

MINUTES

SELECT BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022

WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM & ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE AT TOWN HALL STREAMS 6:30 p.m.

Select Board present: Jim Justice, Adam Fuller, Martha Johnston-Nash, Josh White, and Bill Lombardi

Others present: Jay Feyler (Town Manager), John Mountainland, John Gibbons, Christine Simmonds (Courier Gazette), Erik Amundsen, Kathleen Thornton, and others

- 1. Call Select Board Meeting to Order:** at 6:39 p.m. by Adam Fuller.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Public Comment:** None.
- 4. Approve Minutes of Tuesday, April 5, 2022:**

Motion by: Jim Justice

2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash

4-0-1 abstention (White)

- 5. Approve Treasurer's Warrants dated Tuesday, April 19, 2022:**

Motion by: Jim Justice

2nd by: Josh White

5-0

- 6. Discussion and vote to form the Union Ambulance Advisory Board:**

Jay recapped an email he sent: this came from the budget meetings earlier in the year. It gives the Town of Washington and the Town of Appleton a little bit of a say in how the Union ambulance budget is done and other protocols, but it does not take away the authority of the Union Select Board. We still own and run the ambulance and still have final say on it.

Jay thinks it will help as budgets obviously increase in the future with communications between Washington and Appleton. They will appoint their members who will hopefully go back to their select boards and explain how everything has come about with all the budgets and the operating procedures.

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Both municipalities have read this over and are in agreement. They are just waiting for us to implement it and will then start appointing their members.

Motion to accept the Ambulance Advisory Board memo as written by: Bill Lombardi
2nd by: Jim Justice

Martha asked about alternate members. Jay said as with most committees they are advised to come or watch but do not have to. She asked about terms; Jay said one-year terms. In 1432 D, she wanted to clarify it's the Union Town Manager. She confirmed EMS Director is an advisor to the committee. She also confirmed the Ambulance Director can call special meetings, which Adam and Bill deemed a good idea. Martha's other observations included specifying Union Select Board on page three, and a clarification about the board being the Ambulance Advisory Board regarding gifts and donations.

In answer to her concerns about securing funding language, Jay said part of this advisory board's job is to go to the respective towns and secure the funding that the board comes up with for the total amount from the separate communities.

Adam summarized Martha's suggested changes:

- 1432, page two: *Union Town Manager*
- Section below under C: *William L. Pullen Municipal Building* instead of "Town Hall"
- 1483, page three: *Union Town Select Board*

Amended motion to accept the Ambulance Advisory Board memo as written including the above changes by: Bill Lombardi

Jim said he thinks it's a shame we're going through all this when for 20 years the system that we had worked well.

Adam agreed but cited two factors: with covid they didn't have the meetings that they typically do; and the budget and what they're covering is bigger and covering more as communities grow.

Jay thinks it will be a good advantage. People who don't attend meetings can't complain they didn't know about it.

Adam said if the shoe were on the other foot, and he were writing a check to one of the other towns, he would want a little bit of a hand in the game.

Bill concurred, adding he thinks it's appropriate to have this in writing so it's clear what Appleton's and Washington's responsibilities are rather than just say ok it's all on the Town of Union. He finds this a very good idea.

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Jim and Martha agreed. Martha added this gives them more input, feeling like they have more say in what's going on with the budget.

John Mountainland asked how this would blend with the Budget Committee. Jay said they'll work on a budget then come to the Budget Committee as normal.

Adam asked for a vote on the amended motion (restated below for reference):

Motion to accept the Ambulance Advisory Board memo as written by: Bill Lombardi
2nd by: Jim Justice

- 1432, page two: *Union Town Manager*
- Section below under C: *William L. Pullen Municipal Building* instead of "Town Hall"
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Amended motion to accept the Ambulance Advisory Board memo as written including the above changes by: Bill Lombardi

5-0

7. Discussion and vote on Crystal Robinson, Common Proposal:

Crystal Robinson is running for political office and submitted a request to set up a table on the Common and give horse and buggy rides as a meet and greet.

Discussion included: a precedence for politicians setting up tables on the Common, possible conflicting dates, and not wanting the rides to turn into a side hustle. The board cannot give approval for Common Road as it is a state road. Jay said she has to provide a certificate of insurance with the town initially insured, and the board can revoke permission at any time. No roads will be closed. The board cannot limit use of public roads.

Motion to approve Crystal Robinson's request for her horse and carriage rides and table on the Common monthly through election in November with prior approval from Town Manager Jay Feyler by: Martha Johnston-Nash
2nd by: Jim Justice

5-0

8. Discussion and vote on the Gazebo Lighting request:

Jay's assumption was they wanted to replace the Christmas lights for the rest of the year. He is not sure they can leave the lights on the gazebo: it is a registered historic landmark, and they haven't gotten back to him.

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The board discussed. Adam has no problem with American flag LED's. Josh thinks to have it up there all the time is not in the flavor of what the gazebo is, kind of the seal of the town, should be lit up but not as show. Bill agreed with Josh; he appreciates they want to do this but not all day every day. Jim agreed.

Adam asked should we just say Memorial Day and Fourth of July, or hold off? Bill said we ought to know if it's even kosher to do so.

Martha has a concern about Fourth of July into Founders Weekend, when the Chamber has the concert there Friday night. It's hard to tell in photos how big this is, so there are concerns.

Motion to table by: Bill Lombardi
2nd by: Jim Justice
5-0

9. Discussion and vote on \$5,000 request from Come Spring Food Pantry:

Adam read aloud a funding request from Lorain Francis for the 2022-23 budget year requesting \$5,000 from the I. C. Thurston fund.

Bill Lombardi, Treasurer of Come Spring Food Pantry and abstaining from this vote, provided an update. The model is feeding our neighbors with dignity. There is about a 40% increase since the food pantry moved from TCC to Common Road. Growth is due not only to visibility and location but also to the ending of the child tax credit, rising petroleum and food prices. Working families are coming in. 20% of children in Knox County are food insecure. Our community has been extremely generous with donations. The food pantry has open books and no paid employees. They are working toward client choice and have so far added one evening to their time. They do some home deliveries and would like to expand, due to both stigma and lack of public transportation.

Jay reminded the I. C. Thurston fund is meant for the worthy poor, so you're spending this on food.

Bill briefly mentioned other fundraising and grants including \$23,000 from the Good Shepherd Food Bank that will go to freezers and refrigerators at the front. In answer to Adam, Bill said they turn no one away. They have a new agreement with Shaw's. What they don't have a lot of is protein, and this time of year they have to buy produce.

Motion by: Jim Justice
2nd by: Josh White
4-0-1 abstention (Lombardi)

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10. Discussion and vote on Remote Meeting Policy:

Jay said this is necessary because we were under emergency order until April 1. This is required by law for remote meetings. It allows committees that don't expend funds to meet remotely. It makes everyone's life easier, and you get more participation. Also, we need this policy so if there's an illness or emergency, or someone is out of town, you can still vote and participate; we have to do it by live zoom, and the public has the right to speak. It gives you that flexibility.

Motion to approve the Remote Meetings Policy by: Martha Johnston-Nash

2nd by: Jim Justice

5-0

11. Town Manager's Report:

Jay said according to Public Works, most of the roads are unposted except a couple of the dirt roads. They are grading up roads and will start ditching and some culvert replacement. We hired a new guy a couple weeks ago: he has a Class C license, so you'll see in our training budget for Public Works to go to Class B license means professional driving school of about \$3,000. He is signing an agreement he works here for two years or pays it back.

12. Other Business:

Jay needs the board to approve \$60,500 for a new 2022 Chevy 5500. It would come from Public Works reserve account which has \$405,000. Sometimes this business is all about relationships: O'Connor got a chassis en route and was willing to take the trade on our Sterling. We have money in reserve for this reason.

We are trading both the 2004 and the 2008. One of them survived the fire.

Motion to take \$60,500 from the Public Works reserve account to do this transaction by:

Bill Lombardi

2nd by: Jim Justice

5-0

13. Committee Reports:

a. Broadband

John Gibbons said they await results of the grant application, expected a week from tomorrow. LCI/Tidewater planned monthly costs proposed to ConnectME in the application look very reasonable. If successful the grant would cover about 50% of the cost with Tidewater paying about 38% and Union paying about 12%.

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Again, if the grant is successful, they expect the Broadband Committee to take on additional tasks as an ombudsman committee. Once tasks are assigned, they will come back to the board for approval. They will look for cooperation with Tidewater in what have been slow response times.

John added this is not the last step in assuring high speed access for the town, but it is a major step.

- b. Aging in Place in Union – None.
- c. Future of the Thompson Community Center

Martha said they met last week and discussed the presentation for the public hearing and getting information out prior to the public hearing. Gail is working on that, with a Power Point at the hearing, and what the committee's job would be at the public hearing. She thinks it important for committee members to be there for their depth of information about the options, and it makes sense to have them there to answer questions. They pinpointed a person for each option group.

Adam sees them presenting, and the board adding to it or answering questions if it's for the board. Martha echoed that is the committee's feeling.

John Mountainland asked about the Fire Marshal's report. Jay said it will go up on the website by the end of the week, probably as a separate document.

Jay reminded when livestreaming, there was lot of talking at the last meeting, everyone talking at once, and it was hard to tell what's going on so you have to crack the whip. At Martha's suggestion Jay will email Rebekah on this.

- d. Green Space

Kathleen Thornton said they learned a lot of preconceived notions on how you protect property were not true. They are inviting some folks from municipalities who have worked with organizations helping people set up easements. They've heard from organizations, now they are hearing from people who've actually worked with them, and they sent out a questionnaire asking about resultant issues and questions. Some answered by email or phone; some will be at the next meeting May 4. It's exciting; in fact, Waldoboro has done blueberry land.

Her second point is lawyers and all these other organizations would require that the land have a survey, because of the issue of the frontage on Coggins Hill Road. That comes to request for funding for the survey; two estimates topped out at \$7,000 which is what they would ask for.

Jay said he has a separate warrant article asking the voters for this.

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Discussion included: Green Space vis a vis Parks & Rec; where to put the \$7,000 request; should it be a line item in the budget; Green Space growing to consider other town-owned properties.

In answer to Kathleen, Jay said the last time and only time he knew of that the town surveyed a property was recently Clark Field from the Pullen Fund.

Kathleen will explain it at Town Meeting, and Bill said the board will advocate for it. Adam advised keep it brief, and people follow newspaper articles.

She added the CHPA group that put an offer in is more than willing to raise money for the property but not until a vote has been taken to protect the property.

She also said if they were actually a conservation commission, it would open up some resources. That is something the Select Board could do – a bug in the ear to consider.

Martha asked if the \$7,000 goes through the Budget Committee. Jay said yes.

e. TMA Report

Erik Amundsen gave an update. Last Wednesday the fire alarm was hardwired to Seacoast Security. They also looked at an old control box for a bigger alarm system. As discussed earlier today, no problem getting that system working so a \$32,000 budget item may come in at \$3,000.

With Jay and Paul, he filled out the Fire Marshal report. Jay dropped it off. Issues included: clear junk under stairway, fire alarm system being worked on, other part waiting for emergency lighting and exit signs (trying to get batteries and new units are hard to come by), deadbolts on doors have all been removed, emergency signs taken care of.

The kitchen has been closed. They will be removing fry units and putting them in the basement. The chamber room has a nice hood they could move.

The cabinetmaker ordered a fire door.

The 2018 engineering study will be revisited after the June Town Meeting.

The roof is leaking more in one area. Abraham took out 12 gallons of water this morning. This is where they couldn't patch when they were up there. The oil tank is filled; they had to turn on the oil burner for two days because the cabinetmaker was putting some finishing on his woodwork, and it wouldn't dry because it was too cold. They are shutting it down tomorrow afternoon. They have a full tank all

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paid for and money in the account. Insurance is coming up. A guy runs basketball clinics four days a week; parents and kids love it.

May 21 will be an art show on the grass outside, \$30/table.

The lobby cleaned up, with some nice plants in there.

14. Select Board Reports:

Bill brought up speed limit signs – praising the classy, polite Common Road sign thanking people for obeying the speed limit. Jay will get the deputy to give him the data.

Adam said good job, Jay, on the Easter Egg Hunt including the Easter Bunny on the gazebo.

Jay in turn thanked Camden National Bank for the Easter Bunny costume... and perhaps for the magical embodiment of the Easter Bunny herself.

15. Future Agenda Requests: None.

16. Adjourn:

Motion by: Bill Lombardi

2nd by: Jim Justice

5-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo
Secretary