

# MINUTES

## SELECTMEN'S/ASSESSORS' MEETING

Tuesday, August 18, 2020

ONLINE INTERACTIVE

6:30 p.m.

**Selectmen present:** John Shepard (Chairman), Josh White, Adam Fuller, Bill Lombardi, and Martha Johnston-Nash

**Others present:** Jay Feyler (Town Manager), John Gibbons, Jim Justice, Kevin Curry, Erik Amundsen, Christine Simmonds, Elizabeth Dickerson, and George Page

**1. Call Selectmen's Meeting to order:** 6:30 p.m.

**2. Public Comment:** None.

**3. Approve minutes of Tuesday, August 4, 2020:**

Motion by Selectman Fuller seconded by Selectman White to approve the minutes of Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> with one amendment. Vote by roll call. Selectmen in favor: Fuller, Shepard, Johnston-Nash, and White. Selectman Lombardi abstained. All in favor.

**4. Approve Treasurer's Warrant dated Tuesday, August 18, 2020:**

Motion by Selectman Johnston-Nash seconded by Selectman Fuller to approve the warrant. Vote by roll call. Selectmen in favor: Fuller, Shepard, Johnston-Nash, and White. All in favor. Selectman Lombardi abstained.

Motion by Selectman Fuller seconded by Selectman White to approve line item #01508 for Motion Industries in the Fire Warrant for \$109.87. Vote by roll call. Selectmen in favor: Shepard, Fuller, Johnston-Nash, and White. All in favor. Selectman Lombardi abstained.

**5. Accept Maine Healthy Grant of \$17,570.00:**

Motion by Selectman Lombardi seconded by Selectman Fuller to accept the grant. Vote by roll call. Selectmen in favor: Shepard, Fuller, Johnston-Nash, White, and Lombardi. All in favor.

**6. Communications BOS requested topic:**

Bill Lombardi is asking the Board for an increase in communication. He would like to see the minutes posted on the website as soon as they are approved. He feels that better communication with the community gains more trust. He also feels that the current avenues of communication between town government and the residents is not working out as well as it could. He is hoping that once the new website is in operation, that the Board of Selectmen can have a separate page to share with the community. He suggested that maybe the Board have their own Facebook page. Along with his proposal, he is open to ideas from the rest of the Board.

Discussion: Adam feels that communication is key and posted minutes may not be enough, although he thinks that a large percentage of the community does not pay attention until they have an issue that directly affects them. He agrees with the importance of bringing topics to the forefront by another means of communication. He suggests a Board of Selectmen newsletter. Martha agrees that reaching out to the residents and creating awareness is important. Josh likes the suggestion of a newsletter.

Jay stated that the town currently offers a newsletter tab periodically on the website, both electronic and paper. There is list serve where residents can sign up to stay informed, not to mention there are public informational meetings. Jay emphasized that a Facebook page is not a good idea, as it will become very controversial if public comments are allowed. He reminded the Board that they have an obligation to protect their employees. He feels that the new website will make a difference.

**7. Plans for the Public Hearing and Fairgrounds Town Meeting:**

Jay stated that volunteers will be needed to help make this meeting run smoothly. He has a few committed volunteers and is hoping for more, including the Board. This is a new concept, so he is hoping it goes well. Voting cards will be given at the entrance. He is not anticipating a large crowd but is curious about the outcome.

**8. Follow-up from Planning Board on Local Food Ordinance:**

Josh stated that he enjoyed attending the meeting. He felt that it was an interesting discussion and that the Planning Board members were encouraged by the idea and suggested following through.

Jay suggested forming a committee that is willing to write the ordinance specific to the town of Union.

Elizabeth Dickerson suggested that a template would be a great way to start writing the ordinance. Her intent, as Jay suggested, is to form a committee and make it Union specific.

Motion by Selectman Fuller seconded by Selectman White to form a Local Food Ordinance Committee. Vote by roll call. Selectmen in favor: White, Fuller, Shepard, Lombardi, and Johnston-Nash. All in favor.

Selectmen White and Lombardi agreed to join the committee.

**9. COVID-19 updates:**

Jay stated that things are still going well at the office. He mentioned that they continue to take appointments outside the in-person hours. Residents should check the website for details.

**10. New Business:** None.

**11. Town Manager's Report:**

MMA conducted a Covid-19 safety inspection at the town office. Jay is happy to report that Union's safety protocols are outstanding in comparison to other municipalities. He credits the entire office staff and the intern for a great team effort, including the outstanding grant writing by the intern for the second round of the Maine Healthy Grant.

PW report: North Union Road will be closed next Tuesday for trenching. The heating system at the garage will undergo pressure testing by Mechanical Services to isolate the broken pipe. Insurance will cover this testing and any further work needed to be done.

Culvert work and ditching will be taking place on Sennebec Road in the coming weeks in preparation for paving next year.

**12. Selectmen's Report:**

Adam recognized and thanked the office staff for all their hard work dealing with Covid-19 protocols, preparation for the town meeting and voting.

Martha asked about the dirt road bond. Bill questioned the budgetary process referring to the bond. John stated that this should be an agenda item and should not be discussed in the Selectmen's report.

John read a couple of thank you cards from the William Pullen Scholarship recipients.

**13. Future Agenda Items:**

Town Roads

Thompson Community Center update

**14. Adjourn:**

Motion by Selectman White seconded by Selectman Lombardi to adjourn. Vote by roll call. Selectmen in favor: Shepard, White, Fuller, Lombardi, and Johnston-Nash. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Patrick  
Secretary