elmer asked if you had that discretion where do you use it and where do you not. Greg added he's sorry but it's a law we have to live by, we would have to address it higher up than here and promised he will bring it up to our Legislators.

4. **Approve Minutes of March 17, 24, 31, 2015:** Motion by James Justice to approve March 17th minutes. Seconded by Sara Moore. Four for. One abstention (Savage). Board to bring back March 24th and 31st minutes next meeting.
5. **Discussion and vote on Town Office Reserve Funds:** Jay asked to bypass this discussion.
6. **Vote to sign quit claim Deed for Foreclosed Property:** Jay reported the Bank has paid all three years taxes, interest charges along with Board redemption charges and, we have a quit claim deed to return the property to the original owner. The owner is responsible for paying Town Attorney fees and the recording of the Deed in Knox County. Motion by Lyle Cramer to sign the Quit Claim Deed. Seconded by Elmer Savage. Unanimous.
7. **Discussion on Brown's Lane Foreclosed Property and Vote not to sell at this time:** Jay reported he has secured a verbal agreement to help the owner open an Escrow account and he has agreed to pay \$500.00 a month until he has reached the total amount due. At that time the Board will vote to issue a quit claim deed back to him. Motion by Lyle Cramer not to sell the property at this time to give the owner an opportunity to pay the taxes back. Seconded by James Justice. Unanimous.
8. **Discussion and Vote to put out to bid Foreclosed Property on Millay Lane:** Jay reported no response from the owners on Millay Road property through the entire Foreclosure process. They did not sign certified mails; it's a valid address they just didn't sign the Foreclosure notices or the certified mails. Jay suggests the Board put a Minimum bid on it and once the weather warms up people can go up to look at it. Elmer noted a Homestead Exemption for this account and asked why. No Explanation was given. Greg asked to make sure that the exemption is figured back into the property value. Motion by Lyle Cramer to proceed with the sale put it out to bid with an extended time frame. Seconded by Sara Moore. Unanimous.
9. **Discussion and vote to dispose of surplus property, low bed trailer:** Jay reported buying at auction a new low bed 40 ton trailer so we can haul our trucks. We purchased it at the State Auction for \$2,000. We will ask \$2500 for the used trailer and probably will accept a little less basically making it a swap. Motion by James Justice to dispose of low bed trailer. Seconded by Lyle Cramer. Unanimous.

10. **Sign SAD 40 Warrant and Notice of Election Calling:** Jay reported he told the new Superintendent this may be the first year depending on how the Board feels the Town of Union may not support a School Budget with that much of an increase. Union's share went up by \$114,000. The same amount of money is being sent to the schools this year as last year from the State. The reason SAD 40 is getting less is a combination of student population and valuation. When valuations change the student population changes they can get less money. They are technically getting less money but the dollar amount is the same. If your Student population changes your budget should change by going down. If the budget is defeated by the district Towns then it goes back to SAD 40 for a vote. He said the problem is and it happened when he was on the School Board and he was adamantly against it, he could not believe the apathy in the communities over this that they do that over at the school. Before, you used to have to come back to an election with a yes or no paper ballot. They have it now so you have to go back to the high school on the hottest night in July the only people who show up are the teachers and their spouses and watch them add to the budget and it passes every time. It's totally wrong Jay knows it costs money to have another election but it should be done . Motion by James Justice to sign SAD #40 Warrant and Notice of Election. Seconded by Elmer Savage. Three for. (Savage, Grotton and Justice).Two against. (Cramer and Moore).
11. **Sign Treasurer's Warrant April 8, 2015:** Motion by James Justice to sign Treasurer's Warrant. Seconded by Lyle Cramer. Unanimous.
12. **Other Business:** Board needs to sign Assessor's Return for County Taxes. Motion by James Justice to sign Assessor's Return. Seconded by Sara Moore. Unanimous.
13. **Town Manager's Report:** Jay referenced the Legislation Bulletin for bipartisan support for keeping Revenue Sharing. The good thing is The Taxation and the Appropriations Committees are seriously going to look at these other bills coming up on Revenue Sharing to eventually ramp it back up to where it was. We'll see how far that goes it probably won't happen until LePage is out of office.
14. **Selectmen's Report:** Lyle asked for additional lighting at the back of Town Office Building it's quite dark back here and it can be dangerous.
15. **Future Agenda Items:** update on the truck.
16. **Adjourn:** Motion by James Justice to adjourn at 8:00PM. Seconded by Lyle Cramer. Unanimous.

These minutes were approved on April 21, 2015 with the following amendments.