

MINUTES

SELECTMEN'S/ASSESSORS' MEETING

Tuesday, January 15, 2019

William Pullen Building Meeting Room

6:30 p.m.

Selectmen Present: Greg Grotton, John Shepard, Lyle Cramer, Jim Justice, and Sarah Drickey

Others Present: Jay Feyler, Abe Knight, Jesse Thompson, Vikki Harriman and Martha Jackson

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment:

Abe Knight would like to know if he can tap maple trees that belong to the town.

Discussion: Greg feels that if it is open for one, it would need to be open for others. Both Greg and Jim feel that the cemeteries should be off limits and anyone wanting to tap trees on town property need to come before the Board. Abe stated that he would only tap with a small line with small holes and it would only be a few trees.

Motion by: Jim Justice to grant permission for Abe Knight to tap trees but not in town cemeteries.

2nd by: John Shepard

5-0

4. Approve minutes of Tuesday, December 18th, 2018:

Motion by: Jim Justice

2nd by: Lyle Cramer

5-0

5. Sign Treasurer's Warrant dated Tuesday January 15th, 2019:

Motion by: John Shepard

2nd by: Jim Justice

5-0

6. Discussion on Ambulance Budget:

Jay stated there was a meeting with Appleton and Washington. Union is at \$17.80 per capita, with most surrounding communities \$25.00 or more. There has been an issue with receiving reimbursements from Maine Care and Medicare. The group voted to go with a 40% increase. Factors contributing to driving the line budget is minimum wage. A lack of paramedics will also be on the table for discussion pertaining to the budget.

Discussion: Greg feels that the need for an ambulance service in Union is imperative, considering the high number of elderly citizens in Union compared to the rest of Knox County; he and the Board all agree that 40% is the best increase at this point.

Jim inquired about the number of paramedics and mutual aid. Jesse stated that the shortage of paramedics is becoming a state-wide problem because of the time commitment and cost to become certified. He also stated that he now uses Waldoboro and Warren as mutual aid depending on who is closest to the call location.

Jay stated that there will be more discussion on the subject at the budget and selectmen meeting February 5th, where there will be a vote.

7. Annual Report from Health Officer:

Continued resource to townspeople regarding health-related issues. Contacted by Vose Library Director to assist in setting up a “lock-down procedure.” Chaired “Aging in Place” committee; term expires June 30th, 2019. Had two successful luncheons with educational resources available; 35-40 attendees. Plans for 2019 luncheon set for 2/14; discussion on “look-a-like medications” following the meal. Draft plan for transportation proposal; done by Sheila Curry. Two residents certified through the AARP driver safety program. Residents receiving Meals on Wheels in Union increased from 3 to 6 with education provided and luncheons. Request received from PBMC to assist a resident in “being discharged home”; intake done by HO. Support currently in place with “Good Morning Union.” Next AIP meeting scheduled for 2/4/19, 1:00 p.m. at the William Pullen meeting room.

8. Recommendations of Barry Norris to the Knox County Budget Committee:

Jay suggested that the Board recommend someone. This is not a paid position and the volunteer needs to be from Union. Barry Norris has offered to fill the position if no one else steps forward.

Motion by: Lyle Cramer to recommend Barry Norris to the Knox County Budget Committee.

2nd by: Jim Justice

5-0

9. Discussion and approval of the 2019 elections, warrant, etc. dates:

Motion by: Jim Justice to approve
2nd by: Sarah Drickey
5-0

10. Town Managers Report:

Jay stated there are two payroll warrants because of the new bank transition; 95% of accounts have been transferred over to First National Bank.

Hopefully by the next meeting there will be a drafted audit. Because of the changeover to a new auditor, there was a slight delay in getting the final numbers.

RFP's for the LED lights are in the works; two companies putting in proposals have asked for a couple more weeks.

The AIP transportation proposal draft has been sent to the town attorney for review. Asking for thoughts from the Board, Jay stated, seeing that there is a democratic house and senate in Augusta, that there may be some favorable bills coming along on solar energy once again. He feels it is wise to investigate solar lighting at different facilities in town; e.g. Public Works. The Board stated it is worth exploring, starting with some figures.

11. Other business:

Date set informational meeting: March 11th, 2019.

12. Selectmen's Report:

John stated that Tri-County's meeting will be January 24th in Liberty; they will be finalizing their vote on the budget.

13. Future Agenda Items: None

Adjourn:

Motion by: Jim Justice
2nd by: John Shepard

Meeting adjourned at: 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Patrick
Secretary